New minimum wage benefits students

BY ALLISON ROORDA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Iowa’s minimum wage is set to increase dramatically over the course of 2007. On April 1, the minimum wage will become $6.20 per hour, five cents higher than Minnesota’s minimum wage. Finally, on Jan. 1, 2008, it will increase to $7.25 per hour.

This increase will affect Northwestern’s on-campus work study students as much as low-wage workers across the state. Work study is a matching program for the college, which means that 40 percent of the money available is matched by the federal government. Students who qualify for work study are able to receive the need-based program as part of their financial aid package; however, the funds are paid directly to their tuition bills.

Campus employment also provides on-campus jobs for students but is not need-based. In both cases, students have the option of direct deposit, applying their paychecks directly to their tuition bills.

According to Vice President for Financial Affairs Doug Beukelman, the school’s budget has already been planned for next year. In order to comply with the increase in minimum wage, NW will either have to decrease the amount of hours each student works per week or add more positions available to work study students.

“By the following school year, we will be able to get [the increase] into our budget and plan accordingly,” Beukelman said. “It’s a good thing. We want to comply.”

Some students are familiar with work study jobs as well as off-campus employment. Sophomore Tim Johnson holds two jobs: one in the AV Department on campus and one as a shift manager at Pizza Hut.

“Without tips, I make the same hourly wage here and there,” Johnson said of his two jobs. As shift manager, Johnson works 25 to 30 hours a week at Pizza Hut in addition to eight hours of work study per week and 15 college credits.

“It’s very doable,” said junior Matt De Glopper, a delivery driver for Pizza Hut. “You can easily have an off-campus job.” Both workers agreed that off-campus jobs added to the responsibility of college students when compared with work study.

“A job off-campus really prepares you for the real world,” said Johnson.

“You get to work with people you don’t usually see,” De Glopper added. “Working off-campus is much better than an on-campus job for a résumé.”

Off-campus jobs also force students to juggle their schedules and responsibilities between their school activities with their jobs. “[The manager] is really great with our schedules because he knows that we’re college students and have other stuff to do,” said De Glopper.

De Glopper was particularly animated when told of the minimum wage increase.

“Hot melted butter! That’s awesome,” he said. “Cost of living is high because we have so many more things that are considered necessities, like cell phones and high-speed Internet.”

Word on the street:
What do you think of the minimum wage increase?

Allise Vugteveen
“I think it’s good, but then there’ll be so much inflation.”

Jason Helmus
“I think it’s great. I wish it was at a livable wage instead. I hope it helps.”

Carrie Vander Horst
“I think, ultimately for the government, it’s not the best thing. That’s an insane jump.”

Brittany Osborn
“It’s good they’re increasing it. It’s hard to live on $5.15.”

Students perform in Pulitzer Prize winning play

BY RENEE NYHOF
STAFF WRITER

Northwestern presents “Lost in Yonkers,” a Pulitzer Prize-winning play created by Neil Simon, the most-produced American playwright, Feb. 16, 17 and 21 to 24.

This small-cast comedy is a family story written to be as “real” as possible to convey the journey of bringing this emotionally closed-off family back to love and living sensitively toward others.

“Two young boys have to stay with their stern grandmother and looney aunt when their father has to leave to make money during World War II,” said Jeff Barker, director of the play.

Eighth brothers work in the family candy store, delivering messages for their mobster uncle. Their tough grandmother intimidates them. They are captivated and frightened of their childlike Aunt Bella, yet they begin to inspire Bella to move towards independence from her suppressive mother.

Senior Micah Trapp has the role of the boys’ grandmother, and senior Cori Tholo plays Bella. Sophomore Tucker Schneider plays Jay, the 13-year-old boy. In NW’s strive to emphasize the realism of this play, the 13-year-old boy Arty is played by a 13-year-old seventh grader, Dan Barker.

“It’s an opportunity for our students to do some service-learning by working alongside and helping a middle-school actor who is on stage for most of the play.”

To find a 13-year-old, Barker did not bring in many in-experienced actors for a cattle call. Instead, Barker chose to identify one actor and then work with that person’s family because the family will have to adjust to the play schedule.

“In this case, we had a natural possibility in Dan Barker because his parents are directing the play,” said Barker.

Dan Barker was still put through a lengthy audition process to be sure that he could be successful in the role.

“Lost in Yonkers” will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the England Proscenium Theatre at the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center. Admission for NW students and staff is free, but making reservations is encouraged to ensure a seat. The box office is open between 4 and 9 p.m. Monday through Friday or between noon and 5 p.m. on Saturday. The box office can also be reached by phone, 712-707-7098, or e-mail at boxoffice@nwciowa.edu.
The wideness of God’s love

In honor of Valentine’s Day, I thought about covering a variety of topics—odds present, roses, dating, puppy love. However, when sitting in church on Sunday, I was inspired to consider another kind of love. I began to think about the compassionate and benevolent love of Christ. The kind of love we are called to emulate.

