What’s the plan?  
Student Government Association challenges NW’s meal plan options

BY JENNA BOOTE  
OPINION EDITOR

Recently disclosed meal plan options have kindled discussion between students and administration. In addition to the 21, 18 and 15 meal plans which include proportionate amounts of flex dollars, Northwestern is again implementing a 10 meal plan option that is only available to students living in apartments and plexes.

A “block 180” plan has also been offered, which would provide students with 180 meals and $110 in flex dollars per semester. The plan would also allow students to bring friends and family to eat and use the plan to pay for their meals, instead of having them pay for their own.

NW’s Student Government Association has spent time researching the benefits and costs to students and has issued statements challenging the options students are given, specifically the new block 180 proposal. During previous meetings, the SGA had petitioned the college to allow the 10 meal plan to be extended to juniors and seniors in the dorms, but was met with resistance by Student Development.

After conversations with students concerning their frustration with the plans that renew every week, student development decided to try the block plan in response to these concerns. “It allows for more flexibility,” said John Brogan, vice president for student development. The plan can be used for both the cafeteria and the Hub.

“Students can use them for whoever and whenever they want. Financially, we’re trying to keep the prices as low as possible.”

Brogan also commented, “Dorms are not equipped for students to cook meals for themselves.” Parents may also worry about their children not getting sufficient meals on a 10 or fewer plan. Brogan also emphasized that smaller meal plans are small steps toward the breaking up of NW’s community.

The SGA also cites monetary discrepancies between the block 180 and the 10 meal plan. Norine disagrees with the community argument. “The new block 180 plan actually breaks down into 10.9 meals a week. If community is what NW is after, then will 9 meals a week actually make a difference?”

If community is not the biggest issue, the SGA contends, then there is no reason to favor students in the apartments and plexes. They believe students of all ages and living arrangements should be allowed this option.

The SGA also cites monetary discrepancies between the block 180 and the 10 meal plan. Norine explains the problem. “According to our calculations, the 10 meal plan gives you $434 back in cash, which, if converted to flex dollars, comes out to $542.50. Even if you take into account the extra 9 meal each week, you would still come out $200 in flex dollars ahead with the 10 meal plan.”

Emily Griese, president of SGA, adds, “As representatives of the student voice, we are frustrated that some students aren’t given a choice.”

What does the SGA recommend students do as the meal plans are already set for next year? Griese suggests, “We simply want them to be aware of the discrepancies found between meal plans and in choosing a meal plan for next year, make an educated decision.”

“I’m willing to talk to anyone about the concerns they may have,” said Brogan.

“The Highest Calling?” tells story of courage and perseverance

BY TEDI SWANSON
STAFF WRITER

Friday, April 18 marks the opening night of this spring’s play, “The Highest Calling?” directed by Jeff Taylor, professor of theatre and speech.

During his sabbatical in 2006, Taylor began work on writing the script for this play, which is inspired by the life story of Dr. Frances DeBone Taylor. From his research, Taylor created the character of Florence Teague who represents his mother.

Frances Taylor was one of the only women to attend the Pittsburgh School of Medicine in the 1920s and found herself at the highest calling.” Ignoring her heart’s desire to become a poet and heal with words, she completed her medical degree.

“I have a lot of admiration for the woman of this story. She is courageous, determined, inquisitive and persistent,” said junior Sophie Eicher, a major player in the show. “I would like to be considered a woman of her stature someday.”

To further understand his mother’s story, Taylor reviewed hours of her taped interviews and also personally interviewed medical school professors, students and physicians.

From his research, Taylor created the character of Florence Teague who represents his mother. Teague is shown in two aspects of her life: both as a newly widowed 70-year-old who is played by Karen Barker, professor of theatre, and as a first year medical student played by junior Sophie Eicher.

“My character is an intelligent, strong and determined woman,” said Eicher, “yet, she is also vulnerable and tender-hearted.”

The character of Teague is just one among an entire cast of fictional people used to tell a very real story. The list of characters allowed for many individuals to be involved in the show, including Tim Huffman, associate professor of mathematics, as well as many others.

