Just another day at the office

Abi Koehler
Advertising Manager

When people call Jana Barracks, the grant writer and Fund Development specialist for NIACC, many don’t realize they’re speaking to someone in Colorado almost 800 miles away from the Mason City campus.

According to NIACC Facts, NIACC is home to 228 full-time employees, including 82 faculty members.

For the majority of those employees, their work is done during a traditional work week on campus Monday through Friday during the academic year.

Barracks, who started working at NIACC in March of 2010, changed her working location in December of 2011 when she moved to Longmont, Colorado but kept her job with the college.

Her job involves a lot of writing. She identifies, develops, writes and submits grants to support the college mission.

She sometimes writes articles about donor and alumni that are included in the college’s publications.

“I like the diversity, that adds to my position,” Barracks said. “But primarily, and this is important, my position focuses on grant writing and activities directly related to the Annual Fund. In the future grant writing will continue to be an ever-larger part of my position.”

She spends much of her day researching new grant opportunities that would support larger and larger initiatives at the college.

She said it works well being located remotely because grant applications are filed on-line.

So interviewing, writing and filing of the grant documents can take place from anywhere.

Barracks also said that because she works at home, it’s really easy for her to set up her work day to accommodate NIACC work hours.

She generally sits down at her desk at home between 6:30 and 7 a.m. and finishes for the day around 4 p.m.

She is always available if someone has a question and her daily routine isn’t too different than that of other NIACC staff.

“My meetings are just electronic, rather than face to face,” Barracks said. “However, I do get to take my dog on a walk during my lunch break and it’s pretty cool being able to write while my cat naps on the couch next to my desk.”

Her NIACC phone number rolls directly over to her home office.

There is a brief pause when that happens, but most people otherwise would not realize that they are calling someone 800 miles away.

“While I do miss the collegiality of being on campus, I often find I have fewer interruptions during my day, which gives me a lot of good ‘think’ time for writing,” Barracks said.

Barracks is a creative person with a journalism background and has embraced the departure from a traditional view of the workplace.

Barracks does visit the campus periodically.

“I love my job,” Barracks said. “The people I work with

Continued on page two
Barracks part of growing number who work from home

Continued from page one

are great, and I love coming back to see them, and spending some time with them face to face.”

While working away from the campus, her every day routine is different than many employees at NIACC.

“Being remote doesn’t impact my ability to write, so I use my skill set differently sometimes, and now I occasion-
ally pick up more writing for the Foundation, do interviews and write articles for InTouch (the alumni newsletter), which helps our staff in a different way,” Barracks said.

Barracks started her career as a NIACC employee on campus, but life changed when a desire to move to Colorado presented a challenge in how she envisioned her job.

“I really hadn’t considered working remotely until it popped up,” Barracks said.

She said loving her job, as much as she did, she was not ready to let NIACC go, even with the move.

“It was good to ‘answer the phone’ so to speak and think creatively about how I could do my job from elsewhere,” Barracks said.

Barracks’ situation is a good example of the type of work world students may enter where working on site is not es-
sential to performing one’s job.

“It is good to be open to opportunities,” Barracks said.

With new advances in technology, jobs like Barracks’ are becoming more and more common and popular.

But being away from the campus is not always easy for Barracks.

“I like to come back to campus every two to three months,” she said. “I love the collegiality, spontaneous conversations and seeing the people I work with.”

“Working remotely wouldn’t work for everyone, but we have a small and very tight group in our office,” Barracks said. “We’ve worked hard to develop strong communication skills with each other. We found we can really depend on each other and trust that each person is always doing their best to accomplish the work that is important to our mis-
sions. In the end, I really think that’s the key to making work-
ing remotely successful.”
G.I. Jobs names NIACC ‘Military Friendly School’

G.I. Jobs, the premier magazine for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, has awarded North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) the designation of Military Friendly School. The 2013 Military Friendly Schools list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members and veterans as students.

This is the fourth consecutive year that NIACC has earned the military-friendly college recognition.