Throughout the Bible, we are repeatedly told of the outstanding love Jesus shows to all people. He ministers to the wealthy and to the poor. He reaches out to upstanding members of society, as well as to the lost and downtrodden. In this age of quick and easy judgments, it is simple for us to look around and point to the sinners in the world. There is a temptation to set ourselves apart from the outcasts in our society. We shut ourselves into our Christian churches, schools and communities and pretend that the world of sin outside of these institutions cannot harm us. It is easy to merely surround ourselves with people of the same religion, values and beliefs, and ignore people we may feel uncomfortable around.

If we desire to act with the love of Christ, we are required to step out into the world of sin. As Christians, we are required to attempt to follow Christ’s example. He reached out to the people his society looked down upon. He dined with tax collectors, healed lepers and outcasts, cast out demons, and he continually loved the people who were considered sinners by their society. We are required to do the same.

In this age of quick and easy judgments, it is simple for us to look around and point to the sinners in the world. There is a temptation to set ourselves apart from the outcasts in our society.

Loving all people without exception is a difficult thing to do. However, the example Jesus set before us requires us to try. Instead of judging others for their sins, we must find compassion and love for those who are lost. This does not mean that we ignore sin, or tolerate all actions, but it does mean that we love each other despite the evils we commit against one another. If we can open ourselves up to people we would not normally interact with, we can share the good news of Christ’s love with all his people. This openness may lead to a better understanding for everyone involved.

This Valentine’s Day, while we venture out to buy roses, cards and candy, let us also consider how we can express God’s love to people we would usually exclude. While we celebrate Valentine’s Day with the people we love, we must also look beyond that. We must look into the world and ask how we can share God’s love with all his people.

Check out the Beacon Online for more opinion articles by Chantelle Steggerda and Renee Nyhof discussing beauty and the caf (would that make a good name for a Disney flick?).

Most of the time, I am not my genitals or their use

BY MIKE KUGLER

Recent Beacon articles have attempted to make some stock from the roiling controversy here about sexuality. One author suggested that the Good News of Jesus Christ includes rules of religious behavior distinguishing followers of Jesus as those obedient to His will. Another writer told us to remember that the Word of God is about absolute truth, not opinion. Together, they vaguely imply that sex is too serious to tolerate a diversity of Christian opinion about it. Absolute truth lays down the rules, and God requires our obedience to them.

A friend, a victim of sexual abuse years ago, told me that the Christian discussion of sexual purity is very upsetting. I agree; it risks compressing our character and spiritual life into that one part of our lives. By taking sex too seriously, we confuse the Good News, of God reconciling the world to himself in Jesus Christ with religious and ethics.

Where is the scriptural and theological demand behind it? All truth is God’s truth, as one Beacon writer put it. Yes, but not as she suggested. The Word of God is Christ Jesus; then there are the words about Jesus in Scripture. What’s in question is our capacity to understand the words in Scripture. What is the best opinion available about what Scripture means? Keep yourself pure, we have been told. Your virginity is a precious gift for your partner on your wedding night. Where does this come from? I guess it’s woven from the admonitions to purity in the Scriptures, religious demands that we must be ritually pure in order to enter the presence of God. Yet those purity convictions and rules are as old and diverse as religion itself. Jesus and Paul challenged the power of those rules to define the essence of the people of God (Mark 7, Galatians 5, Colossians 3). Elsewhere, sex is one image the Scriptures used to describe Christ’s intimate loyalty to the Church. But I don’t think that warrants arguing back the other direction: because it is one image of our union with God in Christ, sex is thus more sacred than other human actions. Haven’t we done something weird by updating those ancient norms into Christian sexual ethical standards? In my mind, we’ve made the same mistake as the peek-a-boo porn culture: “It’s about sex, stupid!” All this emphasis on saving myself for the One-Partner-God-Picked-For-Me- Alone-From-Eternity smuggles in the emotional blackmail of movies and romance novel sex: lovely music, soft focus, slow moving, experienced but gentle lovemaking.

Yeah. Right. Isn’t sex something else? Something more animal, goofy, awkward or uncomfortable? Something to make fun of? Humans have been making sex meaningful quite a splendid day. Yet it seems that our culture tends to put things out of proportion. God did originally design a very wonderful institution called marriage. Remember, though, the first relationship was between Adam and God. While we often are looking for the right one, Paul argues in 1 Corinthians 7 that, whether single or married, the first goal is to be serving God. Do we still treat God as our “first love,” or have we left Him? You might be getting defensive and thinking that I am trying to put a damper on your love life or condemning you if you have any inclination to develop a love life. Not so. Here is what I’m trying to get at: Look to God first. Let him love you. Love him back. You won’t be able to contain the joy. Rather than harming your situation, if you let God’s love consume you, you will wonder how you ever were content without it.

