Cold snap causes arctic temperatures

BY KIM EASON  
NEWS EDITOR

After more than a decade of tolerable weather conditions, snow and wind chills have come back to cool us again.

Orange City saw temps as low as -12 this weekend, and it has only warmed up slightly since then. Another one to three inches of snow is expected to fall this weekend.

According to the National Weather Service, the record low for Orange City was -30, set in January of 1972. The last time Iowa saw record-setting temps was in 1996 when highs were -9.

However, what Iowa has seen is only a fraction of what other places around the U.S. have been dealing with.

Northern Minnesota towns saw temps as low as 38 below early this week, not including wind chill. Temps won’t rise above freezing until after the weekend for parts of Michigan.

Areas of New York are seeing snow totals as much as seven feet with another foot or two possibly coming this weekend. Sub-zero temperatures have also added to the winter weather.

The significant amount of snow is because of the lake-effect over Lake Ontario. The lake-effect is when cold air moves over the warm lake water. The air picks up moisture and the heat from the water rises. The moisture begins to condense in the form of clouds, and when there is enough moisture, the air can no longer hold it, and it falls in the form of snow.

Parts of Interstate 81 have been closed due to the whiteout conditions, with snow falling at a rate of more than 5 inches per hour at times. Travelers have been stranded in the Midwest, as their flights to the Northeast have been cancelled due to the weather. Delta Airlines cancelled 200 flights on Wednesday due to the weather. Wind chils are expected to get as low as -32 in parts of Minnesota and other northern parts of the U.S.

Fri 09 Feb 2007 14:23 GMT  
PHOTO COURTESY OF WEATHER.COM

Wind chills are expected to get as low as -28 in parts of Minnesota and other northern parts of the U.S.

Raiders win eight straight

BY KIM EASON  
NEWS EDITOR

On Wednesday, Feb. 7, the men’s basketball team defeated the Dakota Wesleyan University Tigers to record their eighth consecutive victory.

With the win, Northwestern improves to 12-3 in the GPAC, and they remain tied with USF for the lead in the GPAC with three games left to play. NW is 19-6 overall and is ranked 10th in this week’s NAIA D-II poll.

The Raiders remained in control for most of the first half, leading by four at halftime, with the score 41-37. The Tigers cut the lead down to one early in the second half, but the Raiders responded with a 10-4 run to regain the lead. The final score was 82-70.

Junior Chad Schuiteman scored his 15th double-double of the year with 23 points and 16 rebounds, leading the team. Sophomore guard Kale Wiertzema scored 18 points, and sophomore Andrew Stimson added another 16 points to the total.

The Raiders limited the leading scorer in the GPAC, DWU’s Brock Seim, to just 11 points and held the Tigers to a 39 shooting percentage from the field.

NW will travel to Fremont, Neb. on Saturday, Feb. 10, to play Midland Lutheran. Tip-off is at 4 p.m.

Van Otterloo signs with Sioux City Bandits

BY JULIE JOHNSON  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Senior Jordan Van Otterloo has signed a one-year contract to play arena football for the Sioux City Bandits. The Bandits are a part of the United Independent Football League.

Van Otterloo played cornerback in junior high and high school at the Le Mars Community Schools and collegiately for the Northwestern Red Raiders. He will continue to play cornerback for the Bandits.

Van Otterloo will have to make some adjustments to play at the arena level. Arena football is played on a hockey rink on an Astroturf-like surface. Cleats are not allowed to be worn. Since the field is smaller, the goalposts are also narrower, and the game is played eight-on-eight.

Raiders’ Head Coach Orv Otten thinks this style of play will suit Van Otterloo very well because he will bring versatility to the field. “Jordan can play both sides of the ball,” Otten mentioned, and referenced Van Otterloo’s quickness and catching ability as two more assets he will bring with him to the Bandits.

During the 2006 season with the Raiders, Van Otterloo led the team in interceptions, along with fellow senior Austin Jaroson, each pulling in seven. Van Otterloo led the Raiders in interceptions the previous three years. He earned first team all-conference honors for the second year in a row.

The season starts on March 24 at the Sioux City Tyson Events Center.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
We should support our computing services workers

BY DONNEL "SCRUFF" EDDY

We all complain about the Internet being down and how it’s slow. Well, in my opinion, it’s not entirely the school’s fault. I’ve noticed that students have been streaming music videos, downloading files and playing video games over the network a lot lately. I don’t know much about networking, but perhaps all of these activities aren’t making the process of having a fast-working Internet any better. Maybe if we stopped streaming music videos on YouTube...

Should we be rethinking the meaning of the atonement?

The pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church came up in between songs to get the crowd involved a little more and to introduce the next song. This didn’t stop them either. The men on the keyboard kept playing their improv tunes, members of the choir would shout “Amen!” after every phrase. The teenage girl took this time after her amazing solo to turn around, calm down and lift her hands in thanks and praise to the God who helped her through it.

The crowd didn’t really know what hit them. It took them a few songs to get into the spirit of the evening, and even after that, some were reluctant to join in.

My question is: why? Why do we consider it so weird and different when people are so excited about Jesus’ love for them that they dance and sing loudly and don’t care what people think of them? Why do we only stick to our comfort zones instead of reaching out to others?