“NIACC is able to provide veterans, spouses and dependents a variety of support and resources as they pursue their academic goals. By offering these services, NIACC prepares the student with a personalized transition plan into the academic environment and civilian life,” Michelle Petznick, VA certifying official and registrar at NIACC, said.

In its effort to help student veterans find the right school, G.I. Jobs incorporated a survey of student veterans. This feedback provides prospective military students with insight into the student veteran experience at a particular institution based on peer reviews from current students.

Michael Dakduk, executive director for the Student Veterans of America said, “The Military Friendly Schools list is the go-to resource for prospective student veterans searching for schools that provide the right overall experience. Nothing is more compelling than actual feedback from current student veterans.”

Service members and veterans can also meet individual student veterans from the various schools virtually on the site to learn more about personal school decisions and the transition from the military to an academic environment.

The 1,739 colleges, universities and trade schools on this year’s list prioritize the recruitment of students with military experience. These schools are making the grade by offering scholarships and discounts, veterans clubs, full-time staff, military credit and other services to those who served.

The 2013 list of Military Friendly Schools was compiled through extensive research and a data driven survey of more than 12,000 schools nationwide. Methodology, criteria and weighting for the list were developed with the assistance of an Academic Advisory Board (AAB) consisting of educators from schools across the country.

Calaguas enjoys educational challenges

Brodie Long
Feature Editor

It’s not uncommon to see a few high school students walking around campus at NIACC, or to hear of high school students taking a few NIACC on-line classes to get a head start.

While most think of non-traditional students as older than a traditional college student, in some cases they’re actually younger.

But just how young are some of these students?

Alexa Calaguas is a senior at Clear Lake High School.

Now, most high school seniors are 17 or 18 years of age. However, Calaguas doesn’t follow that norm. She’s only 15.

Calaguas explained why she’s a 15-year-old senior.

“I went to a private school in Washington DC, and when we moved here, school wasn’t challenging for me at all,” Calaguas said. “I was able to skip grades 8 and 11.”

Calaguas said she took her first NIACC class at age 13.

“I’m taking NIACC classes because some of the schools I’m looking into require you to have AP credit for acceptance,” Calaguas said.

Some schools that she has been looking into are Duke and Yale, as well as schools overseas, including countries such as Denmark, England and Scotland.

Calaguas said she enjoys cultural studies, language and language arts.

She said she plans to major in international relations as well as obtaining her international law degree.

International studies seems to be a good fit for Calaguas, being as her father works for a company in which he deals with international clients on a daily basis.

“My parents are happy with my advancement, but they always encouraged me to achieve further,” Calaguas said. “They’re definitely proud of my accomplishments.”

Alexa Calaguas, a 15-year-old senior at Clear Lake High School, is also enrolled in courses at NIACC.
Prime time TV shows have changed over the course of just a few years. Now you turn on the TV to your favorite show and it is bound to be full of “filth.”

Every other sentence is relating to sexual nature or obscene language. I mean it is only funny for so long.

Every night, major television networks run such programs during the times families are sitting at home together. Children of these families are exposed to such characteristics of the show. Children especially may think that it is completely acceptable to act like the celebrities do on the show.

I think the writers of such comedies need to make them “cleaner” and take into consideration the audience.

If obscene material is going to be a part of the show, then maybe the show time should be moved to a different time.

Take the popular comedy “Two and a Half Men” for example.

This show has had its ups and downs, but recently getting back on track with the addition of Ashton Kutcher.

Recently though, the “half man” Angus Jones said, “If you watch ‘Two and a Half Men,’ please stop watching. I’m on ‘Two and a Half Men,’ and I don’t want to be on it. Please stop watching it. Please stop filling your head with filth. Please. Do some research on the effect of television on your brain...it’s bad news.”

His comments have really stirred up viewers’ opinions with some agreeing with Jones and others thinking he just robbed the show of a paycheck and now is turning against it.