“I think the diversity of the cast is so interesting. Many come from outside of the theatre department and are involved in different things on campus,” said Eicher, “Throw all that together, and it makes a great cast with lots of opportunities to laugh and to grow friendships.”

The relationships between the members of the cast are sure to strengthen the atmosphere on stage. This atmosphere is sure to enhance the experience audience members will get from the show. “The Highest Calling?” is not a show meant for idle entertainment.

“There are numerous lessons to be learned. It is a great story of perseverance, trust, hope and love.” Eicher said.

Aside from the fact that this show was written and directed by Northwestern’s own Jeff Taylor, the deeper meaning found behind the script gives the audience an appreciation of the NW community a higher importance.

“The Highest Calling?” is showing in the Allen Theatre April 18, 19 and 23 to 26 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $5 for the public and free for students.

This graph shows the difference between the 10 meal plan and the block 180 plan, two of the choices at the cafeteria next year.

PHOTO BY CLARE WINTER
front desk

YO GOD, SUP HOMIE?

What happened to reverence? What happened to fear and awe? How can we look at all he has done, all that he is, and simply think him a chump? Jeremiah 10:7 says, “Who should not revere you, O King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise men of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you.” Hebrews 12:28-29 reminds us, “Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.” And just listen to the words of Moses as he warns the Israelites in Deuteronomy 28:58-59: “If you do not carefully follow all the words of the law… and do not revere this glorious and awesome name—the Lord your God—the Lord will send fearful plagues on you and your descendents, harsh and prolonged disasters, and severe and lingering illnesses.”

Now, I don’t think God is going to toss the plague on us just because we wear the T-shirts or maybe tell the occasional Jesus joke, but Bible is clear that, not only does God deserve our reverence, he expects it. As Jeremiah said, it is his “due.” Our convenient, idyllic homeboy Jesus is nothing more than a cop-out savior, a glorified appeasement of a powerful, mighty, and downright terrifying God. Do we really expect, “Yo God, sup homie” will be our natural reaction upon standing before the throne of grace? If indeed we are able to stand…

Goodbye, comfort!

This school year I read many books, heard numerous speakers and had a lot of conversations with others about Christianity. Most of them revolved around the same topic: somehow, we’ve transformed Christianity into something that is comfortable. And that is not a good thing.

A few weeks ago, Tony Campolo spoke at Northwestern’s leadership conference. He mentioned that we need to speak with authority. In this context, authority is not our power but rather our assurance in the power of God. The Holy Spirit works within us and forms us into who we need to be. However, we tend to put ourselves into a box, limiting the Holy Spirit’s authority. Campolo challenged us to step out of our box and become uncomfortable again.

Campolo is right. If I want to change the world, to address important issues and find their solutions, I need to be able to speak with authority. In order to gain authority, I must follow the ways of Jesus and step out of my box. I need to allow the Holy Spirit to use me in all situations. But what does stepping out of my box actually look like?

Stepping out means doing something you would not normally do in order to serve those in need. For example, I prefer to help others by meeting their immediate needs and building relationships with them. That’s the type of witnessing I am comfortable with. However, a friend reminded me that sometimes people need or are ready to be directly spoken with about God. I have been worshiped God and proclaimed that we have been made a little lower than the heavenly beings; isn’t that something worth investigating in both academia and through the arts? A Christian worldview should allow us even more reason to study the human body. Just as health profession majors see nudity to understand the body, so I wish to understand the crowning achievement of the entire physical world from an artist’s perspective.

With the recent change of administration this school has undergone, an opportunity arises to change the status quo. President Christy and the board of trustees should seriously consider the implications of this single issue. Will we as present everyone to pander to the potential students or board members who financially sustain us, or will we instead be unashamed to follow what we feel is best for our students? I’m not suggesting that we transform our art department into a raunchy sex show, but we cannot continue to hold our current stance. There are reasonable solutions for a school like ours. Gordon College, a Christian college in Massachusetts, has started to implement undeveloped drawing courses into its current art curriculum, while offering an alternative course option for students who have a violation of conscience. The answers are there. We just need to be willing to engage them. I admit, prohibition is a quick and easy answer to this issue, but is it the right one?

