Letters from War: Soldiers’ Perspectives

BY JULIE JOHNSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
More Troops?

President Bush has announced that he wants to send an approximated 21,500 additional troops to Iraq. However, his plan has been met with considerable resistance in a Democrat-controlled Congress.

On Wednesday, the Senate Foreign Relations committee, composed of 11 Democrats and 10 Republicans, passed a non-binding resolution by a vote of 12-9. The resolution, which does not carry the weight of law, states, “It is not in the best interest of the United States to deepen its military involvement in Iraq.” The resolution also demands a timeline for transfer of duties over to the Iraqi government and engage the nations of the Middle East in joint talks.

The resolution will be brought to the Senate floor within a week to be opened for debate and a full Senate vote, and talk of a Republican filibuster to prevent voting is already underway. In a Senate split 51-49, Democrat-Republican respectively, the Democrats would have to win the support of 9 of the Senate’s Republicans to block such a move.

A Letter From War

Staff Sergeant Nathan Carlsrud, a family friend of junior Betsy Heiberger who is stationed at Base Camp Adder in Iraq, commented on an extension of his unit’s tour of duty.

“Out of respect for me and the other soldiers serving over here...do not write letters to Congress of protest in any way the decision for them to extend our tour here. I believe this is what needs to be done, and we are already here and ready...What many people do not realize is that when they protest...it does nothing to help our morale here...it does have an impact on the soldiers serving over here who are making the tremendous sacrifices that we are each day.”

Student Soldiers at NWC

Juniors Steve De Haan and Gina Boyd are members of the National Guard’s 3654 Maintenance Co. Both had words of caution about the possible troop surge. De Haan said, “It’s hard to say what will happen. It could go either way.” One thing De Haan cautioned was to be aware of the cultural response, stating that the last thing the U.S. needs is another Vietnam.

Boyd echoed some of De Haan’s words of caution. “We need to stop and think. This can’t just be about wanting to salvage our pride. You can’t kill all the fanatics in a religion. They’re like rabbits—they keep coming back!”

While Boyd says she is very much looking forward to the trip, De Haan agreed. “I really appreciate the support of the people who disagree with the government’s policies, don’t take this out on the men and women who are serving...the last thing they want is to feel it [their sacrifice] is unappreciated by family and friends back home.”

A Soldier’s View of Iraq

Former NW student and Army Reserve Sergeant Heath Beesley has spent two tours of duty in Iraq and feels that there is much good being accomplished. He believes that the Iraqi military stepping up will be one thing that will help end this war more quickly. He added that they are making a great effort; however, peace will still not be an easy thing to come by. “It depends on the Iraqi people and if they will stop fighting over their differences,” he stated. Beesley feels the worst thing Americans can do right now is pull out of Iraq. “Innocent people die, and it’s not as clear cut as people like to think it is. No one enjoys it.”

Like it or not, we’re in this war, Beesley said, and support for the soldiers from the American people is the best thing we can do for them.

New semester abroad program is one-of-a-kind

BY KIM EASON
NEWS EDITOR

Starting in the fall of 2007, Northwestern students will have the opportunity to study abroad in a new place: Romania. This semester abroad trip is NW’s first individual program, not one that is based in other schools.

While in Romania, students will work with the New Horizons Foundation, a program that is working to restore the social-capital in Romania. When the communist regime fell in 1989, the Romanian country was left in a mess, with thousands of children abandoned.

“It’s a ravaged country being put to work,” said Associate Dean of Off-Campus Programs Doug Carlson, “but it’s also beautiful.” Romania is home to numerous mountains and caves and is a popular skiing area.

Part of the New Horizons Foundation is IMPACT, which helps teach young people to come together and develop social capital, because it’s the youth of the country that are the future of it as well. According to Service Learning Coordinator Dave Nonnemacher, “The students will have direct contact and partner with the Romanians to help rebuild the framework of the society. It’s a grandiose idea.”

Students will be completely immersed in Romanian culture, including home stays with Romanian families. This will also give them extensive contact with the Romanian language.

While there, students will be taking four four-credit courses, taught by staff from the New Horizons Foundation. These courses offer a background in Romanian culture, including Eastern Orthodoxy, as well as complementing their practical experiences in the culture itself.

Students will also take part in a one-week backpacking trip, co-led by Nonnemacher.

Costs are expected to be the same as a semester at NW, which includes all airfare and other expenses. Financial aid is applicable as well. The study abroad trip will fulfill all cross-cultural requirements.

There is a limit of 10 students for the trip. The application process will soon be available.