You see, to me, this choir was only a small representation of what the body of Christ should look like. People of all ages, races and personalities coming together for one purpose: to share the glory of God. They celebrated the God who doesn’t care who you are and where you come from, and they embodied him themselves.

These weren’t people of all races and personalities coming together for the purpose of getting another chapel credit and maybe some extra study time. They didn’t just walk in, throw their stuff down and check the clock to see how much longer they have to be there.

Let’s re-form our ideas a little more when we’re in chapel and start embodying the body of Christ. And so what if it means dancing around a lot lately. I don’t know much about networking, but perhaps all of these activities aren’t making the process of having a fast-working Internet any better. Maybe if we stopped streaming music videos on YouTube...

In the view, salvation means that Jesus took the punishment that God had planned for humans (or only “the elect” in the view of some), and so now God doesn’t have to punish people forever to satisfy his justice. Songs born from this view sing things like “on that cross as Jesus died; The wrath of God was satisfied; for every sin on Him was laid.” I think that using this as the primary or even the only way to understand the crucifixion is a practice that we need to begin a serious discussion about. As Christians, it’s important to shield behind the hope that maybe it really was possible for us to escape the fires of hell being stirred by an angry God. It was explained to me at summer camp that even the tiniest little sin was enough to warrant eternal damnation. Think a bad thought, eat one too many cookies, and God would see to it that you paid a thousand times over unless you were “really” accepted by God. My later understanding that God didn’t necessarily directly inflict punishment but simply cast you out of the presence of God to wallow in sin and pain for all eternity if you weren’t “really” saved didn’t help much.

My religious beliefs were often a source of misery for most of my years growing up because I was always fully conscious of the presence of God and also fully conscious of how much I still failed him. My beliefs about sin haven’t changed substantially, but my understanding of God has changed. I no longer see God as a god of wrath and vengeance but of love and peace, and this has freed me to begin questioning many things I would not have dared to risk hell by seriously considering before.

Why would God need to kill Jesus in order to be able to forgive people?

The explanation often given is that God may want to forgive and love people (or “the elect”), but he has an equally insatiable desire for justice and vengeance that has to get out of his system first. God, apparently a very prideful being, cannot tolerate any insult to his greatness, and thus has to vent his anger somewhere. Nobody would like to see Jesus being bashed his hand with a hammer if the child lied or killing a cat if the kid did something really bad, like taking drugs), then why would a perfect, divine father be incapable of true forgiveness, wherein the infraction is actually forgiven, as opposed to simply shifting the target of the punishment?

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“Children of Men”: Worth the hype?

BY JAMES BIERLY
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

In the film “Children of Men,” humanity has lost the ability to reproduce. As the world mourns the death of its youngest living human, a lady, Kee (Claire-Hope Ashitey), conceives a baby. The hero of the film, Theo (Clive Owen), must help this woman and her baby escape from the people who want to use the child for their own dastardly purposes, and he must get her to a group of good scientists who will use the baby for the benefit of everyone.

“Children of Men” raises the question: “What happens when a society knows its citizens will be the last on earth? What happens if we have no children to pass our world on to?” The answer the film seems to give is that they do all the same things they do now, only a bit worse. They wage violent religious wars, lock up illegal immigrants and mistreat them and destroy their environment. Anarchy takes over as everyone decides to take out the organizations, people and races they dislike. Since humanity is doomed anyhow, people might as well take their revenge on their enemies while they still can.

The fact that the film uses magnified versions of present day “hot button” issues as its great evils of the future (it is implied that the problems plaguing the characters in the film began in our present time, and many of the heroes apparently got their start as protesters against the Bush and Blair administrations) raises the haunting prospect in the mind of viewers that perhaps Western civilization is already behaving as if the next generation is irrelevant.

Grandly, this is a rather simplistic picture. Much of the violence in our world today is justified with the claim that it is being done to “secure the future for our children.” Yet it does seem to ring true that without hope and a future for our race, many people would turn to nihilism and destructive despair.

What kind of meaning could people create for their lives in a world like this? How would religion adapt to it? And if a new child were to be introduced into this world, how would it impact the culture? Could a new birth save this society or would it have crossed the point of no return?

All these would make interesting questions for the film to explore but unfortunately, past the first quarter of the film, they become unimportant. The pregnant woman quickly becomes a mere McGuffin to be ferreted past a variety of clichéd post-apocalyptic action and suspense scenes. All the things you would expect occur—there’s a car chase, the self-sacrifice of a mentor figure, villains conveniently appearing out of nowhere at just the right dramatic moment. The film attempts to inject witticisms and comic relief at all the wrong moments, undermining the tension.

Due to the manic overacting of the various people Theo encounters along his way (everyone seems to have a penchant for talking with dramatic and abundant hand gestures), the film is often unintentionally funny. Also, there are many things that seem so incredibly implausible that it destroys the suspension of disbelief. For example, a maximum security prison camp has a convenient escape boat leading out of it. In one scene, the pregnant woman must throw off her robe, dramatically exposing her breasts to the camera in order to show Theo that she is pregnant. A day later, it is obvious to everyone that she is pregnant, even when she is fully clothed, and they respond with the appropriate shock and awe.