This is my challenge to you, whether you are single or in a relationship. Sit down next week and devote yourself to asking God to show you how much he loves you and to initiate a lifelong love relationship with you. Have a “Valentine’s Day” with God. Read some of your favorite candyhearts to him. Go out with him on a dinner date. You won’t regret it.
Missed Valentine's Day? There's still time to celebrate

BY JANICE SWIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The conversation heart candies, heart shaped boxes of chocolates and Sesame Street Valentine's Day cards are all sitting in the clearance carts—but that doesn’t mean it is too late to celebrate Valentine’s Day with the person, or people, that you care about.

As college students, it often seems difficult to do special things with friends and/or a significant other because it takes both time and money—both things most college students are very short on. Fortunately, there are some ways to eliminate at least one of these problematic factors and make your post-Valentine’s Day event a real success.

One inexpensive way to show you care is by evoking both your creative energies and that special someone's puzzle-solving skills by creating a scavenger hunt. Now this may seem like it will take a lot of work, but you can make the clues really easy, or if you want to make it more personal, you can make the clues lead to places that have meaning in your relationship. You can even make the scavenger hunt the evening’s first activity with the final clue leading to the main part.

If you move this event indoors, I suggest emulating an Antarctica feel, I suggest you and the gang can get together and lay out a throw on the floor for your picnic blanket, and enjoy your romantic evening. It is important to remember, however, that Valentine’s Day is not just meant to be a time to spend with a significant other but with all the people that you care about. Maybe you and the gang can get together and reclaim your childhood roots by venturing outside and trying to build a snowperson larger than the one currently sitting on the green or by trekking to the nearest hill or snow pile with your sled. IUbuilding up doesn’t sound appealing to you, you can choose to stay indoors and, if you were unfortunate enough to get an old mattress, you can改革委 this misfortune by inventing a new kind of sledding where you take the mattress down the stairs (word of caution: this may evoke charges of property destruction so well-organized that you are noticeable damage to your mattress). If you don’t want to risk the charges or don’t want to risk having to endure a mattress with a broken spring for the rest of the year, you can plan a night of playing games, watching movies or prank calling instead.

If you haven’t celebrated Valentine’s Day yet, or if you are so well-organized that you are already thinking about next year, you should consider using some of these suggestions or being creative and coming up with your own.

Regardless of whether you choose to stay indoors or head outside, this is the time of year where you can have a lot of fun, and be creative in the activities that you choose to do.
Caring for seniors all year round

BY RENEE RIETSMAN
STAFF WRITER

Days pass by with no visitors to lend a listening ear. As the clock ticks, it seems as though they have become an afterthought. “Has everyone forgotten about me?” they wonder in their constant loneliness.

Not everyone has completely forgotten about today’s senior citizens who reside in assisted living homes. Jenna Boote, a sophomore at Northwestern, remembers the elderly. This past winter break, Boote decided to visit a nursing home in her hometown, an action which blessed her and the residents.

Before her first visit to Pleasant Acres, she told a nurse what she intended to do during her time there. “I picked out several magazines and books with stories about the old days,” she said. “When you have a person that’s not very talkative, it’s not as awkward.”

While reading, she wondered if her listener was paying attention to the story. When she reached certain parts of the story, she experienced joy as they burst out in laughter. “It may not seem like it’s going to make their day, but it makes yours,” she said.

Among Boote’s visits, there was a lady that couldn’t wait until she came back. Sharing memories of her childhood with Boote thrilled her. However, Boote soon became exhausted after her long spells. “It was tiring at times because it’s an emotional drain to know that they have been forgotten to the world,” she said.

Sophomore Ashlea Combs recalls an afternoon spent with a 90-year-old Bertha living in Orange City. During the visit at Pioneer Memorial, Combs listened patiently as Bertha kept rattling the same story of her family five times in a row. Despite the repetition, Combs gained insight about her own life as Bertha’s stories mirrored her experiences. “We picture them as old people with problems,” she said. “They were all young once and went through the same experiences that we go through.”

Living in a nursing home for 20 years seemed very dreary to her, but while talking to Bertha, she came to have deep respect and awe. Combs said that her stories weren’t necessarily inspiring but amazing because of her attitude. “She still thought that God had a plan for her life,” she said. After this enlightening discussion, she wanted to dedicate more time to the people living there but never did.

Boote agreed that we need to witness and said that it doesn’t cost anything except your time. As a child, Boote was forced to sing to nursing home residents but now realizes her time was well spent. Opportunities for ministry of this kind can be found all over the country and can range from reading a book to carving pumpkins to playing games. “When you get older, you realize the impact that such a simple handshake has for them,” Boote said. “It’s a blessing to your community, and it’s a good way to show Jesus love.”

Getting more facts straight from the source

Q: Why do you think so much controversy was stirred after you gave chapel?
A: Think about it; what is chapel? I think it’s probably more than just one thing, but not everybody shares a common definition. [I received] some e-mails from students who felt good that we can ask those questions…and then of course [others] who felt very differently. I’ve had some good conversations with students afterwards about how they see chapel and the way they interpret it, and it’s really key that those differences were a problem.