“I really appreciate the support of college administration in the development of new ventures like this,” said Carlson. Nonnemacher said, “There’s no semester abroad program that has students on the front line like this one. It’s a very unique program.”

“It’s an exciting process,” said Carlson. “This is part of our vision. Let’s do it.”
When religion hurts humanity

We live in a dehumanizing society. We are quickly approaching the day when computer programs and machines will control our economy. The person across the counter from us is just a machine fulfilling the duty of giving us the item we wish to purchase. Every individual we meet is a potential “networking” tool. The proliferation of private amusements and entertainment technology dulls the need for companionship. Long standing communities with a rich past are disintegrating as people move to where the jobs are and machines replace people on the farms. We are bombarded constantly by commercialists that urge us to see each other as consumers and sexual objects. Our ability to see each other as people, to meet and know one another as “I and thou,” to treasure the image of the Divine in those around us is under constant assault. Those of us who feel that this is not the way things should be, that people are more and meant for more than this, turn to religion to give us an alternative story. And yet more and more, I find that religion is as much of a culprit as anything else.

It all starts when religious folks claim to have ‘absolute truth’ about the nature of all morality, law and doctrine and attempt to silence those who disagree. Take, for instance, recent discussions about homosexuality, where evil has become clear that the dominant position of religious people is that personal experiences and stories in the matter are largely irrelevant. They may be nice to listen to, but they shouldn’t influence our opinions. What matters is how one constructs a notion of “absolute truth” based upon “God’s word.” Never mind that there are real people and real relationships on the line. Christians can’t see the obvious reality that is clear to everyone else because they honestly believe that the interpretation of an ancient documen
t is more important than actual human beings are in the here and now. Maintaining the “purity” of oneself and one’s society through arbitrary and irrational rules in order to appease the wrath of a “just” God has become the end goal of much religion. There is no room for genuine human beings in a religious system that claims to love people. To make things worse, many of these religious “absolute truth” claims feed a worldview in which those outside a particular faith community must somehow be so corrupt and sinful that unless they accept our religious beliefs, they will suffer an eternity of tort-ure. Therefore, our relationships become tools, to attempt to “bring people to Christ.” This may be done out of genuine concern for their wellbeing, but it still undermines real relationships, which are valuable in and of themselves, apart from ulterior motives of conversion.

Religion continues this destructive pattern when it attempts to re-place a relationship with something immutable, untouchable and mysterious above and beyond relationships with physical human beings. The Bible itself states that “anyone who does not love his broth-er, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.” God is found in our fellow human beings. But religion has a way of subtly changing this idea which gives great worth and dignity to human beings with a “relationship” instead with God, or more accurately, with the religious system. God’s word with God. Let’s imagine that I receive a letter from someone in Jamaica (we’ll call him Bob), asking me to care for his family members who have recently immigrated to the United States. I become thrilled that now I have a Jamaican friend and tell everyone about how wonderful it is that I am now multicultural. I tell them that if they just read the letter from Bob then they too can have a personal relationship with him and tell their friends that they have a Jamaican friend. If I read this letter every day, wrote songs about Bob and sung them, made sure I wrote letters to Bob a priority, and dedicated my entire life to the celebration of Bob, would you say I had achieved a real relationship with Bob? Of course not.

Only if I met and started a relationship with Bob’s family like he asked me to could I rightly claim to actually be his friend. Only when I invested in a relationship with them would any of my talk about Bob be anything other than the ravings of a delusional man.

The sovereignty of God gives us intellectual freedom

BY RYAN PENDELL

Here at Northwestern, I’ve enjoyed learning about Reformed theology and the unique approach it brings to the Christian life. In the Reformed tradition, it is believed that Christ is lord of all and that there is nothing in this world that is not God’s. When “all truth is God’s truth,” then there is no area of life that we should not examine, no place where redemption cannot reach. There is no “off limits” issue because there is nothing to fear when God is sovereign over creation. When we are worried about something in the world, we can ask questions and even remain undecided about things because God reigns over everything. The first person from whom I heard this idea fully explained was President Murphy at an accreditation meeting open to the public. He went on to explain how being “Reformed” is an distinctive of Northwestern’s approach to the liberal arts. I came away with a feeling of personal liberation: Because Jesus is Lord, there is nothing to fear when it comes to intellectual inquiry as long as we honestly seek the truth.

Unlike other Christian colleges that have a “sieve” mentality about the culture against them and attempt to stop debate and put forward only their denominational position, Northwestern is a college where any student can follow every hard question because he is a Christian, not in spite of it. Regardless of what our parents or professors or family and friends think, we do not attend a Christian liberal arts college to escape evolutionists, humanists and liberals. We come here to think about, maybe even talk to evolutionists, humanists and liberals.