OPINION

A rethinking of purity in the nude

BY CJ WURPITZ

For as long as Northwestern College has been an educational institution, it has been its policy not to include undraped figure drawing courses in its visual art curriculum. School officials hesitate to instate such a course for many reasons, none of which have been officially released. Some claim it is to pacify potential financial donors, others cite it is against Christian morality. Personally though, I suspect that ignorance and misdirected appeasement might be the culprits.

I approach this issue not as a single guy who wants to see naked women, but as an artist who wants to believe that his school has the integrity to prepare its student with “academic excellence.” This phrase should include anyone who wishes to leave this institution prepared for whatever their chosen field. Whether that’s fixing people up, translating languages or painting pictures, NW has an obligation to adequately equip its students to survive, and even thrive, in the “real world.” Figure drawing courses are seen as an integral part of most art programs within collegiate-level education. They provide fundamental skills that are not found in any other course. By not offering art majors a course that is considered foundational in almost any other art/design department throughout the country, NW is taking the legs out from under its own students.

NW’s policy towards figure drawing courses betrays its roots in an outdated purity code that has no basis whatsoever within a historical or religious context. Nudity does not equate to immodesty. The prevalence of nudity within historical religious art validates this point all the more. It hasn’t historically been an issue until modern Christian sensibilities took the breasts and crotches of humanity and made them taboo. We’ve transformed the naked human body into something to be ashamed of; something that only perverts and porn freaks appreciate.

What once was a symbol of innocence and vulnerability has been distorted into a grotesque, baseless image of sexuality and seduction.

A Christian worldview, however, allows us to explore the human body, to study and learn about it. We should be unafraid to boldly study what God has so carefully and lovingly created.
ENTERTAINMENT

Digging deep to find hakuna matata

BY RACHEL RIETSEMA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The snow has melted, the sun is shining and the birds have come again to populate the outdoors. Now it’s time for us to do the same. Spring is here even though it’s not exactly gorgeous weather out yet, but be patient. Don’t worry this article isn’t going to be the typical one that says: go enjoy the beautiful day by taking a walk or get out the blanket for a picnic. You may go ahead and do those things; more power to you, but I think it’s time to think outside the box.

As a child, you played in the sandbox and made castles until someone destroyed them. Obviously we don’t have any of those sitting around; we’re supposed to be grown-ups or adults, as some people like to say. But I’m giving you the go-ahead to do what you might call childish activities. For example, if you feel a ongoing gust that has the potential to fly a kite, why not do it? You may look like an imbecile while trying to get the thing up in the air, but that’s ok. You’ll get a good laugh out of it. Well, at least your friends will and since laughter is good for the health, this is a creative way of mixing fun with health benefits.

Of course there is the concept of spring cleaning. One might think, that’s what my mom is doing at home. I don’t have to participate in that ridiculous ritual this year. But not so fast, is there a very thick layer of dust on your desk or an unsightly amount of crumbs within the keys of your computer? You might be thinking: why are suggestions of cleaning included in this article? Well, the answer is simple. In a few short weeks, it’s time to move out. So organizing your clothes or cleaning out drawers in advance will make the load lighter later on.

That last example was not so “kiddish” and didn’t include heading outdoors to greet the squirrels, I will admit. Here is one that you might enjoy. The kite needs a windy day, but blowing bubbles needs just the opposite. Whether they are big or small, I guarantee you will have a popping good time. Another activity that goes back to our days of innocence is making masterpieces with sidewalk chalk. I’ve seen the results of creativity around campus before and have been quite impressed. Why not join the fun even if it’s “too girly” for you?