Q: What was chapel the right place?
A: I was trying to steer this very careful line of what I did and didn’t talk about. I think that being a Christian and taking [the Bible] absolutely seriously means I think about the command to love my neighbor and what it looks like. I thought [this] was an opportunity to try, in a productive way, to raise the question and to wrestle with these issues.

If I’m teaching in a class and half the class doesn’t get what I say. I need to rethink what I’m doing — to raise the same questions, but to go about it a different way. Now, the chapel is not exactly a classroom, although there are elements there, but if half the audience can’t hear it, I need to really rethink it. I’ll half the audience gets really, really angry, then maybe I need to say, “Okay, how can I do a chapel where I can get more students to engage in the conversation?” I think it’s a really good question to ask. You can carefully craft all the rhetoric and then do something and realize you misread your audience.

Q: What were your intentions when you spoke in chapel?
A: 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. “The road to hell is paved with good intentions” — an old phrase, but I think it’s true. It doesn’t matter what I intended; half the audience heard something very different. I wish that half had come to talk to me, and maybe they could’ve understood that I’m not trying to destroy faith. [The Bible] is so important. I’m not trying to break it or bend it or twist it. I’m just trying to understand it.

“[If we don’t learn to talk about these things, how are we going to learn?]” — Scott Monsma

Q: If you spoke again, would you do it differently?
A: [Nods his head] Will I change the chapel where I can get more students to engage in the conversation? I won’t talk about it in chapel like that — it’s not productive. What’s the point of doing a chapel that’s unproductive? I think our conversations should be motivated by what I call an “ethic of love.” If we don’t learn how to talk about these things, how are we going to learn?

Q: How do you feel about the way people reacted?
Those folks who got really angry and upset, the vast majority of them have never talked with me. You shouldn’t think like me just because I say this. We’re a college community, which partly means we want you to think for yourself — and that’s what I want. If people don’t agree with me, I’m really okay with that. Dialogue means I come to the conversation as willing to listen as I might be to talk. And if that’s what we’re there for — dialogue. We can walk away from the conversation still disagreeing, but at least you know you’ve been heard.

Q: Final comments?
A: I really care a lot about Northwestern and the community. There is no way I wanted to split it wide open. [However], if I do care about this community, I have to get everybody to participate in the conversation in a way that isn’t going to make them intrinsically mad. So that “ethic of love” is not only about gays and lesbians; it’s also about what I do in chapel.
Ethanol may solve U.S. oil dependency

BY ANDREA COLLIER

Iowa may not be just another “one of those ‘I states’” for much longer. As the country’s number one producer of corn, the recent hubbub surrounding ethanol and other bio-fuels suggests that the state famous for its corn may become famous for something else—ending the U.S.’s dependence on foreign oil.

There are many, including President George Bush, who maintain that the solution to global warming, growing foreign oil dependence and the shrinking supply of a non-renewable resource is right in our own backyard.

In this year’s State of the Union address, Bush called for an increase in the production of alternative fuels such as ethanol by 700 percent in 10 years, up 30 billion gallons from current production rates. In 2006, nearly 20 percent of corn grown in the U.S. went towards ethanol production. In Iowa in 2005, 14.5 percent of corn (over 2 billion bushels) became ethanol, which translated into a $2.6 billion boost to Iowa’s economy.

Supporters of ethanol often cite the economic benefits it brings. The ethanol industry provides more than 5,000 jobs to rural Iowa. It encourages the development of high-tech industries. Farmers receive higher prices for their crop, as the demand for alternative fuels increases. Ethanol is also hailed as a way to increase crop prices, as the demand for alternative fuels increases. Ethanol is also hailed as a way to increase crop prices, as the demand for alternative fuels increases.

One of the primary concerns with the viability of ethanol is the high amount of energy that goes into making it. In fact, it’s estimated that each gallon of ethanol produced requires the energy from three-quarters of a gallon of ethanol—only a 25 percent yield. But Tad Patzek, a UC Berkeley professor, said that those estimates don’t account for all of the energy that goes into making ethanol. Corn is fertilized with fertilizers produced by fossil fuels, harvested by diesel powered machinery, transported to an ethanol plant in diesel burning trucks and fermented with water heated by natural gas. So, in Patzek’s research, for the energy contained in one gallon of ethanol, six times that amount of energy was needed to produce it.

Turkey Herlyn also mentions the fact that ethanol is a renewable resource, unlike fossil fuel. It doesn’t release as many toxic chemicals when it burns, decreasing air pollution. What’s not to love about ethanol? Aplington, Iowa farmer Russ Meyer (whose daughter Julia is a Northwestern senior) is a share-owner in a local ethanol plant. A good portion of the corn he grows is sent to an ethanol plant needs a tremendous amount of water for its operation. “The process requires. "The plant needs a tremendous amount of water and natural gas to make ethanol," he said. “Without the government price support; and because of the amount of energy it takes to make, ethanol is just not worth it.”