Some appear to have the opinion that exploring God’s world is a sacrament. If two people are not joined by God, as non-Christians clearly are not, then they should not be married. End of story.

This bit of sarcasm has not been written without purpose but rather to show a different perspective on a much-debated issue lately. Let’s assume that humanists are outside of God’s will—which is by no means a belief of all Christians. For the sake of argument, I will assume that this fact is true. Would we truly deny legal marriage to a non-Christian? According to the laws of the United States, every American citizen is entitled to the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. One does not have to look hard to find people on this campus who equate marriage with the pursuit of happiness. It is truly right, as the American people, to deny such an inalienable right from one in our midst because they are different from us? Because they express themselves differently? Because they may not have the same belief structure as we do? This is true, then what’s stopping the secular leaders of this country from denying us as Christians the right to marriage? Or the right to peaceful assembly, or free speech, or any other of a multitude of rights which we all enjoy daily? Homosexuals are entitled to equal rights under the law as any other citizen of the United States.

We have been told the RGA position on homosexuality, but I have not heard anyone mention the RGA position on liberal arts education. I hope that the decisions Northwestern makes are guided by the beauty of the Reformed approach to the liberal arts, not alumni dollars, community leaders or prospective students. Because of its Reformed perspective, this community never needs to stop an honest discussion or silence a viewpoint in the name of Christian faith.

Check out the Beacon Online (click the link on CampusNet) to read special bonus articles by Bethany Kroeze and John Navy.
Grammys offer musical extravaganza and awards

BY BETHANY KROEZE
EDITOR

The 2007 Grammy nominees CD was released this past Tuesday. Featuring 23 songs by various Grammy nominees, the compilation provides a nice wrap-up of the year in music, as well as a great intro to the awards, which will air on Sunday, Feb. 11, at 7 p.m., on CBS.

The compilation CD features “Be Without You” by Mary J. Blige, who received eight Grammy nods this year. Her nominations include two of the most prestigious awards: Record of the Year and Song of the Year. The latter award is presented to the songwriters. Blige will also be among the performers during the live show.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers, who will perform during the show, also received several nominations; six to be exact. The compilation CD features their summer release, “Dani California,” which was nominated for Best Rock Album. It is up for the highly coveted Album of the Year as well as Best Rock Album.

Some of my personal favorites that made the compilation album include “I Will Follow You into the Dark” by Death Cab for Cutie and “Over My Head (Cable Car)” by The Fray. Both of these songs are nominated for Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal. The Fray’s song “How to Save A Life” is up against the Chili Peppers, among others, for Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group.

Another of the evening’s scheduled performers is American Idol winner Carrie Underwood, who received four nominations this year, including Best New Artist and Song of the Year, for her song “Jesus, Take the Wheel.”

Her first hit single, which is featured on the Grammy CD, comes from her debut album, “Some Hearts.” “Jesus, Take the Wheel” is also nominated for Best Female Country Vocal Performance and Best Country Song. Her competition includes fellow country artists Gretchen Wilson, Alan Jackson and Martina McBride, as well as the highly nominated Mary J. Blige in the Song of the Year category.

The 49th annual Grammy Awards look to provide an eventful show. One of the highlights for the evening will be Justin Timberlake’s performance with a fan, who will be chosen from a group of five auditions via online voting. For more on Justin’s special performance, visit music.yahoo.com/grammymoment. Other musical performers will include Beyoncé, the Dixie Chicks, Christina Aguilera, Ludacris and Grails Bailey.

For a full track listing of the compilation CD, a complete list of nominees, or any additional information regarding the award show, visit www.grammy.com, and be sure to tune in on Feb. 11 to catch an evening of great performances.

Worth the drive: sweet snacks from Sioux Center

BY KATIE VAN ETTER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the snowy weather lately, I have felt a little trapped at times. I know that if I want to leave campus even for a short while, I first need to put on my coat, hat and gloves, and then trudge through the snow to my car, and then dig it out before getting onto the icy roads. Who knows if those roads will carry me safely on my journey?

But even in this time of cold oppression, I am still looking hopefully toward the future. How can I not look toward the future with glee when mine ultimately includes donuts? When the ice and snow melt away, I can be assured that there is scrumptious light shining over the ridge of snow and despair.

Sioux Center’s Casey’s Bakery in the Center Mall plaza stays open until the wee hours of the morning every day of the week, providing study breaks and digestive enjoyment for all of northwestern Iowa. I traveled to Casey’s Bakery with some of my friends in order to experience the joys of this sweet and cheap goodness.