For those times when it’s rainy out, I do have some ideas that may or may not strike your fancy. If there is a pair of rain boots laying around in your room, slip them on, even if you will look like the Morton salt girl. Grab a friend and jump in puddles until you’re drenched from head to toe. I might even suggest dancing in the rain. If you did it as a kid and miss those “good ole times,” recreate the memories that will result in even better ones.

For those of you that are thinking none of these suggestions sound like fun, go out and do what makes you forget about life’s worries. Throw the football around, study under a tree; I don’t care as long as you take advantage of God’s creation. I’m saying that there are other options out there; you just have to dig deep. Adopt a plant to set on the windowsill, go biking, camp out in tents or take random pictures outside. At night, succumb to the cliché of gazing out at the galaxies. It might not bring you to Pumbaa and Timon’s level of relaxation, but it may make your day a little less worrisome.

Ready for a new release?

BY AMANDA WRIGHT
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

With the end of the semester just a few weeks away we all are anticipating the coming of summer. Not only will we be released from our classes and scholarly responsibilities, we will also have more free time to enjoy the things we love. New movie releases, films coming out on DVD, a new album to jam out to all summer or even a series to get hooked on, are all great ways to start out the summer.

Indiana Jones, the original action-packed adventurer, is returning for a fourth brush with danger as leading man Harrison Ford will again take on as a trip in “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.” Directed by the ever-impressive Steven Spielberg, it is sure to be another favorite. Get ready for this release on May 22. If nothing else, it might take you down memory lane, back to when you were young and your parents were watching “Raiders of the Lost Ark” on VHS and afterward played a quick game of “Duck Hunt” on the Nintendo. It has been awhile since we’ve even seen Harrison Ford on the big screen; gives a hilarious exaggeration of the “creative” side of the always lovely bridesmaid dresses. Buy or rent it on April 29.

Madonna, the queen of pop herself, has been recording a new album that is almost ready for our listening enjoyment. On April 29, Madge will revel in the success of “Hard Candy,” her eleventh studio album. With an overall hip-hop feel and collaborations with Justin Timberlake, Pharrell Williams and Kanye West, it is sure to have a new twist to what we have come to expect from her Madgesty.

Ready for a ‘90s flashback? Nickelodeon’s gore-free “Are You Afraid of the Dark,” will release its sixth season on DVD April 29. With the scary stories, urban legends and vampire tales we all feared as children, “Are You Afraid of the Dark” recreates our adolescence as The Moonlight Society tells ghost stories around a campfire.

Now I know what you’re thinking, the only release we care about right now is the release of the seniors into the “real world” and the rest of us into summer. If that’s the case, keep in the back of your mind for when looking for an adventure, need some new danceable beats, a movie to make you laugh or simply a good scare.

Send your Campus Quotes, with context, to beacon@mcniowa.edu.
In front of him there was desert, behind him, desert; all around and in every direction there was sand as far as the eye could see. Riding in a jeep across hot, tan hills in the middle of the Sahara Desert, junior Heath Epperson was at the mercy of his Egyptian driver.

Two days earlier, he had been sitting in a classroom in a two-story villa listening to Arabic music and learning about Middle Eastern culture. The villa, located in a middle-class Muslim neighborhood and just around the block from student apartments, serves as a home base for the students of the Middle East Studies Program (MESP).

On a typical class day students attend classes that are taught by professors from the American University in Cairo (AUC). They break for lunch and end classes in the afternoon.

Today, however, was no typical class day. Today Epperson found himself surrounded by sand dunes and sunlight just west of the desert city of Siwa. “We had no idea where we were,” Epperson recalled. It’s easy to become a little disoriented with the hot sun directly overhead and hills of sand at every angle.

At one point the jeeps stopped and students jumped out to climb up and slide down the soft sandy hills. Some made sand angels while others played. They all bent and twisted their bodies in order to form letters and spell “MESP07” across the Sahara. The students loaded back into their vehicles and journeyed on, eyes wide open.

The jeeps came to the crest of a hill. Below lay a cold blue pool settled among palm trees. “There’s nothing, nothing at all. And then you see an oasis,” said Epperson. Once again the students spilled out of the jeeps, this time in order to bathe in the cold spring, a welcome relief from the 90-degree heat.