A few scenes later, she is easily passed off as someone who is simply sick (or perhaps merely overweight). The filmmaker can’t seem to make up his mind as to how far along the pregnancy, until it serves the story’s needs for the child to be born.

“Children of Men” raises some interesting questions but would rather be a run-of-the-mill action thriller than spend a lot of time exploring those questions.

K-Outlet offers a welcoming spirit and cheap prices

BY KATIE VAN ETEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Looking for cheap dental floss or hand sanitizer for that special someone? How about a cow-patterned trucker hat just to have on hand? Or maybe a long-sleeved logo shirt for the painter in the family? The K-Outlet Store, an extension of American Identity, has all these and more in its glorious bins of discontinued, mass-produced items.

K-Outlet lies just beyond the huge American Identity factory on the south side of Albany on the drive out of Orange City.

K-Outlet’s doors have only been open for six years, but it has already attracted national customers. Donna, an employee who has worked for K-Outlet since it has been open, says that they receive customers not only locally but from as far away as Washington and California. She and Helene (an employee who will celebrate her one-year anniversary of working for K-Outlet this week) remember a man who would come down from Michigan on a regular basis just to buy whatever he could.

The K-Outlet offers a welcoming spirit and cheap prices.

“Sweaters.” In a room, a customer can look through zippered sweaters, hoodies, pull-over and sweater vests all for $3. The room also sells logoed long-sleeve t-shirts for $1.

In the final room on the right side of the store is the “Cap Room,” which has much more than just caps. It has beanies and trucker hats for $1 each, stuffed animals for 25¢ to $1, play trucks for kids for $2, water bottles for 25¢ and mouse pads, lanyards, mugs and cups for 10¢ each.

The last room in the store, at the back on the left, is the one which sells “Heavy Jackets.” This room has winter jackets which range from $15 to $20.

Roger, a local who works for a power company and is a frequent customer of K-Outlet, informed me during my visit that it’s the Carhartt jackets or the ones without logos that usually sell at higher prices. He was surprised to see that the store still had a couple of Carhartts even this far into the winter.

The main storeroom area has racks and bins lining the walls and dispersed all over. These racks sell everything from hunting and farming vests for $5 to lunch bags and backpacks for $3. In the bins are smaller, cheaper, more usable items, like dental floss and hand sanitizer, which sell for 10¢ each.

K-Outlet sells a variety of items in a brand of products. They sell surplus or discontinued products from more popularly recognized companies like Schwinn but also less recognized companies like: Tee-Pee Seed Co., Pudgie’s Good Time Pizza Pasta & Subs, and Revolution, a company which coins the phrase “Grow the Feed. Not the Weeds” on their very hats.

Junior Elizabeth Becker said that she felt so relaxed when she went there to buy a sweater and a couple of socks. She explained that “It feels so much like home to me that when I walked out of the rooms, I wanted to shut the lights off.”

K-Outlet is open Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. If you have any questions, feel free to call K-Outlet at 712-737-4925.

“Darla’s my sunshine.” - Sophomore Pavel Rezabek, checking his chapel credit count

“I think I dated a girl on the corner of Purify & Chastity.” - Professor Keith Fynwardt, elaborating on Pella’s original street names, many of which were named after Christian characteristics

“I just wanted to see what she looked like. But then I saw a little too much of what she looked like.” - Junior Beth Helberger, looking up Google images of Anna Nicole Smith

“I love West. I just want to give it a big hug.” - Sophomore Carl Erickson, referring to his place of residence

Send your Campus Quotes, with context, to beacon@muicc.edu.owea.
Got Questions?

BY TYLER NESPER

How many times have you and your buddies been sitting in a room late at night, and wondered, “Why does Northwestern...?” I know my friends and I have had several late night discussions about the “reasons” behind NW. Does some of the things it does. So instead of speculating, I decided to get some concrete answers.

Why do you care? Well, if you want answers too, I am offering to do the work. I am offering to take the questions that you have and go straight to the people who can answer them. If I am refused an answer after numerous attempts, the question won’t be hidden, nor will the fact that I was refused an answer.

Let me give you two examples.

Recently, I have been wondering when NW will upgrade its computers to Windows Vista (the next version of the Windows operating system). Harlan Jorgensen, the director of Computing Services, told me, “I feel that our thought process is going to be summer 2008. This gives the platform at least a year to come out and get rid of some of the normal startup bugs and also allows us to get geared up for the changes and new issues we will have to encounter.” Jorgensen goes on to say that there will be two rounds of hardware upgrades before the summer of 2008, and that if a compelling reason arises, the timetable may be moved up.

Another example, “Are the rumors that there will be a change to the 21 meal plan true? And if so, what is it?”

John Brogan said, “Students living in the residence halls will be required to purchase a full meal plan, but we are negotiating with Sodexo to provide various options for number of meals and flex dollars under the full meal plan. We are considering other options, including a partial meal plan, for students living in the apartments and cottages. Announcements concerning the meal plans will go out to students before housing sign-ups.”

Students, I am not some articulate English major; I am an inarticulate business major who wants to get answers—answers to the questions that we students want to know.

So how simple is this for you? E-mail any question you have—any question about residence life, campus policies, student government, literally anything to tnesper@nwciowa.edu. All I ask is that you keep it clean and reasonable. Don’t ask me if Kugler wears boxers or briefs.