We drove to Sioux Center at 1 a.m. on a Tuesday night, full of curiosity concerning the claims we had heard about Casey’s late nights. Once we arrived, we drove to the back of the mall, to the back of the bakery and parked near the unloading ramp, as we had been told to do. After parking and wondering about our safety for only a short time, we walked through darkness up the ramp and to a door marked for “Employees Only.”

My friends and I stopped behind the door, wondering anxiously about what was on the other side. Would we be stopped or asked to leave? Was this the right entrance? We braved our doubts and walked into a wonderland of treats.

Once inside this sweetshop, we noticed many late night workers further in the bakery, preparing early orders for the next morning. One worker pointed to a lit room. We went into the room to find three crates full of day-old donuts in plastic bags.

Looking through all the choices, we noticed not only donuts but cakes and rolls as well. They had angel food cake, dinner rolls, breadsticks, croissants, loaves of bread, cake donuts with sprinkles, cake donuts with just frosting, cake donuts with nuts, old-fashioned regulars, old-fashioned blueberry donuts, plain long johns, long johns with Bavarian cream, long johns with the fluffy white cream, apple fritters, cinnamon rolls, sticky bun rolls, caramel pecan rolls, filled jelly donuts, filled donuts with other assorted creams and many others.

My friends and I looked through the wondrous assortment of goodies. I chose a bag of old-fashioned blueberry donuts, as they are my favorite.

Then we looked around the room for where to pay. Near the crates stood a proud rack with a small rectangular Gladware container placed on one shelf. The container had a ripped piece of white paper taped onto its side which read in medium point Sharpee “Put the money in here.” As we had been instructed by our informants, we all deposited 50¢ for each bag of donuts we were to devour. (To our dismay, we recently discovered that, due to inflation, each bag now costs 75¢.)

That night, as we drove back to Orange City, we were delighted with our donuts, even though it was a cold night, the frosting was a little slimy, and at times the bread was dry, they were most enjoyable!

So wait eagerly Northwestern, as the snow melts and you can begin your own adventure toward Sioux Center for these sweet, cheap treats. Or, brave the cold and drive over now.

Orange City Pizza Hut
737-3030

BUY 5 BREADSTICKS AND GET 5 FREE!

*Bring this coupon for savings!
HPV: A cancer caused by a virus?

BY BETHANY KROEZE
EDITOR

Contrary to popular belief, HPV can be spread through more than just sexual intercourse. HPV is spread through skin-to-skin contact. Because HPV rarely presents any symptoms, it is difficult to detect. Also, many women don’t realize that their annual Pap tests do not test for all sexual activity. However, even persons with only one lifetime sex partner can contract HPV if their partner has had previous partners.

According to Shepherd, some estimate that between 50 and 70 percent of abstinent women who do become sexually active will choose a partner who carries HPV; if you want to be tested, you must tell your doctor. You’d never know you were infected because there are no signs, and your immune system fights the virus within a few years anyway,” said Diane Harper, M.D., director of the Gynecologic Cancer Prevention Research Group at Dartmouth Medical School. “The virus lives on the skin so you’d never know you were infected because there are no signs...”

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the only sure way to prevent HPV is to abstain from sexual activity. However, even persons with only one lifetime sex partner will contract four types from one sex partner. If she has already become infected with one of the four types of HPV, the vaccine will not prevent disease from that type. However, it will still prevent the other three types of HPV.

Gardasil is currently available and recommended for women ages 9 to 26. Women in the Orange City area can receive the vaccine, which is offered in a series of three shots, from several different clinics, including the Orange City Area Health System and Planned Parenthood (locations in Sioux City, Spencer and Storm Lake).

On June 8, 2006, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) licensed the first vaccine developed to prevent cervical cancer and other diseases caused by certain types of genital HPV. Gardasil, the new vaccine, prevents two strains of HPV that cause nearly 70% of all cervical cancer, plus two strains that cause 90% of genital warts.

On June 29, 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend use of this vaccine in females ages 9 to 26 years. According to Gardasil’s website, of the approximately six million new cases of genital HPV that occur in the United States each year, it is estimated that 74% of those cases occur in 15 to 24-year-olds.

Dr. Lisa Shepherd of the Orange City Area Health System said that Gardasil is most likely focused towards the 9 to 26-year-old age range because these ages have the highest risk for acquiring HPV.

“I’d never know you were infected because there are no signs...”

“Contract all four types from one partner. If she has already become infected with one of the four types of HPV, the vaccine will not prevent disease from that type. However, it will still prevent the other three types of HPV.”