I am a fan of “Two and a Half Men,” but I just think it’s getting a little too dirty for a prime time show.

I guess a simple solution would be to change the channel.

Ben Voortmann
Entertainment Editor
bmvoortmann@niacc.edu

A Chorus Line takes the stage January 30

In an empty theatre, on a bare stage, casting for a new Broadway musical is almost complete.

For 17 dancers, this audition is the chance of a lifetime. It’s what they’ve worked for, with every drop of sweat, every hour of training, everyday of their lives.

It’s the one opportunity to do what they’ve always dreamed — to have the chance to dance.

This is A Chorus Line, the musical for everyone who’s ever had a dream and put it all on the line.

Winner of nine Tony Awards®, including “Best Musical” and the Pulitzer Prize for drama, this singular sensation is the longest-running American Broadway musical ever.

Now A Chorus Line returns. meet the new generation of Broadway’s best on Wednesday, January 30 in the North Iowa Area Community Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for rows A-V: $48 adults, rows W-Z: $32.00 ($53 — day of show and at the door). Call 641-422-4188 for tickets or go online at www.niacc.edu/boxoffice.

Photo provided by Performing Arts and Leadership Series.

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NIACC to champion Workforce initiative

NIACC, in partnership with ACT, is leading an initiative designed to build the skills of the region’s workforce by providing 20 area employers with access to ACT workplace assessments and credentialing—at no charge.

Each of the participating employers will be able to measure the workplace skills of their employees or applicants, while individuals who participate will have an opportunity to earn ACT’s National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC™) Plus—a nationally recognized, portable skills credential that certifies essential foundational skills and competencies important for workplace success.

“This is truly a unique partnership,” said Josh Byrnes, Executive Assistant to the President at NIACC. “We will provide the testing administration at NIACC. ACT is providing the assessments and certifications. Participating employers have an opportunity to measure the skill sets of their employees or applicants—all at no cost. In the process, approximately 400 area residents will be able to document their skills and earn a nationally recognized skills credential. Everyone wins.”

To earn the NCRC Plus, an employee or job seeker will successfully complete four computerized assessments. Three of them measure cognitive skills—Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information—that are linked by ACT research data to success in a broad span of jobs and occupations. Each assessment takes about an hour to complete. The fourth assessment, Personality (formerly called Talent), measures non-cognitive characteristics that contribute to job performance. It can be completed in approximately 30 minutes.

The objective for this national initiative, Tomorrow’s Workforce Now, is bridging the well-documented gap in workplace skills and jump-starting an economic revival across the nation. It will demonstrate and replicate the improvements reported by employers already using ACT workforce solutions. These include reductions in employee turnover and training costs, significant gains in safety and morale and opportunities to rely on standardized skills measures to inform promotion and training decisions.

Tomorrow’s Workforce Now will put these proven solutions into the hands of more business leaders and inspire greater collaboration with community colleges that are dedicated to addressing the skill development needs of their communities.

Martin Scaglione, president of ACT’s Workforce Development Division, congratulated NIACC for stepping up to lead the way.

“The success of this initiative depends on progressive local colleges and employers,” Scaglione said. “It takes a local champion like NIACC to make something like this happen for the benefit of the area’s workforce and we thank the College for leading this initiative to serve area stakeholders and strengthen the local economy.”

When the initiative was announced by ACT in April, Dr. Walter G. Bumphus, President and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges, said, “It is increasingly clear that better alignment of employer needs with contemporary education and training is critical to ensuring a more competitive workforce. As the premier training provider and an economic engine for the nation, community colleges are essential to that alignment.”

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New lights help cut energy costs on campus

Cole Hauptmann
For the Logos

With the big push in America to become more energy efficient, NIACC is following suit.

Tony Pappas, NIACC Facilities Management director, is trying to help the college reduce the carbon footprint here.

“By replacing lights around campus we have cut down our footprint by over 300,000 lbs. annually,” Pappas said.

On campus Pappas has targeted high-energy fixtures.