Fads that may cost you your health

BY JANCIE SWIER

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Are people getting darker? It may seem that way with the tanning industry in the United States pulling in about $2 billion per year and with estimates that 28 million Americans are annually making use of indoor tanning.

Many health professionals are concerned with this upward trend of tanning, citing evidence that links both the UVA and UVB rays found in the sun and under tanning lamps to types of cancer and premature aging of the skin. According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, a 1994 Swedish study found that women ages 18 to 30 who frequented tanning parlors more than 10 times a year had seven times greater incidences of melanoma than those women who did not go to tanning salons. Some experts argue that these rays can also cause damage to a person’s immune system.

The health risks play a major part in students’ opinions of tanning. Freshman Kyle Sauter said, “I think that it is stupid to put your body through something you know will increase your chances of cancer—I wouldn’t want to risk it.” Sophomore Rachel Kleinsasser agreed with Sauter’s thought process and stated, “The health risks are a red flag, and I don’t mind being pale for the winter.”

The associated health risks do not deter all students from catching the lamp rays; tanning salons in Orange County claim that they still get decent business from college students. Hair Clinic Nail & Tanning Center estimated that they have around 20 college-aged females and five college-aged males come in and use their facilities on a regular basis.

The only reason some students choose to get a tan is for social purposes. However, some students may choose not to go to tanning salons for other reasons. Many students do not like the “unnatural” look of their skin. Senior Amy Tiesler thinks so. “It helps me to relax, and it is nice to be able to be my pretty self for awhile,” she said.

Tiesler’s theory that tanning causes relaxation is a view widely held among students. Junior Amy Tiesler thinks so. “It helps me to relax, and it is nice to be able to be my pretty self for awhile,” she said.

Some students, such as freshman Alison Hager, give some consideration to the health risks even when they go tanning. Hager always makes sure to apply a skin protector to her face in attempts to minimize the risks.

So, are there any benefits to tanning besides darker skin? Freshman Amy Tiesler thinks so. “It helps me to relax, and it is nice to be able to be my pretty self for awhile,” she said.

Tiesler’s theory that tanning causes relaxation is a view widely shared by tanners. This is likely because tanning can trigger endorphins—a set of hormones that, when released, generally cause an uplift in emotion.

Another health benefit claimed by tanning salons is that exposure to rays allows your body to create Vitamin D. While health experts do recognize this, they say that only a small amount of skin needs to be exposed to the sunlight for a few minutes each day to create a sufficient amount of Vitamin D, which you can easily obtain in foods such as dairy products.

Health risks aren’t the only concern of students, however; some students may choose not to go to tanning salons for other reasons. Many students do not like the “unnatural” look of their skin. Senior Emily Keen stated, “I don’t mind being white, and I wouldn’t pay that much money.”

Terran Nova: taking time to take care

BY RACHEL RIETLSMA

STAFF WRITER

Adam and Eve tended to the Garden of Eden because God created them to nurture the earth. As their descendents, we are required to fulfill that purpose.

Unknown to many, there is a club on campus that exists “to share with others the inherent value of creation in order to attempt to redeem/restore creation for God.” Northwestern Associate Professor of Biology and coleader of Terra Nova Laurie Furlong believes that it is pertinent for students to connect their Christianity with every aspect of their world view, especially in regards to creation stewardship.

According to Furlong, recycling is an outward expression of good stewardship—an expression that should be higher on students’ priority lists. “Compared to other campuses I’ve been on, it seems as though NW is a little behind the game in recycling,” she said. However, she noted that over the past few years, NW has grown in care towards recycling.

Sara James, resident director of Stegenga Hall, encourages the students in her dorm to recycle. Stegenga faithfully recycles cans, bottles, plastic containers and most papers. Despite the commitment, James feels she could do more to make students aware of the many benefits reaped from recycling. She believes her efforts are a success because the hall’s recycling containers get full at a rather fast rate but adds that there is always room for improvement. “I don’t know many students in the hall who are against recycling,” she said. “Maybe additional students would participate if we encouraged it more.”

Not only does recycling preserve God’s creation, but it saves a great deal of energy. Another aspect of water waste is the energy used to heat the water. Furlong thinks that students are missing the bigger picture when it comes to campus resources in general. “We shouldn’t think that just because we paid for something, we should use it wastefully; that’s a destructive mentality,” she said.

Americans in general tend to possess this mentality as billions of cans are thrown away each year. If the population recycled one-tenth of these cans, 3.2 billion cans could be reused, according to Terra Nova’s Web site. Every Sunday, an entire forest is cut down to supply Americans with newspapers. The first time Gena Dubois, Terra Nova’s vice president, printed in the dorm this year, she was pleasantly surprised to find it double-sided. “This may seem like a small and insignificant change, but I believe that it will greatly reduce paper waste on campus and, in a small way, help to diminish forest degradation,” she said.

This past year, Tracy conducted a four-week study, which calculated cafeteria food wastage over 14 meals. In comparison to his 2002 study, the food wasteage decreased by 10%, and beverage wasteage decreased by 35%. However, beverage waste is a moderate estimate, as water was included in the 2002 study but not in 2006. Wastage decline also remains a conservative estimate as students were aware of the 2002 study as it was being conducted.