“Gardasil offers women the chance to prevent the development of HPV strains which cause cervical cancer and genital warts. While the vaccine is not yet required in routine immunizations, the statistics concerning HPV and cervical cancer should encourage women to take effective precautions in preventing this disease.”

As Gardasil’s tag line says, “You could be one less life affected by cervical cancer.”

This graphic shows various HPV-induced cancers relative to total cases of cancer.

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Fun "Fact" for Friday

1. Seeds from a wild flower, the Arctic Lupine, found in Alaska, have grown in the lab for 10,000 years.

2. Dark roast coffee has more caffeine than light roast coffee.

3. Coughing can cause air to move through your windpipe faster than the speed of sound.

4. The longest bout of hiccups lasted 69 years.

5. The average person eats eight spiders a year in their sleep.

Answers to last week’s fun facts: 1) Fact 2) Crap 3) Crap 4) Crap 5) Fact
Fast facts about HPV:
- Approximately 10,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer disease each year and nearly 4,000 women die in the U.S. each year from this disease.
- In 2005, the CDC estimated that 20 million people in the U.S. had this virus.
- HPV is the most common STD in the U.S.
- About 6.2 million Americans get a new genital HPV infection each year.
- 80% of all women will get HPV by age 50.
- 75% of men and women contract HPV below the belt at some point in their lives.
- Gardasil prevents the two strains of HPV that cause nearly 70% of all cervical cancer, plus two that cause 90% of genital warts.
- HPV is transmitted through skin-to-skin contact (not just sexual intercourse).
- 70 of the types of HPV result in common body warts.
- There is no cure or treatment available for HPV.
- The only real way to prevent HPV is abstinence.

Psychology research excels

BY JANICE SWIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Amy Vander Holt's research on Leadership-Member Exchange (LMX)—an organizational behavior concept dealing with the way workers relate to their leader—will be presented at the Society of Personality and Social Psychology's annual conference.

Fellow senior Candace Gross, along with her summer advisor, Dr. Anne Kim from Kentucky, will present her research on the relationship between gifted adolescents’ overexcitabilities (enhanced levels of experience) and self-concepts at the American Educational Research Association (AERA). Gross’ research, which also examines the effects gender and grade level have on the topic, will be published in Roeper Review sometime next year.

Both students’ research was accepted on the basis of a proposal or abstract defining components of their research. Gross said she was surprised her research got accepted into Roeper Review right away because usually it takes more than one revisal and submittal.

Gross conducted her study at gifted camps in Kentucky. Her results provide more support for the proposed theory that the social value and consequences associated with overexcitabilities could affect gifted adolescents self-concepts. Her study also drew the conclusion that there are multiple relationships between overexcitabilities, self-concept and grade level.

Gross stated “The existing body of research on overexcitabilities was limited. I hope the results of the study open a new window to the investigation of the relationship between gifted adolescents’ overexcitabilities and self-concepts.” The research should aid educators and practitioners in making specific compensations for gifted adolescents if their self-concepts decrease as a function of their overexcitabilities.

Vander Holt worked with advisor Dr. Marie Dasborough of Oklahoma State University-Stillwater and another student researcher to study how leader behavior can affect the experience of workers either positively or negatively, as well as how Minority-Majority Status (MMS) affects organizational behavior and emotional experiences.

Their research significantly concluded that LMX does have an effect on organizational behaviors including: group identification, organizational-citizenship behavior and perception of leader motivation. They also found that the LMX assignment has a significant effect on the experience of the emotions of pleasure, disgust and eagerness.

Vander Holt is convinced her research can be applied to more than just theory. “Research in organizational behavior is very important for society,” she said. “It is good information for leaders/executives of organizations to have so they can be aware of what kind of things they can do to positively influence their employees.”

Gross said she was surprised her research was accepted right away it usually takes more than one revisal and submittal.

Online Responses to Vaccination

Courtesy of http://www.typepad.com/t/trackback/5061804

I am a cervical cancer survivor. I will vaccinate my daughter, and I will urge every young person I know to get vaccinated—males and females.

It enrages me that alleged Christians advocate withholding this vaccine in the name of stamping out “promiscuity.” Cervical cancer is not caused by a confusion about values. If we can alleviate cancer, we should do it!