Some of those fixtures that were in the Fine Arts hallway have been replaced to give NIACC more energy efficient lighting.

One area that people may notice newer lighting is in the Activity Center.

The lights are actually exterior floodlights.

“Due to the height and light needed, we needed to go with high bay lights to stay within code,” Pappas said.

Projects like these are not cheap.

Base cost alone was $144,602.00, but due to rebates the net cost was only $39,135.00 for one of these projects.

Senate, CEO Club sponsor annual food drive

Jordan Mains
Staff Reporter

The NIACC Student Senate and CEO Club put on a food drive to collect donations for the less fortunate this November by setting up various donation boxes around campus and collecting food and cash donations from Mason City’s local Hy-Vee East, Hy-Vee West and Fareway.

The food drive took place the week of Nov. 5 - 9. Any non-perishable food item was accepted.

All donations went to the local Hawk-eye Harvest Food Bank.

Lisa Jahnel, Student Senate adviser, and Tim Putnam, CEO Club adviser helped to organize and put on the food drive.

“We’re very thankful that the NIACC staff and students support those in need, especially at this time of year to make sure they have a wonderful Thanksgiving,” Jahnel said.

The savings though from just the Activity Center alone annually are $9,916.

“I try to bundle as many things together as possible to get a better return of investment,” Pappas said about his strategy to reduce costs.

But not every place at NIACC will be getting new lights. The main goal is to be cost effective so classrooms will most likely not be getting lights due to the return of investment taking too long Pappas said.

Pappas said more projects are on the way and will continue in the early spring semester.

Last year, 750 pounds of food and $162.25 of cash donations were collected.

This year, there was a total of 1,243 pounds of food and $381.68 collected from on-campus and off-campus, surpassing last year’s amount by quite a large margin.

“It’s always a great task to help do community service, and it’s always good for the students to help do their part as well,” Jahnel said.
Kirk finds strength in challenges

When it comes to overcoming adversity, NIACC student Jason Kirk is one that is not afraid of stepping up to the challenge.

As a teenager, Kirk was asked to fill in many roles that most other kids his age would not have been able to do.

“It was tough, but it’s made me more open to the world,” Kirk said. “I know that I have it bad, but there are definitely others out there that have it worse than I do.”

Being raised in Vinton, Iowa, his life at home had been a rough one at times.

Kirk said both his mother and brother have had debilitating health issues that required him to help with their medical challenges while he was growing up at home.

Kirk said that there have been many incidents throughout his time growing up that he had to go out of his way to help his mom and his brother.

“There have been multiple times where I had to wake up early at two or three o’clock in the morning to either take my mother to the hospital or to wait for an ambulance to show up.” - Jason Kirk, NIACC student

Kirk, a full-time student at NIACC, plans to earn his degrees in criminal justice and associate of arts. He is currently a sophomore.

Kirk had several different scholarship opportunities to run track at various schools, but declined because he wanted to come to college to have fun without commitment to anything.

“I’m glad I came to NIACC because it’s far enough away from home and my surrounding problems, but it’s close enough that I can go home if I need to for any reason,” Kirk said. “Overall, I really do enjoy being here at NIACC.”

After NIACC, Kirk said he plans to attend a university where he will strive to earn his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice.

Photo provided by Jason Kirk
NIACC student Jason Kirk ran on a relay at the Iowa State track meet while in high school.

More faculty to incorporate iPads into instruction

“There have been multiple times where I had to wake up early at two or three o’clock in the morning to either take my mother to the hospital or to wait for an ambulance to show up.” - Jason Kirk, NIACC student

Ashley Drethn
Staff Reporter

The Board of Directors has ordered the iPads for the NIACC faculty that have applied for and were selected to use the iPads in their classes.

“I already have one and I like it because it makes it easier to submit and grade papers rather than printing everything off,” Chad McLane, a NIACC Communications Division member who uses the iPad in his classes, said.