As they scraped plates in 2006, students were appalled by the amount of sandwiches and fruit left untouched. Both student shock and wastage decrease bring Tracy some satisfaction with his studies.

“I was pleased that awareness of the issue was raised on campus, and my hope was that students would then rebuke fellow students who waste food,” he said.

An increase in creation stewardship will allow for future generations to live in the world that God created for them. There is only one earth; please don’t waste it.
Prepare to be challenged

BY ANDREA DAVIS

You are required to attend it 45 times each semester and allotted 7 “get out of jail free” cards. Correction—that’s “get out of chapel free” cards. Chapel—it is all about, anyway?

As we enter Christ Chapel a few times each week do we have a clear sense of the purpose of chapel as laid out by Campus Ministries and Chaplain Harlan Van Oort? The general consensus held by students, staff, faculty, and the administration at Northwestern is that chapel is a place of worship. Of course, in all areas of our lives as Christians, we are to be worshiping God: in class, in the caf, in the dorms and in chapel. Could we somehow develop a better understanding of chapel that could be communicated to those both on and off campus?

Van Oort, who is involved in the process of finding chapel speakers, said “chapel is worship, hopefully with a variety of expressions. It includes biblical instruction and a provocative exchange of ideas.” At the same time, he said that “we need to be sensitive to how provocative these ideas can be.”

Think of the whole spectrum of issues which are potential topics for chapel: issues within politics, society, theology, etc. These affect our lives every single day, and God is in these spectrums just as much as he is in Christ Chapel. A Web site started this semester called “Challenge Me NWC” (challengemenwc.blogspot.com) has been created to make a “statement that we think chapel should be a place where our thoughts about our faith and our conceptions of God and the world are challenged,” explained senior Erin Scholtens.

Van Oort said that it is “not our intention to create [divisive] controversy, but we don’t want to eliminate all new or different ideas.” How then do you decide what is and is not an appropriate challenge? Van Oort said that chapel speakers must be Christians who are in tune with the goals established for chapel. He said that some of these goals include helping students to better trust, love and worship God, engage ideas by connecting knowledge and experience and respond to God’s call in our lives.

Stated succinctly, “silent majority” is what Van Oort is looking for. If a speaker is definitively against homosexual marriage, the Van Oort would not look to that person to challenge our thinking. Van Oort explains, “I am looking for people who are not saying ‘I am against homosexuals’ but ‘I really don’t understand what this means and how it affects the way you and I live our lives’.” Van Oort is looking for speakers who “are in a position to make a statement that will challenge the way students think.”

A group of students sport shirts like the one above, declaring their views on the purpose of chapel. A group of students sport shirts like the one above, declaring their views on the purpose of chapel.

Senior Ben Kappers said that “by its very nature, the chapel is not a fair place to hold [certain] discussions.” Rarely is there the opportunity for a variety of viewpoints and ideas to be expressed and discussed within one 15 to 20 minute chapel speech. Van Oort agreed that with issues like these, there must be an opportunity for dialogue. That’s one thing that is considered when chapel is planned. The unfortunate thing is that chapel is not a place for dialogue—other times and places must be set aside for that. Are there actual venues available which exist in order to facilitate the interaction of various people who hold various viewpoints about an issue?

Although there are usually a couple of discussion gatherings sponsored by Campus Ministries each semester, they are not regular occurrences. And students like Scott Monsma Speaks Out

Scott Monsma Speaks Out

INTERVIEWED BY ANDREA DAVIS

January 12, 2007 / A Friday. It is a day that will remain etched into the minds of those in the Northwestern community. What was it about, anyway?

So you’ve been wondering what the real deal is on this chapel speech that Associate Professor of Sociology Scott Monsma gave on January 12. This is your opportunity to sit down with Monsma over coffee (hot chocolate, in his case) and get the facts “straight” from the source (did you catch the pun?).

Is what Monsma said in chapel the official NW position? No. Was it really about homosexuality marriage? No. Neither of these are what Monsma really cared about. But, “for some people, just hearing the word homosexual is [enough of an issue] that it’s going to make it really hard to hear anything else,” Monsma said.

Regardless of what you think about homosexuality and the idea of homosexual marriage, regardless of what you think about Scott Monsma, put down your assumptions for just a few moments and listen to this honest, open discussion of his interpretation of the events surrounding January 12 to now:

“My intent was to propose a question for us to wrestle with: ‘Who is my neighbor and what does it mean to love them?’ If we’re going to take the question seriously, let’s push the question beyond ‘okay, how do I love my neighbor?’ Let’s talk about how I relate to the person in the dorm room next to me. Okay, that’s challenging, but that’s not challenging enough. [The thesis of the talk] is the question [above]. The story [of the two partners] is an illustration of where I wrestle with [how to love my neighbor], where I think about the implications, and by saying the word ‘I’ here, I’m certainly only talking about how I think about it. I’m not trying to tell other people how to think about it because people disagree. Our disagreement—that’s okay—but let’s just figure out how to talk about it and figure out why we [each] think the way we do.

I tried to be very clear in what I said, that I said: here’s my question, it has led me on a journey, this is what I think, this is the position I have come to. For some people, it was really clear that I spoke for myself. For some people, it wasn’t clear enough.