Later, they returned to Siwa, a desert city speckled with palm trees and a huge lake at its center. The day before Epperson and some friends had rented bikes and rode around the city. They visited ancient temples—including one where Alexander the Great consulted an oracle—and set foot on the remains of a castle made of salt and mud brick.

That night they had the unique opportunity to share dinner with Bedouin nomads. The warmth of the day was absorbed by the sands, and the evening air was refreshing. “It gets cold as soon as the sun goes down,” Epperson remarked. “You need blankets and a sweatshirt to keep warm.”

Once the sun had settled Epperson and his friends gazed up at the expanse of the night sky. “You can see the stars so well,” he recalled. “It made me think of what the Israelites or the wise men must have seen.”

“Can see the stars so well [in the desert]. It made me think of what the Israelites or the wise men must have seen.”

- Heath Epperson

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Over 6,000 miles away from Orange City, Iowa, Epperson experienced parts of God’s world that most only dream of seeing. The Nile River, the the sunrise from Mount Sinai and ancient cities are just a few of the amazing things Epperson was able to see. Studying abroad may not have been in his original college plans, but he is grateful it became a part of them.

Traveling to Egypt allowed Epperson to form lasting connections with exotic places and diverse people—including those of ancient Israel. Such deep-seated connections will remain with him for a lifetime.
Spring Fashion Feature: Do you flip-flop?

**BY KILEY SELIGMAN**

Contribute Writer

It’s starting to warm up and toes are beginning to peek out to share in the warmth. Most students are starting to break out flip-flops now, though some people wear flip-flops all year round. “If there’s snow outside and the sidewalks have been plowed, flip-flops are free game. The only exception to this rule is if there is a below 20-degree wind chill,” said junior Amy Borchers.

Some say the flip-flop dates back to the time of the Egyptians, with sandals approximate to the flip-flop inscribed on their walls. Some say the Romans were the first to have a sandal that resembles the flip-flop. Some claim the sandal is based off a Japanese style. It is nearly impossible to pin down the exact era when this particular type of sandal began, because the sandal was not known by the current name.

No matter when they first appeared on earth, the flip-flop has most recently become popular after the era of the leather Doc Martens sandal. Going from these bulky, heavy sandals, the light flip-flop is like a warm summer breeze.

The first flip-flops were made from straw, leather, cowhide and grass. Today flip-flops are sometimes still made from straw and leather. However, they are now also made from plastic, rubber, beads, canvas and many other types of material.

“Flip-flop” refers to any type of sandal that goes between the toes. They can be flat or heeled, wedges or platforms, dressy or casual, cheap or expensive, for males or females. Flip-flops range from 99 cents at a dollar store up to hundreds of dollars that celebrities pay for their name brand sandals.

There are many great things about flip-flops. They only take a second to slip on as you run out the door late for class. There are styles to match every type of clothing. They allow your feet to match the tan of the rest of your body. They can be easily washed, and let girls show off their pedicured toenails.

So as the spring sun’s rays are starting to actually reach the earth, let your feet breathe. Whether you grab a trusty pair of flip-flops from seasons afore or treat yourself to some new ones, relish the feel of the wind between your toes and the sound of flip-flop wherever you go.

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**Words about feet:**

What is your favorite thing about flip flops?

Senior

Tom Bartello

“I don’t have to try to find a pair of socks.”

Freshman

Nicole Crandall

“I don’t like wearing shoes. I’d rather go barefoot, but I can’t do that so I wear flip-flops.”

Sophomore

Lindsey Haskins

“When I’m wearing flip-flops I know its summertime, and I love summertime!”

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**Bibles for Missions**

An opportunity to live out the message of service

**BY KRISTI KORVER**

Staff Writer

Simple living, stewardship, being the hands and feet of Jesus—these phrases are thrown around and discussed frequently at Northwestern, but who is living them out?