Herlyn also mentions the fact that ethanol plants use a large amount of water: nearly two million gallons a day, by some estimates. While this isn’t a problem in a water-rich state like Iowa, it could be problematic over the long-term, draining aquifers and taking water away from city water supply and agricultural irrigation.

Herlyn is frustrated with what seems like the mixed messages farmers receive from the government. On the one hand, farmers receive government subsidies for corn that encourage corn production. They are pushed by the Bush administration to devote more acres to corn and more corn to ethanol. If the price of corn rises, it will make economic sense for farmers to pull marginal land into production. On the other hand, the government pays farmers to register their marginal land under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in an effort to help with erosion, conserve natural grasses, and provide habitat for wild animals.

The Bush administration’s proposed budget for 2007 cuts CRP completely out of the picture. No new conservation enrollments will be granted for 2007 or 2008, potentially pulling some 35 million acres out of conservation and into corn production.

The budget cuts for CRP also concern Assistant Professor of Biology Laurie Furlong. “I think it will encourage farmers to farm every little part of their land and not leave things like buffer strips around streams,” she said. Buffer strips are pieces of land that are left to grow native grasses. The strips minimize bank erosion and catch top soil and chemically contaminated water before it enters the water supply.

“Ethanol sounds like it’s going to be great for Iowa, but what do we lose in the process?” Furlong asked. “If ethanol encourages poor agricultural management, then that doesn’t bode well for long-term environmental sustainability.” Furlong would like to see the push for alternative fuels balanced with hybrid technology and better stewardship of resources over the long-haul. She mentioned switch grass as a feasible bio-fuel. While ethanol is made from corn seed, research is underway on how to extract ethanol from other kinds of biomass like corn husks and stalks and fast-growing native grasses like switchgrass. “I get very excited about it,” she said, but she points out that it doesn’t address problems associated with our high levels of energy consumption.

Assistant Professor of Physics Sean Cordry agreed: “Ethanol has some good things to offer, but it’s not what I would consider a long-term solution.” He pointed out that there are social, as well as environmental, drawbacks of an emphasis on ethanol as the solution. He worries that if corn prices continue to rise because of the demand for ethanol, more corn will go for ethanol instead of food for humans and animals, driving food prices up.

“What concerns me is that we could be creating a society in which fuel is so expensive that only the rich can afford to drive,” he said. “As a result, poorer people don’t have enough food because those resources are going into making fuel for the ultra-rich who can afford it.”

The controversy about ethanol remains. The current administration holds up bio-fuels like ethanol as the answer to our oil woes. Yet bio-fuels don’t appear to be a catch-all solution and bring environmental troubles of their own. Perhaps the question has less to do with changing what kind of fuel we use and more to do with changing how much fuel we use.

In Cordry’s words, “We need to lower our demands. For me, the question of ethanol is almost irrelevant because it doesn’t address the larger issue—it’s our lifestyle that’s not sustainable.” Next week: a conversation with those who are calling for a change in our lifestyle—a key component behind our dependence on oil.
Women’s basketball triumphs over Warriors, Mustangs

BY LAURA JACOBSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Northern State

Northwestern’s women’s basketball team secured a sweet victory Wednesday night in a Valentine’s Day match-up with GPAC leader Morningside. The Raiders took the home win 91-79. NW built up a first-half lead to go into the break ahead 45-32, but the Mustangs came out strong in the second half, tying it up at 63 with a little over eight minutes of the game remaining. The opposing team held a brief lead shortly after, but the Raiders quickly responded and put the Mustangs away.

“We had a great balanced effort,” Head Coach Earl Woudstra said of the win. “It shows up in the scoring, but even more importantly in some team defense. I was pleased with the way we battled through some adversity in the second half. Junior Miranda Boekhout agreed.

“Everyone contributed!” she said. “We had six players scoring in double figures.” Boekhout also commented on the team’s anticipation of this game in particular.

“We were very well prepared,” she said. “We’ve all been looking forward to playing this game since the second we walked off the court at their place.”

Junior Deb Remmerde and senior Jaime Hoegh headed NW’s even scoring effort, each scoring 18 points, and juniors Amy Larson and Mandy Carr put in 17 and 16, respectively. Hoegh led the Raiders in assists with seven.

NW also won the battle at the boards, out-rebounding Morningside 48-35. “Our rebounding has continued to improve during the year—a few tipped balls that stay alive and give us a second chance on offense are really critical,” said Woudstra.

Junior Crystal Algoud pulled down 10 rebounds, while Remmerde and Boekhout recorded nine and eight, respectively. Boekhout also netted five blocks for the Raiders.

Morningside came into the contest with a 14-3 conference record, sharing the GPAC’s top spot with Mount Marty College. With the win, NW moved into that position, and the Raiders and the Lancers each sport 14-3 conference records going into tomorrow’s final conference games.