It was so important for me to carefully craft how I said things and the way I said things in an effort to be non-confrontational—to be sensitive to the audience. I anticipated that some people would say, ‘I’m not really comfortable with what you’re doing.’ I certainly did not anticipate the hostility or the depth of the anger that came out.

For the rest of the story and continuation this interview, check out next week’s Beacon.
Women boost win streak to four

BY BETHANY KROEZE
EDITOR

With Wednesday night’s 77-59 victory over the Dakota Wesleyan Tigers, the Red Raider women increased their win streak to four games and improved their record to 19-6 overall and 12-3 in the GPAC.

Head Coach Earl Woudstra said, “I think the real key for us [Wednesday] night was to keep battling through a little adversity.”

“Basketball is a game of ups and downs,” he continued. “We did a better job of weathering a few storms and difficulties. I thought it was a good test for us as we face a very difficult part of our schedule.”

The Raiders started with a five-point run, taking advantage of some missed shots by the Tigers. However, the Tigers came roaring back and took a small lead about five minutes into the game. The rest of the first half was a pretty close match with the Raiders taking their biggest lead, 22-11, with just under 10 minutes remaining in the half. The Raiders led 34-28 heading into the locker room at halftime.

Woudstra said, “Our emphasis against DWU was to stop their dribble penetration and perimeter shooting. I thought we did a pretty good job of this for most of the game but ended up giving up too many easy baskets in the post and on offensive rebounds.”

In the second half, the Raiders started strong, working to a 14-point lead with just over 14 minutes remaining in the game. DWU hit a couple of three-point shots to pull the lead down to eight, but the Raiders’ defense answered by not allowing the Tigers to score for the next five minutes.

The Raiders’ final answer came with a two-point jumper by sophomore Heather Nold with 1:18 left to play. Two final scores by the Tigers ended the game with a 77-59 Raider victory.

“Basketball is a game of ups and downs. We did a better job of weathering a few storms and difficulties. I thought it was a good test for us as we face a very difficult part of our schedule.”

- Coach Earl Woudstra

Offensively, I thought we did a much better job in the second half of keeping the ball moving,” said Woudstra, “which led to a much better shooting percentage in the second half.” The Raiders shot 41.4 percent in the second half, improved from 35.5 percent in the first.

Junior guard Deb Remmerde led the Raiders with 35 points and nine rebounds. Junior Amy Larson put up 11 points, shooting three-for-four beyond the three-point arc, while junior Crystal Algod added eight points and seven assists.

Woudstra said, “I think Jaime Hoegh has continued to do a great job of leading, and her 10 points, 5 rebounds and 3 assists was a good effort.”

Last Saturday, the Raiders hosted the Dana College Vikings. Leading 44-22 at halftime, the Raiders continued to extend their lead throughout the second half to secure the 90-50 victory.

Woudstra said, “The real key to the game against Dana was our defensive effort. We were able to limit Dana to a low shooting percentage and did not give them very many second chances.”

Remmerde led the scoring and rebounding campaigns with 29 points and eight rebounds. Senior Hoegh added 14 points and dished out five assists.

Woudstra said, “As a team, we had 24 assists that were spread out among a number of players—that is really an exciting stat. It means we are doing a good job of sharing the basketball and getting a number of people involved.”

The Raiders shot 50 percent from beyond the three-point line and 56.3 percent from the floor. Their defense was victorious both in limiting the Vikings’ shooting to 26.2 percent overall, and in winning the rebound battle, 45-35.

This weekend, the Raiders travel to Fremont, Neb., to take on Midland Lutheran. Tip-off is scheduled for 2 p.m. tomorrow.
Raider track and field earns nine top finishes at Dordt

BY DAN CLIFF
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, Feb. 3, the Northwestern track team participated in the Dordt Invitational held by their Great Plains Athletic Conference rival at Sioux Center at the DeVitt Center. The Raiders recorded nine top finishes and added another national qualifier at the meet. Senior Nick Fynaardt qualified in the shot put for the NAIA national meet in Johnson City, Tenn., with his throw of 50'7".

Several other Raiders qualified provisionally. Senior Andrew Ortmeier provisionally qualified in the shot put with a throw of 50'1.5". It was good for second place behind fellow Raider Fynaardt. Senior Kristen Becker also provisionally qualified with a second place finish and a time of 1:39.60 in the 600 meter run.

Junior runner Laura Jacobson was one of the six NW individuals to record a first place finish. She ran the 600 meter run in 1:38.44 to take first and also broke the meet record in the event.

Senior captain Robbie Cundy recorded his second straight first place finish in the 55 meter hurdles with a time of 7.78. Cundy qualified for the national meet at the Buena Vista University Invitational last weekend in the same event with a time of 7.74. He said, "I'm thankful for the opportunity to run at nationals." Cundy said, "It's one more opportunity to run some hurdles, and it's a fun race!"

Freshman Kyle Sauter improved his provisional time to 8.06 in the 55 meter hurdles. He finished third in the event. Cundy had some praise for his freshman teammate: "Kyle is a great worker, and he will continue to improve this year. It is really not much of a surprise that he's doing as well as he is." Other first place finishers for the Raiders included junior Kyle Blankens, who finished first in the long jump with leap of 21.0", and senior Bryce Becker, who finished first in the 600 meter run with a time of 1:24.01. The men's 4x400 meter relay that includes Becker, Sauter, freshman Steve Westerkamp and Cundy finished first with a time of 3:27.89.