In August of 2007 Orange City’s Bibles for Missions opened its doors to live out the vision of the local Bible League. “To provide Scriptures and training worldwide, so that people prepared by the Holy Spirit will be brought into fellowship with Christ and His Church.”

Bibles for Missions, located just half a block west of Central Avenue at 116 2nd St. SW, has replaced Orange City’s former bowling alley and provides a new opportunity for service.

Jessica Bruinsma, the store’s only paid employee, is “amazed at how well things have gone” during this first year in operation. Bibles for Missions is a thrift store and, as the name suggests, their profits go toward buying and sending Bibles to people who don’t have them.

“To provide Scriptures and training worldwide, so that people prepared by the Holy Spirit will be brought into fellowship with Christ and His Church.”

- Bible League Mission Statement

Orange City’s Bibles for Missions has been focusing on sending Bibles to Haiti where many pastors don’t have a single copy of the Bible. Other Bibles for Missions stores have “adopted” spiritually hungry people in the countries of Mexico, Kenya, Bulgaria, Ecuador, Ukraine, China, Nigeria and the Philippines.

Bibles for Missions is a “win-win situation” in the words of Bruinsma because the ministry not only provides Bibles to people, but also encourages the Orange City community to recycle their goods. Instead of putting the coat that doesn’t fit in a landfill, it can be donated to the worthy ministry of Bibles for Missions. Used shoes, pants, handbags, scarves, gloves and hats are welcomed as well.

All donations are appreciated as right now is a slower time for the ministry. Bruinsma notes that furniture and housewares are especially good sellers as are books and clothing. Bibles for Missions does not accept appliances, light goods, organs or large TVs or stereos. All other donations in good condition are tax deductible.

Bruinsma is thankful for NW. She says that NW students are “some of the store’s best customers,” especially before events like Bingo Night.

But buying clothes for campus activities isn’t the only reason to shop there. Thrift stores can be great places to unexpectedly stumble upon antiques. You might be surprised to see just what you can find if you check out the store on the right day of the week.

It’s also a great place to spend some time giving back to the community or supporting a good cause. The store can always use volunteers to haul furniture, work the cash register or sort and price donations.

The store is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., on Thursday from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon. Bibles for Missions is a “win-win” ministry and a way for the NW community to practically act on the big ideas discussed on campus.

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PHOTO BY CLARE WINTER

Bibles for Missions Thrift Center is located just half a block off Central Avenue at 116 2nd St. SW.
Five runners take first at Wayne State

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Northwestern traveled to Wayne State this week to compete in an uncommon Monday meet, due to the cancellation of Saturday’s Red Raider Open. The team turned out five first-place finishes.

“This season has been somewhat of a scramble with the weather not being cooperative. Monday was a difficult day being a rescheduled meet, but I feel our team did a nice job managing the cards we were dealt.”
- Michael Ortmeier

Even with the tough weather, sophomore Steve Westerkamp emphasized the purpose of the team. “My life isn’t worth anything if it isn’t giving God glory. We try to give him glory when we compete especially.” Along with the five individual champions were 18 top-five finishes. Team scores were not recorded.

On the women’s side, Johnson and senior Laura Jacobson each took first place in their respective races. Johnson improved her national automatic qualifying time in the 1500-meter run to 4:39.10. Jacobson won the 800-meter run with 2:19.47. Freshman Kaitlin Beaver leaped to a 5-03.75 in the high jump, clearing 5-03.75, while junior Amy Katsma throw 38-07.5 in the shot put to finish fourth.

Sophomores Emily De Weerd and Halee Wilken rounded out the top five scorers for the women, getting fifth place in their events. De Weerd ran the 200-meter dash in a time of 27.12, while Wilken got 9:08.25 in the pole vault.

The men had three first-place finishers in Ortmeier, Westerkamp and freshman Logan Ogden. Ortmeier won the javelin with a throw of 157-10 and also cleared 6-04 in the high jump to place second. Westerkamp won the 400-meter dash with a time of 50.47. Ogden heaved the shot put 49-03.5 to capture the event, while his teammate, freshman Paul Landgren, placed third with 44-08.75. Landgren also captured fifth place in the discus with a toss of 138-01.