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# Raider wrestlers three for three

**BY BETSY HEIBERGER**  
**ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR**

The Northwestern Raider wrestlers continued to bring out their best in this past week of the season. Most recently, NW had a nearly perfect performance in Wednesday night’s dual at USF. Six Raiders including sophomore Levi Price (141), senior Courtney Goodwin (157), freshman Lamar Reed (165), sophomore Enock Francois (174), junior Andrew Lundgren (197), and freshman Sam Zylstra (285) defeated their opponent with a pin fall. Other winners included senior Chris Keating (149) with a technical fall, sophomore Derek Kosters (184) defeating his man in a close 7-5 match, and freshman Jordan Keckler (133) with a forfeit. The final team score was 50-6 with USF earning six points from NW’s open 125 pound space. The victory was NW’s third consecutive dual win.

**Wednesday’s showing came on the heels of NW’s biggest home wrestling event of the season, the Red Raider Invite, which took place last Saturday in the Bultman Center. Head Coach John Petty called the tournament a “huge success,” and said, “This was my first year being a part of this tournament, and I said, “This was my first year being a part of this event for years to come.”**

As a team, the Raiders placed six out of 13 at the invite with 65.5 points, which was fourth among points for NAIA schools attending.

On the individual level, five NW men placed in the top five in their weight class. Keckler and Francois once again were consistent winners, each earning the title of runner-up. Francois wrestled a tough match and was defeated in overtime. Francois commented, “It was a tough loss to swallow despite the circumstances, but it all has to be looked at as practice for the bigger picture: the national tournament.” Francois has his very heart and soul in wrestling.

“I find myself getting caught up in the mental battles if [they] want to cause our success to rise, too. No matter what the situation is we are striving to continue to do better.”

The night before the Red Raider invite, NW achieved its second dual win, raising the team’s record to 2-4. The Raiders hosted Dakota Wesleyan, defeating them with a 31-14 final team score in NW’s first GPAC match-up. The biggest win of Friday evening against DWU went to Price, who defeated his opponent with a pin fall in 4:30. Also competing well was NW’s 184-pound sophomore Tim Naiman, who won with a technical fall in 3:32. Keckler and Francois racked up the points in their seven-minute face-offs, winning 16-6 and 16-7 in their respective matches.

Lundgren and Zylstra each recorded wins by forfeit. On Friday night the Raiders take on GPAC leader, Dana College in an away match starting at 6:00 p.m. The NW men’s final home dual is on Tuesday night against Morningside. Wrestling will start at 7:00 p.m.

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# NW track and field opens season at ISU

**BY DAN CLIFF**  
**SPORTS STAFF WRITER**

The Northwestern track and field team traveled to Ames, Iowa, to compete at the Iowa State Open on Jan. 19-20. The meet featured several schools such as Iowa State, the University of Northern Iowa, some of the top junior colleges in the area, and others spanning the NCAA and NAIA ranks.

The Raiders placed a trio of competitors in the top ten at the meet. Junior runner Laura Jacobson highlighted the group with a third-place finish among 40 competitors in the women’s 400 meter dash with a time of 51.35 seconds; senior Daniel Lichter in 28th in the 400 yard run with a time of 1:16.75; and the men’s 4x400 meter relay placing 21st with a time of 3:27.44. Three Raider long distance runners recorded personal bests by over 20 seconds in the 5000 meter run during Friday’s session of the meet, and all finished in the top 30. They were Dan Wallhof, 19th place at 16:02.8; Anthony Ebert, 23rd place at 16:10.1; and Jon Weel, 30th place at 16:27.6.

The Raiders next compete at the Buena Vista Invitational in Storm Lake on Saturday, Jan. 27.

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### Complete Results

#### Men

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Athlete</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Effort</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<td>Kyle Sauter</td>
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#### Women

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**PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA**

Sophomore Tim Naiman works over his Dakota Wesleyan opponent. Naiman won the match with a technical fall.

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**Dance, Dance**

*The Northwestern Dance Team performed on Wednesday night during halftime of the men’s and women’s games against the University of Sioux Falls.*
Raider men knock off top-ranked NAIA team

BY MIKE VAN ENGEN
STAFF WRITER

In a battle between the GPAC’s top two teams, the Raiders crushed top-ranked University of Sioux Falls 86-67. The Cougars’ defeat marked the end of a 16-game winning streak, while NW improved to a 9-3 GPAC record and 16-6 overall.

The contest started with a USF run and ended with NW handing the Cougars their second loss of the season. USF got out to a quick 10-7 lead, but the Raiders put together a 12-4 run and erased the gap to take control. The Cougars made an attempt to come back with seven minutes left in the first half and closed the gap to within three. The Raiders responded to the Cougar run by going on a 24-12 run to close the half, going into the break shooting 61% from the floor. The swarming Raider defense held the Cougar offense to just 38% from the floor.