Sethanne DeGabriele, another Communications Division member who plans to use the technology in her classes, and McLane both said they hope to advance with the technology that is being offered to improve instruction.

According to McLane, ten to twelve instructors already have iPads and use them in class to interact with the students.

DeGabriele, one of the applicants who will have the opportunity to use the technology, said she looked forward to receiving her iPad and begin using it.

Right now she and others are going to sessions offered by CEFTL to learn more about the iPad technology.

“This makes it more stress free for the students and a better experience with technology,” DeGabriele said about the benefits for students.

Instructors are excited to use the new tool.

“It’s exciting to see instructors interested in using technology to enhance teaching and learning,” Kacy Larson, who teaches education classes at NIACC and works with CEFTL, said.
Editorial
An ounce of prevention a good thing

The recent Hurricane Sandy on the coast and the devastation it caused reminds us that we cannot control the weather; all we can do is prepare for it. Part of driving in the Midwest during the winter season is preparation.

NIACC students and staff should take the time to prepare for winter weather driving. In an emergency, preparation could save your life or the lives of your passengers.

One easy thing NIACC students and staff can do is sign up for NIACC Alerts. This free service NIACC offers sends a message to your e-mail and/or cell phone informing you if classes are delayed or cancelled.

When a winter storm approaches, pay attention to the weather warnings/advisories and avoid unnecessary travel. If you must travel inform someone of your route, destination, and bring extra supplies with you such as a bottle of water, socks, gloves, blankets or sleeping bags.

Equip your vehicle with a winter survival kit and place it inside the vehicle where it is accessible. If you go into the ditch you may be unable to get out of the vehicle or to open the trunk.

Make sure to keep your gas tank half full and if you do go into the ditch or get stuck, shut off your vehicle and check to make sure the exhaust system is not plugged or blocked. Only run the engine for 10 minutes an hour. Keep a window cracked also, just in case if the exhaust is plugged to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

As Benjamin Franklin once said “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Unsigned editorials represent the majority opinion of the editorial board.

Censorship has its place in society

The term censorship derives from the official duties of the Roman censor who conducted the census of the populace in 443 B.C.

Historically, societies have practiced censorship in the belief that the community (the government) was responsible for molding the individual.

Censorship is defined as the suppression of speech or other public communication that may be considered offensive or harmful determined by the government, media or other authority.

Students should apply the use of censorship to their daily lives. As society has become more organized, censorship has become more prevalent.

It can be used as a method of governance and control, but can also be used as a form of civil protection.

Governments, private organizations and individuals can engage in self-censorship.

Censorship may or may not be legal, but many countries provide strong protections against it by law.

Despite these protections, it is often difficult to determine what can and cannot be censored.

There are several reasons supporting censorship. Censorship could protect individuals from potentially harmful ideas and it is often used to describe what is acceptable material according to the individual.

When films are censored for content, the results show overall improvement in the quality of films and storylines.

It also assists parents in censoring content for their children.

Media censorship plays an important role in sustaining moral and social value in society. Censorship often protects individuals from the influences of sexism, racism and segregation as well.
Smokers should see campus is tobacco free

Letter to the editor: Do we really need all that social media

Many students and staff may have noticed that the NIACC campus has signs everywhere stating that the campus is tobacco free. A lot of students, myself included, really appreciate this and like that we don’t have to breathe in someone else’s smoke every time we take a step to and from class.

However, there is an issue. There are still a handful of students who break this rule. Now, this isn’t just a little sign “advising” that you “shouldn’t” smoke on campus. The sign clearly states that smoking is forbidden on all areas of campus.

I have heard complaints from students and staff alike who have experienced students standing outside the doors of campus buildings smoking in-between classes.

Now, I’m not here to tell you smokers how dangerous smoking is for you and those around you, or to tell you to quit your habit.

The message I would like to get across is that although you live your life choosing to smoke, you still need to be courteous to those around you who do not wish to breathe in the toxins you are exhaling.