Sophomore Kyle Sauter was solid in the hurdle events, recording a 15.55 in the 110-meter high hurdles to finish third and a 57.75 in the 400-meter hurdles to take fifth. Sophomore Luke Hofmeyer also ended with two top-five finishes in the sprinting events, nabbing third in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.21 and fourth in the 200-meter dash with 23.44.

Senior Kyle Blankens took fifth in the 100-meter dash (11.27) and junior Jameson Guthmiller ran to fifth place in the 200-meter dash (23.56).

This weekend the Raiders will compete at the Doane Relays in Crete, Neb. Events will begin at 4 p.m. today and 11 p.m. on Saturday.

“Patience seems to be the lesson of the season, both with our training and the weather.”
- Olivia Johnson

Full Buffet
College Buffet only $6.49
after tax

Lunch buffet from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Evening buffet from 5 to 8 p.m.
Open Monday thru Saturday

Buffet includes:
Pizza Chicken
Potatoes Salad Bar
Cheesy Potatoes Pop
and much more!

“This year has been the best yet. It will be hard to walk away.”

BY BETH MOUW
SPORTS EDITOR

Joe Heitritter, the second oldest in a family of six children, grew up on a farm just outside of Boyden, Iowa. Much of his childhood was spent playing baseball with his grandpa and older brother, Paul. He recalls, “When I was a kid, after church we would go to my grandpa’s house and he would pitch to us.” He adds, “Grandpa would always tell us ‘You swing like a rusty gate.’”

Considering his performance history for the Northwestern baseball team, it would be safe to assume that Heitritter has improved considerably since his sandlot days. As a freshman, he batted .265 with 30 hits, 18 runs scored and eight RBIs. He was also second on the team with 19 walks and boasted a team-low 12 strikeouts among the regular starters. In his sophomore year, he improved to .292 on the season with 22 runs scored and 20 RBIs.

Junior year he again improved, this time to a .336. Heitritter admits that he doesn’t do anything special to prepare him for the competition, but he does say, “My only pre-game ritual is going to the bathroom three or four times before every game. Nerves sometimes get the best of me.”

The decision about whether or not to play baseball in college was not a hard one for Heitritter: “I was already planning to come to NW for school,” he said, “and baseball has always been too fun to give up, so I decided to continue playing here.” What he appreciates most about the NW baseball program is that “we’re good.” He explains, “I was on a less successful team as a freshman, which made it hard to enjoy this wonderful game.” Aside from the win-lose factor, Heitritter admits, “I have loved getting to know my teammates. Most of my greatest friends have been on the baseball team.”

Heitritter would be the first to admit that he “will miss being a college student.” However, he realizes, “It will be a great feeling when I get my diploma and realize that I made it.” He said of his college life, “I love sleeping till noon, wearing sweatpants as much as possible, and doing whatever I want to do.”

These luxuries will be greatly missed by Heitritter and his wife Kendra as they have volunteered to join the Peace Corps. The couple will likely leave around September for either Central or South America, where Joe will work with agriculture and Kendra as a teacher. “The idea to join came up one night and it seemed like the next night we began our applications,” Heitritter shares. “At this moment, we are really excited about it, but also nervous. He also admits, “I am dreading having to work because this last semester has been a typical senior semester.”

Still, he’s proud of his sociology major because “there were times when I doubted that I could make it.” However apprehensive he is about leaving college, though, Heitritter is singular in the fact that he hopes to miss his graduation, albeit for a worthy cause: “I hope that I won’t be here because we could be playing in the regional tournament finals.” It would certainly seem a fitting way to exit the college life and all it has given him.

Heitritter concludes, “I will really miss being a part of the baseball team. This year has been the best yet. It will be hard to walk away.”
SPORTS

Baseball scores 54 in doubleheaders

BY JONATHAN MEERDINK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Northwestern baseball team plated a whopping 54 runs in four conference games against GPAC rivals Dana and Midland Lutheran over the last week. The Raiders now stand at 14-2 in the conference.