The second half proved just as promising for the Raiders. NW jumped out to an early 38-point lead, overpowering the Cougar defense. The Cougars had one last run as they cut the lead to 97-71, but once again the Raiders’ defense stepped it up to end the half on a 16-6 run. NW won the match 86-67, knocking off the Cougar defense. The Cougars had one more shot at redemption, but we haven’t really put together a whole game,” said Remmerde.

Tomorrow, NW will seek revenge on conference rival Dordt College. The Defenders are currently 8-4 in the GPAC and defeated the Raiders 85-80 in the teams’ November meeting. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in Sioux Center.

Raider women pound USF

BY LAURA JACOBSON
SPORTS EDITOR

After suffering back-to-back losses on their home court, Northwestern’s basketball women won big Wednesday night against the University of Sioux Falls. The Red Raiders pounded the Cougars in the first half, leading 53-22 at the break and going on to win 79-53.

“I thought we made some good adjustments,” Head Coach Earl Woudstra said of his team. “We had just a little bit more of an attacker’s mentality on offense than we’ve showed in our last couple games.” Woudstra also pointed to the team’s improved movement on the offensive end. “We’ve been working in practice on movement without the ball, making ourselves hard to guard,” he said. Junior Deb Remmerde agreed, also acknowledging the Raiders’ defensive effort. “Our defense in the first half led to good offense,” she said. “We pushed the ball and scored in transition, and in the half-court we moved the ball well and got good shots.”

Remmerde was the leading scorer for the Raiders with 22 points, sinking three of five three-point shots, while senior Jaime Hoegh chipped in 12 points and seven assists. Juniors Amy Larson and Miranda Boekhout recorded 11 and 10 points, respectively. Freshman Randa Halstein pulled down seven rebounds for the Raiders, and junior Crystal Algood had four blocks.

Woudstra noted areas of NW’s game needing improvement. “Our defensive effort needs to be consistent throughout the game,” he said. “We can’t have times we play hard and times we don’t.” Remmerde also mentioned the women’s need for consistency. “We need to put together a complete game,” she said. “We’ve had good halves here and there, but we haven’t really put together a whole game.”

Tomorrow the Raiders will face a dangerous Dordt team in Sioux Center. “Dordt has been one of the hottest teams in our conference since Christmas,” said Woudstra. The Defenders have won four of their last five games, including a huge upset Wednesday night over fifth-ranked Morningside. “Dordt’s a good team, and they’re coming off a big win,” said Remmerde. “They’ll be ready for us. We need to continue to do the little things that lead to success.” That game will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Superbowl Challenge

Visit the Beacon Online by clicking the link on the CampusNet page to participate in a special Superbowl challenge. You could be the lucky winner of a free medium pizza! Plus, read the editor’s analysis of the big game.

PLAYER PROFILE

Jaime Hoegh

BY KAYLA MAXEDON
STAFF WRITER

Women’s basketball captain Jaime Hoegh credits her family for their impact in her life. The senior from Atlantic, Iowa, is the daughter of Monte and Emily and sister to Janna (29), Jerod (26), Jerome (19) and Jacey (16).

“Jaime is an excellent student, and she has proven the ability to balance the challenges of being a student, an athlete, and a friend on campus. Her family is also very important to her and she takes the steps to be involved in the life of her family as well,” Head Coach Earl Woudstra stated.

“Jaime is the type of person who exemplifies being a student athlete at Northwestern,” said Woudstra. “She has a love for the Lord and demonstrates a lifestyle that uses her gifts and brings honor to Him.”

For Jaime, her senior year has been the most challenging in her career, as she is just now realizing that this is her last year of playing on the team with the girls. “I’m going to miss them,” she said.

Hoegh’s favorite part of being on the squad is getting to know each of her teammates. Her favorite memories are the preseason outings, last year’s trip to nationals and the recent trip to California.

Hoegh plays an important role on this year’s team, continuing to carry the starting role she began four years ago. According to Woudstra, “She is the most experienced player on the team. She has been a starter since the day she stepped on the team as a freshman. She is currently a captain, and a person who many players look up to and go to for leadership.”

In her spare time, Jaime enjoys swimming, hanging out with friends and family, especially her fiancé, and going home to work on the family farm. If she gets a chance, she enjoys watching “Grey’s Anatomy” and “CSI.” Her favorite cafeteria food is kind of cobbled, and she never misses breakfast.

Hoegh will graduate this spring with a major in Business Administration-Human Resources and a minor in Psychology. She was recently accepted into Creighton’s one-year Accelerated Nursing Program. The NW basketball team has been blessed to have Jaime a part of their family. She will be greatly missed next year, but has definitely made an impact on the team.
RSC to be completed by summer 2007

BY ALLISON ROORDA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Construction of the RSC will hopefully be completed by June or July of 2007.