On the women's side, freshman Sarah Earleywine took top honors in the shot put with a throw of 37'6.5", and senior Megan Harding finished first in the 400 meter dash with a time of 1:01.73. The women's 4x400 meter relay matched the men with a first place finish of their own with a time of 3:49.11. Harding, Jacobson, Becker and junior Jessica Regan were part of the winning relay for the Raiders.

"Overall, our throwers for men and women had outstanding days," Head Coach Nate Wolf said. "The upcoming BVU Classic should be one of the best competitions the team will face before the GPAC Indoor Championships." Sophomore captain Emily Gaalswyk echoed her coach's sentiment. "This [BVU Classic] will be a tough meet against some really good teams. We've just got to show up and compete like we know how. We've been working hard all season, and we know how to get on that track and win with the best of them."

The BVU Classic is held in Storm Lake and begins on Friday, Feb. 9. The indoor season will quickly wind down after that, with meets the following Friday, Feb. 15, and Saturday, Feb. 16, before the GPAC indoor championships on Feb. 24 in Lincoln, Neb.

SPORTS

Complete Results

Women

Athlete  Event  Effort  Place

Emily De Weerd  55m hurdles  9.27  5th
Addie Bartlett  55m dashes  8.33  10th
Emily De Weerd  200m dash  27.94  3rd
Emily Gaalswyk  200m  28.52  7th
Megan Harding  400m dash  1:01.73  1st
Emily Gaalswyk  400m  1:03.79  6th
Laura Jacobson†  600m run  1:38.44  1st
Kristen Becker†  600m  1:39.60  2nd
Jessica Regan  600m  1:40.97  4th
Julia Strom  600m  1:48.01  7th
Kap Ainslie  1000m run  2:52.00  6th
Mary Maassen  1000m  2:34.09  9th
Natalie Johnson†  1 mile run  6:09.77  8th
Merrill Reed†  1 mile run  4:46.94  12th
Kendra Thomas  1 mile run  4:27.15  15th
Sarah Storm  3000m run  11:21.71  4th
Ingrid Cartlon  3000m  11:51.34  6th
Stephanie Korle  3000m  12:40.40  7th
Jennifer Mooreman 3000m run  12:07.22  10th
Angela Wiggins  3000m  12:45.51  11th
Kelsey Driver  4x400m relay  3:49.11  1st
Regan, Harding, Becker, Jacobson
4x800 relay  10:31.46  3rd
Schweiger, Kever, Voris, Hof, Storm
Haidr Willen  pole vault  9.40  0.00
Sarah Earleywine shot put  37.06.50  1st
Rae Taylor shot put  37.02.75  4th
Natalie Schneider shot put  35.02.50  5th
Amy Katsma shot put  34.10.50  6th
Catie Sabata shot put  27.08.25  16th

Men

Athlete  Event  Effort  Place

Robbie Cundy†  55m hurdles  7.78  1st
Kyle Sauter†  55m hurdles  8.06  3rd
Derrick Rensink  55m hurdles  8.61  8th
Luke Hofmeyer  55m hurdles  8.45  7th
Kurt Aksamit  55m  5.71  15th
Tom Ptitkavich  55m  7.27  17th
Luke Hofmeyer  200m  23.83  5th
Jamison Guthmiller  200m  24.88  8th
Craig Merke  200m  24.89  12th
Daniel Lichter  400m  53.97  7th
Derrick Rensink  400m  54.36  8th
Bryce Becker  600m  1:24.01  1st
Bruck Jensen  600m  1:27.32  7th
Nick Tjerdema  600m  1:30.80  12th
Joel Watters  600m  1:20.42  5th
Nathan Lichter  600m  1:25.54  13th
Kyle Gerhard  1 mile run  4:50.40  5th
Ryan Demberck  1 mile run  4:57.17  10th
Dann Wallhoff  3000m  9:09.95  3rd
Anthony Ebert  3000m  9:13.93  13th
Jon Wasch  3000m  9:24.97  10th
4x200m relay  1:36.42  5th
Hofmeyer, Guthmiller, Tiktak, Westerkamp
4x400m relay A - Cundy, Sauter, Westerkamp, Becker  3:27.30  1st
B - Rensink, Tyecta, D. Lichter, Jensen  3:17.37  6th
C - Den Haring, Stover, North, N. Lichter  3:44.19  19th
4x800m relay  8:29.08  4th
Brown, Stover, North, Den Haring
Tim Swart high jump  6:00.00  6th
Kyle Blankens long jump  21.00  1st
Jamison Guthmiller long jump  18.10.00  8th
Tim Swart triple jump  43.02.00  4th
Nick Fynaardt† shot put  50.47.00  1st
Andrew Ortmeier† shot put  50.41.50  2nd
Josh Earleywine shot put  44.04.00  5th

PLAYER PROFILE

Megan Harding

BY KAYLA MAXEDON
STAFF WRITER

Community is one thing Northwestern strives to bring to its students, and senior Megan Harding’s success on the track team shows the college’s efforts have paid off. “Most see track as an individual sport,” Harding said. “It’s hard for me to agree with them because there is no way I could do this without my teammates. Not only do we help each other through the sport but also through personal issues that we’re going through.”