I have several friends with severe cases of asthma and various other health conditions which can greatly be affected by cigarette smoke.

For example, if my best friend, who has asthma, breathes in those toxins or any other toxins for that matter, she could have a severe asthma attack and could even possibly pass away just as her brother did.

Think about it—is someone else’s life really worth your cigarette?

Now as I previously stated, I’m not here to tell you how to live your life or to quit smoking.

What I am advising is that you take into consideration the lives of others as you go about your day-to-day activities, including when and if you smoke.

The campus is ENTIRELY tobacco free, so if you really need that cigarette, find a place where smoking is allowed and respect those who don’t want to be around the smoke.

Photo Opinion: “Do you think students are too caught up in social media? Why or why not?” By Caleb Bassey

“No. Most people use only what they need or what interests them.”

Danny Hunn
Mason City, IA

“Students are too caught up in social media because while attending class I always see someone on their phone using social media when they should be paying attention.”

Dylan Anderson, Mason City, IA

“No. I think social media is just a way of our lives these days, and it helps keep people connected.”

Samantha Huinker
Garner, IA

“Yes… almost everybody has a smart phone just to go on Facebook and Twitter. Everyone is too caught up in worrying about others…”

Nicole Neis
Osage, IA

“No. I don’t believe all students are. Most students are more focused on their school work and activities.”

Payton Lensing
Charles City, IA
Humphries ‘Wonder from Down Under’

Freshman player from Australia
league leader in rebounding

Tim Meyer
Sports Editor

The men’s basketball team couldn’t ask for more this season, currently at 11-6 at time of publication and being ranked has high as number 3 in the nation early in the season.

A lot of this success comes at the hands of the “Wonder from Down Under” David Humphries, a 6’ 4” freshman from Adelaide, Australia.

Prior to semester break, Humphries was averaging 18.9 points per game, second in the league and second in the league in rebounds with an average of 8.1 per game.

Humphries said he’s surprised with himself this season, especially in the number of rebounds he has gotten.

“This league is very physical,” he said, “It is a different style of play, with a very quick pace every minute of the game.”

Humphries said he has had a lot of inspiration in his basketball career from players like Tony Parker, an NBA star who plays for the San Antonio Spurs.

Like Humphries, Parker was born outside of the United States and has found success playing basketball in the U.S.

Humphries’ coach said he thinks Humphries has adjusted well.

“David thrives at this pace and hasn’t had to adjust to it much,” Mark Mohl, NIACC men’s basketball coach said.

Mohl likes Humphries’ work ethic.

“Humphries is a tough kid, and works very hard to better himself,” Mohl said.

Humphries said he has always loved basketball; he started playing the sport at about six years old and has loved it since.

Coming to the states meant that Humphries has had to change his style of play.

He said he was used to a slow and technical game while here in the United States it is played at a quicker pace.

Humphries has had a lot of help to get used to the style of play here from the players on his team, who he enjoys playing and being with.

He also looks to his assistant coaches for great advice and Mohl who Humphries says, “is the best coach I have ever had.”

Mohl said he’s very happy with the progress Humphries has made so far this season. “He is a terrific player.” Mohl said, “He is everything we recruited and probably more.”

Mohl isn’t only happy with Humphries’ success this season, but also with the entire team with three players leading the league in different statistics prior to the semester break.

Besides basketball, Humphries said he is looking forward to his future.

He is studying nutrition and well-being, and he wants to be involved with helping youth when he leaves college.

He said he’s also looking to attend a four-year college after another season at NIACC to continue his education.

Humphries did say he has also had to get used to the cold weather in North Iowa and the small town living. But he says change is good.

Humphries’ goals are the same as everyone else’s on the team and that is to keep on winning and hopefully make nationals.

With the way the Trojans have been playing this season, there is no doubt that goals could be obtainable with the help of the “Wonder from Down Under.”