Preparing for the end of the regular season and the beginning of the post-season, the women continue to focus on improving.

“We like to say we need to lay bricks every day, including days when all we do is practice,” Boekhout said. “There are a lot of things we still need to work on in order to get where we want to be.”

Woudstra pointed out specific Woudstra commented on the team mentality with which the Raiders are facing their remaining games.

“When we faced adversity with some difficult losses in January, we needed to refocus our efforts on playing for an audience of one and for each other,” he said. “There are more distractions when you think of other things like conference championships and national tournaments. We will keep our focus here—the other things are temporary anyway.”

Midland Lutheran

NW traveled to Fremont, Neb., last Saturday to take on Midland Lutheran College in GPAC action. The Raiders doubled the Warriors’ score in the first half, leading 52-26 at halftime. NW continued to lead the entire game and finished the Warriors off 95-69.

Remmerde and Boekhout led the Raiders’ offensive effort with 18 and 17 points, respectively. Larson added 15. Boekhout also pulled down 15 rebounds for the Raiders.

NW will face Hastings on the road. Tip-off is at 2 p.m.

Raiders race to finish off indoor season

BY BETHANY KROEZE

On Saturday, Feb. 10, the Raiders competed at the NAIA Challenge track meet at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. On the women’s side, the Raiders qualified more runners for nationals. The men’s team featured two first place finishers.

Taking second in the 4x400m relay with a time of 4:03.43, juniors Jessica Regan and Laura Jacobson and seniors Kristen Becker and Megan Harding qualified for the indoor national meet.

Regan said, “My individual performance in the 400 is a huge credit to my teammates.”

Jacobson was also able to qualify provisionally in the 800m run with her first place finish in a time of 2:20.09. Jacobson previously qualified for the national meet in the 600m run.

The women’s team had 18 individuals plus a 4x800m relay team in the top 10 for their events at BVU. In addition to the two national qualifying events, Regan placed second in the 400m dash with a time of 61.51.

“The team did so well in going out and competing in their individual races [and] events,” said Regan. “Everyone has their on and off days, but at BV it was nice to see many of us have an ‘on’ day.”

On the men’s side, the Raiders saw two first place finishes. Sophomore Dan Walhof achieved a personal best when he placed first in the 3,000m run with a time of 9:03.27.

“I was extremely pleased with my race,” said Walhof. “I think I did a good job of being patient by not going out too hard and running a smart, evenly paced race.”

The other first place finisher on the men’s team was senior Robbie Cundy. In 7:52.82 seconds, Cundy stole first place in the 55m hurdles.

The men’s team placed 19 individuals plus a relay team in the top 10 of their events for the day. “We did a really good job as a team of just going out there and competing,” said Walhof.

Junior Josh Earleywine added, “As a team we did really well. Coach Wolf was telling me that we had a personal record in almost every event that we had people entered in.” Earleywine placed 11th in the shotput, throwing 13.17m.

As the team wraps up their indoor season and heads into the GPAC and national championship meets, members are placing individual as well as team goals for the remaining competitions.

“As I team, I would like all of us to finish the indoor season well by breaking our personal best and encouraging those around us to do the same,” said Regan.

“Knowing that our teams have the ability to perform well at the conference meet and improve on our team places from last year,” Walhof said.

Last night, the Raiders competed in the John Dalton Invite at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, S.D. Coverage of this meet will be featured in next week’s issue.

Tonight, the Raiders travel to Lincoln, Neb., to compete in the Prairie Wolf Invite at the University of Nebraska.
GPAC Wrestling Tournament a “huge success”

BY BETSY HEIBERGER
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

This past Saturday, the Northwestern wrestling team traveled to Mitchell, S.D., to compete in the GPAC Championships. The Raiders pulled in 84.5 team points and came in second place overall, with only top-ranked Dana College above them. This win was just one of other tournament wins that proves the Raiders “to be a better tournament team vs. a dual meet team this season” according to Head Coach John Petty.

“As the day goes on, we get stronger, which I credit to our strength and conditioning program.” - John Petty

The beginning of the tournament started out rocky. Petty stated, “We had to wrestle extremely well as a team after the hole we dug for ourselves in the first round and a half. We had some bad luck and some poor performances, which is a paralyzing formula.”

However, he also commented, “As the day goes on, we get stronger, which I credit to our strength and conditioning program. Our assistant coaches, Aaron Schmidt and Matt Wenninger, do a great job with our guys—especially with the 6 a.m. workouts.”

“Matt Schmidt, Head Athletic Trainer, has also done a great job of working out our injured athletes who cannot go a full 100 percent with the team,” Petty continued. “This has helped our team gain a conference and regional reputation as a well-conditioned and aggressive group. We are a team that competes the entire seven minutes.”

The Raider wrestlers ended the tournament with two championships, one runner-up and five third place winners.