Being a part of the national qualifying 4x400 relay team the past two years has been a huge accomplishment for Harding, and she credits taking time with God for her success. In order to prep for each race, whether an individual or team event, she takes time to pray. “I focus more on doing it all for Him,” she said. “I know that when the race is over, it doesn’t matter what the clock says.

Know that I have run my best and that is what glorifies Him.”

According to Head Coach Nate Wolf, “Megan has filled an important role on the team for the past two years. In addition to being a steady performer in the 400 meter dash and 4 x 4 0 0 relay, been the one of the best competitions the team will face before the GPAC Indoor Championships.”

When Harding isn’t running or training, it may be hard to find her because she is very busy being a part of the Mission House along with student teaching. But if you are lucky, you might see her enjoying some of her favorite pasttimes, such as being outdoors, camping, reading, or even eating chocolate ice cream in the cafeteria.

This spring, Harding will be graduating with an elementary education major and an ESL endorsement. She doesn’t know her plans for the future yet but is open to where God is taking her. At some point, she would like to do some mission work, but she is leaving that all in his hands to decide a place and time.
Students dressed as senior citizens for BINGO night fun last weekend.

Weger to hold student recital on Sunday

BY BETHANY KROEZE
EDITOR

Junior Aubrey Weger of Huron, S.D., will present a violin recital on Sunday, Feb. 11, at 3 p.m. in Christ Chapel.

Weger, a violin performance and music education major, will perform four pieces on her violin.

She will open with J.S. Bach’s “Partita for Solo Violin No. 1 in B Minor.” This baroque dance suite has become a favorite of Weger’s.

“It’s expressive and very powerful music,” she said. “It sounds much more raw and passionate than you might expect from a baroque piece.”

Weger’s second piece, Beethoven’s “Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 1 in D Major,” comes from the classical period.

From the romantic period, she will perform “Violin Concerto in E Minor” by Felix Mendelssohn. Weger will close with “Havanaise,” a late 19th century piece based on Latin rhythms by Camille Saint-Saëns.

At Northwestern, Weger is involved with several musical activities, including Symphonette, Chamber Strings, A cappella Choir, Heritage Singers and Symphonic Band.

Weger plans to pursue graduate studies after completing her NW education in the spring of 2008.

SGA convenes to discuss campus tobacco policy

BY ANDREW KLUMPP
STAFF WRITER

The Student Government Association convened in the Center for Spiritual Formation and Vocation on Monday, Jan. 29, with a hefty topic on the table for the evening’s discussion: the proposed modification to the campus tobacco policy.

In the current policy, “students are encouraged to refrain from using tobacco.” Students are only prohibited from using tobacco inside campus buildings. The modified policy prohibits students from any tobacco use on campus; however, it does not prohibit use elsewhere.

The SGA was briefly joined by Lisa Koerselman, the tobacco coordinator from the Sioux County Department of Health. Koerselman highlighted several of the dangers associated with smoking that impact smokers and non-smokers, as well as the movement towards tobacco-free environments at other colleges, universities and cities.

After the presentation by Koerselman, the subcommittee dealing with this proposal presented the policy in its entirety, and discussion ensued. Findings from a campus survey showed that the majority of Northwestern students support the modification of the current policy.

The effects of tobacco use on non-tobacco-using students was highlighted, as well as the negative effects that tobacco use has on the physical well-being of the user. These negative effects were interpreted as being inconsistent with the goals presented in NW’s handbook.

Reasons to not change the current tobacco policy were also considered. They included community-building aspects of social tobacco use and the fact that tobacco use is legal for nearly all NW students.

Additionally, the SGA considered the fact that NW strives to manage the tension between being extremely rigid with regulations and being extremely lenient.

After discussion pertaining to the policy’s exact wording and possible methods of communicating the rationale behind the policy, more discussion ensued. At 7:06, President Kappers called for a recess at 7:10.

An attempt was made to call the policy to a vote either for or against, but the call to a vote failed by a vote of six to five in favor of voting on the policy. The failure to call to a vote by a two-thirds majority left the policy on the table when the meeting recessed moments later.

The SGA hopes to vote on the proposed modification at its next meeting Monday, Feb. 12, in the conference room at the Center.

The SGA encourages the input of the campus community either by contacting members or attending Monday’s meeting.

Around the World

Steve Jobs, the CEO of Apple company, has requested the music industry to sell digital music files without anti-piracy controls. This would allow consumers to download and play music files regardless of the make of the player.

In Kansas City, Mo., multiple explosions rocked a chemical distribution facility in the city’s industrial area on Wednesday. It could be seen for miles, sending up a huge smoke cloud and dropping sticky substances. No immediate injuries were reported.

In La Paz, Bolivia, over 20,000 miners marched into the city on Wednesday, throwing dynamite in protest of protesting against a tax rise. Police said more than 270 sticks of dynamite were seized. However, parts of the city were still affected by the blasts.

In Orlando, Fla., NASA astronaut Lisa Nowak was charged with attempted first-degree murder on Tuesday. NASA officials will review the psychology screenings of the astronauts involved.

On Friday, Feb. 2, Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre announced that he will be back in 2007. The team is excited about his return and hopes to continue the success they were building at the end of last year.

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