NIACC basketball player David Humphries, a 6-foot-4 freshman from Adelaide, Australia, has provided the Trojans with a major scoring threat throughout the first part of the Trojans’ season. At press time, Humphries had been named athlete of the week for the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference for his performance during the week of November 11-17. At that time, Humphries led the league in rebounds averaging 10.3 per game and was second in assists with 4.9 per game. He also had outstanding performances like his triple-double against Riverland Community College when he had 19 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists. Humphries also scored 36 points in a 93-84 win over the Coe College Junior Varsity on January 7.
Bell overcomes adversity in freshman year

Jocelyn Arends  
Staff Reporter

While most athletes look up to older siblings in their sport, NIACC guard Emily Bell grew up with cousins to look up to.

“I’m an only child,” Bell said. “So I looked up to my cousins a lot since they’re really into athletics.”

Bell said her father motivated her as well. “He pushed me really hard to be the best I could be,” Bell said.

Kelli Terrell, her coach at NIACC, and the NIACC coaching staff took notice of Bell’s athletic abilities. “What we liked about Emily is her ability to get her shot off quickly and her energy on the court,” Terrell said.

Bell went to Bishop Garrigan High School in Algona and although she said she had some up and down days, she credits her high school head coach from her senior season for pursuing basketball at a greater level.

“I learned a lot from him, I was inspired by him to go into coaching which is what I am studying here,” Bell said.

Unfortunately, in September, Bell was devastated by the loss of her mother but persevered through the help of her teammates and coaches.

“When I came back, it was during practice and they came up and showed their love for me,” Bell said. “The coaches are awesome about that and I couldn’t of picked a better place to come, especially during such a tough time.”

Terrell agreed.

“I think that unfortunate situation brought us all close right away and everyone was very supportive of everything that Emily was going through,” Terrell said about the situation.

Since then, Bell has been making some huge shots for the Trojans this season, leading the team in 3-point field goals before semester break.

“She’s one of the team’s best shooters,” Terrell said. Bell’s ability to make quick shots has become a staple for the team.

For the team as a whole, both Coach Terrell and Bell note that health is the biggest factor.

“We need to get healthy, we have a lot of hurt bodies (at press time),” Bell said. “The main thing is getting healthy and to hopefully push it towards when tournament and conference times come, so we can do the best that we can and prove it each and every game.”

Bell’s perseverance throughout the whole season will shine through the rest of her career.

Coach Terrell said she believes that if Bell can get healthy she will be an even bigger offensive threat than she already is.

With Bell’s energy and positive attitude, Terrell insists that those will be the best qualities to help the team going forward.

Trojan guard Emily Bell brings the ball up court against Hibbing Community College earlier in the season.

Too many rule changes can spoil the games

One of the most watched television events every year is the Super Bowl. It is the most exciting football game of the year for most; there is nothing like watching the opening kickoff and feeling the rush of excitement when the game begins.

Now take away that kickoff, and have each team start at a certain point on the field after every scoring drive, at the beginning of the game or the second half.

Now where is the fun in watching a game if you can’t see an exciting kickoff returned for a touchdown?

Now I know they say it’s for safety, and I agree with the league as they need to be safer out there on the field.

But do it through other methods by changing the equipment for safer gear and take away some of the cheap tackles, which the NFL has done in the past.

But taking out an aspect of the game that has been there since who knows when, it takes something away from the game itself.

Personally, you need to leave things the way they are. No more challenging plays, and no more booth reviews. Why can’t we just trust the calls the refs make?

Roger Goodell, commissioner of the NFL, gave a speech recently at Harvard University. In his speech he said why not limit the weight of the players on special teams to cut down on the violent collisions during kickoffs.

I don’t mind this change and I don’t think many will complain except for the players that already play at that position.

Last year the NFL moved the spot of kickoff to the 30-yard line. Doing this, the NFL saw a drop of 40 percent reduction in concussions last year alone and that is an amazing statistic.

Every year the different sports change or tweak their rules, but there needs to be a point where if they tweak it too much the game is no longer enjoyable to watch.
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