"Once they got the roof on, the work really started to pick up," said Assistant Vice President for Student Development Dale Thompson. Also, more workers are available now that seasonal summer work is over.

The renovated RSC will have a new, more modern look compared to its predecessor. Through the front doors is a long straight hall with a high ceiling and windows lining the ceiling, allowing more light into the building.

Various rooms and offices branch off of either side of the hall. The new RSC will house student government offices, multicultural affairs, student development, campus security, the bookstore and the mail room.

The center of the RSC is designed to act as a hang-out/meeting area, wide open with sofas and hanging lights called clouds, the same as the lights in the Theatre Arts Center.

"The architect was going for the opposite look as the old building," Thompson explained. "It was low and dark. This is tall and light with fun colors." The architect involved in the RSC renovation is Todd Moss, who also designed Stegena Hall and DeWitt Theatre Arts Center.

There will also be several classrooms in the new RSC and a new, improved snack bar. Students, faculty and staff are invited to participate in a contest to name the new RSC café.

"My desire has been that we not call it the 'Snack Bar' for the next 25 years," said Thompson. The RSC renovation committee will review all suggestions for names up until February 1. A link to the submission form can be found on the college web site. The winner will receive a NW sweatshirt.

Construction plans hope to be completed by June 2007 so that the offices and departments can move in by July 2007.

"We’re keeping our fingers crossed on that one," Thompson laughed.

Heritage Singers present comic operetta

BY JAIME EVENHUIS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Northwestern College’s Heritage Singers will present a concert on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 26 and 27. The performance will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the England Proscenium Theatre in the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center.

The concert will include a rendition of “Die Fledermaus,” a comic operetta by John Strauss. The Heritage Singers will also present a short arrangement of Brahms’ love songs.

“Die Fledermaus” is a name for bats and German for “The Flying Mouse.” The main characters of the operetta include Einstein von Einstein and his friend Dr. Faulk.

Einstein pulls a prank on Faulk, persuading him to walk downtown in a bat costume. Several plot lines of the operetta surround Dr. Faulk’s desire for revenge.

Einstein is to be played by freshman Richie Clark. Junior Larissa Harwood will portray his wife, Rosalinde. Dr. Faulk will be performed by senior Dan Laaveg. Junior Heidi Ackerman will portray the chamber maid Adel. Freshman Andrew Klumpp will play a former lover of Einstein’s wife Rosalinde. Sophomore Danny Bos will play the part of an incompetent lawyer. Lastly, sophomore Ross Estell and will be read by NW alumna Kristi Woodyard.

Construction of the RSC will hopefully be completed by June 2007 so that the offices and departments can move in by July 2007.

"We’re keeping our fingers crossed on that one," Thompson laughed.

Let’s play the Family Feud!

BY RENEE NYHOF
STAFF WRITER

Tonight at 9 p.m. in Christ Chapel, “families” will go head-to-head in the popular Family Feud! They will be answering questions given to them by host Scott Monoma.

Similar to the original game show, “families” must obtain the most points in order to win various prizes and up to $200 cash.

Unlike the true game show, Director of Student Activities Lori Couch states that families tonight will exclude parents, siblings and any other relatives. Instead, teams will be made up of six students who have invented a family name for themselves.

It’s highly encouraged that each family dress in accordance with their name. According to Couch, each family will have a family portrait taken for use in the actual game.

In addition, for further incentive to dress the part, the best look-a-like family will receive a free family pizza dinner.

However, the rules remain similar to the true game show. According to Couch, the game will begin with two families facing-off for three rounds of questions. Points will be awarded each round for correctly answered questions.

To motivate families to work together for the correct answers, points will double in the second round and triple in the third round.

After the first game ends, one team will be eliminated, while the winning team goes on to face another family. This pattern will continue until one family remains.

The last family will be given the opportunity to go for “Fast Money,” where two family members answer questions to gain points for the family. During fast money, the family could possibly win $200.

“It’s hilarious what they’ll have to do,” said Jenna Fox, a member of the Student Activities Council.

“It’s a great time to hang out with your friends,” said Couch. If you are looking for a commercial-free and entertaining evening, come on over to the chapel to watch the Family Feud.

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PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA

The Rowenhorst Student Center has been undergoing construction since summer of 2006.

PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA

The Heritage Singers practice for their performance of “Die Fledermaus.”

PHOTO BY ABIGAIL Nedrud

The Heritage Singers practice for their performance of “Die Fledermaus.”