Sophomores Jordan Keckler (133) and Enoch Francois (174) won their weight classes with perfect 3-0 records. Francois is now one win shy of tying the school record, set in 1980, for most wins in a season.

Junior Andrew Lundgren (197) finished the day with a 2-1 record, taking second place in the tournament against fifth-place national-ranked opponent, Wade Jordan (Dana).

The third place winners gave their fans some adrenaline-pumping matches. The most exciting match-up was from sophomore Brian Heiberger (157) who beat his opponent in the last of 4 overtime. When asked about the pending regional tournament on February 17, he responded, “I am very excited to see how everyone puts it all on the line at the last tourney before nationals.”

Freshman Levi Price (141) “lost a controversial semi-final match [and] stormed back to win every other match by pin,” according to Coach Petty.

Freshman Lamar Reed said he “felt confident and ready to wrestle to the best of my abilities” when faced with the challenge of taking on an opponent who had beaten him before in finals.

Senior Chris Keating (149) and freshman Sam Zystrka (285) also were awarded third place and helped the Red Raiders claim the second place team title.

At this point in the season, NW has qualified eight wrestlers for the NAIA National Tournament. Three of these eight are also ranked nationally, including Keckler ranked at fourth, Francois ranked also at fourth and Lundgren ranked at third.

Also participating in Nationals are Price, Keating, senior Courtney Goodwin (157), Reed and Zystrka.

The regional tournament on Saturday, Feb. 17, is the last day to qualify for nationals.

Coach Petty is optimistic about this final tournament and left with this final thought, “I have told them that hard work will beat talent every time when talent is not willing to work hard.”

The Raiders will compete at the NAIA Region III Tournament on Feb. 17, hosted by Dickinson State, in Dickinson, N.D.

Raider men continue to post-season:
Basketball team beats down Morningside

BY MIKE VAN ENGEN
STAFF WRITER

Morningside

The Raiders pulled off an exciting win at home Wednesday night with a lay-up by sophomore Kale Wiertzema to defeat the Morningside Mustangs 87-86.

With the win, the Raiders continue on a 10-game win streak and still share the top of the GPAC with a record of 14-3. NW also moved up according to the NAIA Division II ratings from ten to nine in this week’s poll.

The Raiders were up 12 after the first period of play but were outscored in the second half 53-42.

NW held off win as Wiertzema put in the go ahead bucket and got fouled with 29 seconds left in the game.

Wiertzema missed the free throw and Morningside pulled down the rebound. Morningside, however, failed to get off a shot before time was up and NW pulled off the thriller.

The Raiders had three players in double figures. Junior Chad Schuitman recorded a triple-double for the night with 19 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists. Junior Mark DeYounge dropped in 17 points while senior Eric Kruger added a season-high 13.

The Raiders are guaranteed a first round bye in the post-season GPAC tournament. NW will play their first post-season game Thursday, Feb. 22, in the Bultman Center.

Midland Lutheran

Capturing their nineteenth consecutive win, the Raiders won Saturday afternoon at Midland 87-73. The Warriors, fresh off a win over Nebraska Wesleyan, had snapped a three-game losing streak to enter into Saturdays’ match-up. The Raiders improved to 13-3 in the GPAC and still remain at the top of the GPAC tied with the University of Sioux Falls. The Raiders still remain in the top 10 of the national ratings.

Northwestern jumped out to a quick double-digit deficit that the Warriors couldn’t erase. At the half, the Raiders were up 49-30, holding the Midland offense to just 29 percent from the field.

Midland would not give up, as they cut the lead to 11 in the final three minutes of the game, but their effort was not enough as NW held them off and earned the victory.

The Raiders had 4 players in double digits, senior Karl Towns led the team dumping in 21 points and grabbing seven rebounds. Junior Chad Schuitman added 17 points and 16 rebounds, while junior Curt Schilling tossed in 16 and sophomore Wade Vander Maten added 10. NW owned the rebound battle, out-rebounding the Warriors 50-34.

The Raiders look to continue their winning streak as they host Morningside College as their final home game of the regular season. They will travel to Hastings on Saturday afternoon for the final game of the regular season.

PLAYER PROFILE
Karl Towns

BY KAYLA MAXEDON
STAFF WRITER

Long ago, in the town of Hinton, Iowa, Keith and Anni Towns gave birth to their seventh child, a son named Karl. This boy grew up loving the sport of basketball. In high school he became the star athlete, where he led the Blackhawks in scoring, rebounding, blocked shots and field goal percentage. Towns continued his hoops journey by joining the Northwestern Red Raiders.

Towns started out strong on NW’s JV team his first two years. During his junior year he started moving up through the varsity squad, when his appendix ruptured. After more than 20 days in the hospital and losing about 30 pounds, many thought he would never play college ball again. Towns pushed through and proved everyone wrong. He is currently a starter and a captain for the team.

According to Head Coach Kris Korver, “Karl is a story of perseverance, faithfulness and determination. Karl has grown as a Christian, and it will be exciting to see Karl grow into his role as a faithful servant leader that guides his family in the future. We are proud of who he is and proud of who he is becoming!”

One of Korver’s mantras— “Live with the end in sight” — has impacted Towns. “It’s neat that we are all striving after the same goal,” he said.

Towns plans to continue striving for his dreams after graduation this next spring. He wants to start the next chapter of his life pursuing the business management and finance field.
**“Red, Raw, and Wriggling”: art that makes you squirm**

**BY ANDREW KLUMPP**

STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, Feb. 18, at 10:10 p.m., immediately following Praise and Worship, “Red, Raw, and Wriggling” opens in the Korver Visual Arts Center featuring the artwork of senior art major Christine Geertsema.

Geertsema expressed great enthusiasm concerning the upcoming show and what her artwork is about.

Geertsema explains that “to put it simply and vaguely, this show is a reaction to and reflection of life. To put it more specifically, in this show, [life] is red, raw and wriggling.”

The show incorporates ideas about life in general, the movement and progress life entails, suffering and mutual obligation shared between human beings.

The show is meant to make people think. Geertsema said that the artwork may not be the most comfortable work to look at; however, the goal is not to be comfortable but to evoke thoughts about things that a viewer may not have considered previously.

“Red, Raw, and Wriggling” is best described as an interdisciplinary showcase with a primary focus on painting with integration into photography and ceramics.

Geertsema expressed great enthusiasm concerning the upcoming show and what her artwork is about.

Geertsema is a native of Tinley Park, Ill., and is hoping to use her art major in the future by raising awareness about the issues that this show includes and donating possible profits from future shows to support these causes.

When asked about opening night, Geertsema showed a great deal of enthusiasm and excitement about her upcoming show.

“I highly recommend, if people plan on coming, that they are present on opening night. First, for the obvious reasons of food and fellowship, but most importantly because certain art works—including but not limited to, a video presentation—will not be available on later dates.”

Geertsema sees this show as an extension of Praise and Worship and extends a invitation to the campus community to come enjoy a time of fellowship in an area to talk and think.

**Ackerman to perform a variety of vocal selections**

**BY BETHANY KROEZE**

Junior Heidi Ackerman of Glendale, Ariz., will perform a vocal music recital on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 3 p.m. in Christ Chapel.

Ackerman, a mezzo-soprano, will perform 13 pieces by composers ranging from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to Richard Strauss to Reynaldo Hahn. Staff accompanist Lori Vande Brake will provide accompaniment on most of Ackerman’s pieces.

“I have found something special and unique about each piece on the program,” said Ackerman. “What is unique to the program is the vast diversity of emotion, character and feeling within the numbers.”

Ackerman will begin her recital with a piece from “Israel in Egypt” by George Fredrick Handel entitled “Their Land Brought Forth Frogs.”

Next she will sing three Mozart pieces from “Cosi fan Tutte.” During this section, Ackerman will be joined by junior Larissa Harwood, soprano, and senior Dan Laaveg, baritone, on “Soave Trio.”

After performing three songs by Richard Strauss and three by Reynaldo Hahn, Ackerman will perform a section entitled “Songs of Spring,” featuring a piece by Roger Quilter and one by Martin Shaw.

On these pieces, Ackerman will be accompanied by her mother, Sonia Ackerman. Her recital will close with the piece “Adele’s Laughing Song” by Johann Strauss from the operetta “Die Fledermusen.”

“I have the privilege to take on a different role in each song,” said Ackerman. “I love the program for that reason—I, and hopefully the listeners, can never get bored.”

Amusicmajor, Ackerman participates in the A cappella Choir, Heritage Singers and Symphonic Band.

She also tutors in the writing center and vocally, as well as teaching private voice lessons and singing on her church’s praise team.

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**news**

AROUND SIOUXLAND

COMPILED BY KIM EASON

Sioux County was ranked seventh on the top ten from the Siouxland area are second place Union County, S.D. and sixth place O’Brien County, Iowa.

A $400 million gift was given to the Sioux Valley Hospitals and Health System on Saturday, Feb. 3, by T. Denny Sanford of Sioux Falls, S.D. As a result, the Sioux Falls health-care organization is expected to reach the same level of world-class medical care as the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. All hospitals and clinics owned by Sioux Valley will also eventually change their names to Sanford Health.

Tara Meekma, a native Orange City resident and 2003 Northwestern graduate, recently finished up a seven-month internship as a media relations intern with the Chicago Bears. The experience was capped off with the Super Bowl XLII game against the Indianapolis Colts.

Russell Ellis, formerly of Alton and a 2000 MOC-FV graduate, is part of the team that is building the foundation of the Freedom Tower in New York City. The tower will be 1,776 feet tall and is dedicated to the 2,752 people who lost their lives in the 9-11 terrorist attacks.