NW 15, Dana 6
Eight Red Raiders combined for 18 hits to propel NW to victory in their home opener on April 14. The home team was actually behind 6-4 after three innings, but earned 11 runs in their next three sessions at the plate to win the game. Junior Grant Wall led the way with four hits. Seniors Codie Zeutenhorst and Joe Heitritter had three hits apiece, knocking in five runs between them. Senior Joe Grady pitched seven innings for the win.

NW 14, Dana 4
The second game of the home opening doubleheader was much like the first, with 14 hits pushing the team to victory. Balanced contributions were again key, with nine different Raiders earning hits. Zeutenhorst supplied three hits and three RBIs for the home team, while Wall, Heitritter, junior Jake Jansen and sophomore Justin Boersma each had two hits. Junior Trevor Kuiper pitched five innings for the Raiders to get his fourth win of the season.

NW 15, Midland Lutheran 13
Hits and runs were easy to find on April 16 in Fremont, Neb., with the teams combining for 28 of each in this GPAC slugfest. NW led 7-2 through four innings, but Midland rallied to tie the game at 10. The Raiders scored five runs in the top of the seventh and held off a late rally to get the win. Wall, Heitritter and sophomore Brad Payne each had three hits and two RBIs to lead NW.

NW 10, Midland Lutheran 1
The Red Raiders maintained their offensive hot streak to close out the sweep of this doubleheader. This time, 10 Raiders combined for 15 hits. Payne again had three hits and two RBIs. Boersma, Jansen and junior Austin Malone each had two hits for the Raider cause. Freshman Mike Zoellner went the distance for the Raiders, striking out seven Midland batters and giving up just one run in his third win of the season.

Men’s golf places seventh at Midland Lutheran Invite, Vermeer takes seventh

BY JON MEERDINK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Northwestern men’s golf team placed seventh out of eleven teams at the Midland Lutheran Men’s Invitational last Monday with a two-day score of 326.

The field was again tight as just 15 strokes separated the Raiders from first place. "We just didn’t play to our potential at Midland," said senior Nate Summers. "We’re all good for at least four strokes better than what we shot there."

Sophomore Luke Vermeer tied for seventh individually with a two-round score of 76. Junior Justin Pannkuk tied for tenth place with a 78. Senior Nate Summers posted an 84, good enough to take 35th. Summers commented, "We’re looking forward to playing better this weekend and gathering some momentum for the conference tournament."

Next up for the Raiders is the Buena Vista Spring Invite, which will take place today and tomorrow in Storm Lake.

Raider softball drops two to Midland, wins big at Dordt

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Northwestern swept GPAC rival Dordt 6-0 and 6-1 in a doubleheader on Tuesday and lost to Midland Lutheran on Wednesday, 3-1 and 10-2. The Red Raiders are now 16-4 overall and 6-6 in the GPAC.

NW 6, Dordt 1
Determan was again victorious from the mound as she pitched the complete first game against Dordt. She only gave up three hits and struck out her season-high 16 batters in the shutout. The Raiders scored their first run in the first inning, then added two in the sixth and three in the seventh. Curry led NW at the plate with three hits, two RBIs and one run. Senior Lizz Swanson added two hits, scored two runs and had two RBIs. Larson and freshman Stacey Godfrey also added one hit each.

NW 6, Dordt 1
Burrola pitched the complete second game against Dordt, allowing only five hits and one run. The Defenders scored their one run in the first inning, as the Raiders scored four in the fourth and two in the fifth. The offense had ten hits in the game. Swanson, along with freshmen Rachel Harris and Stephanie Van Duyn, each had two hits. Godfrey belted a two-run double and Curry scored three runs.

"In both games, the defense did a great job of making plays and backing up their pitchers," said Burrola. "Offensively, the hitters did well hitting the ball hard and putting hits together in order to score when it counted most."

The Raider women will host Dana today and Nebraska Wesleyan tomorrow in two GPAC doubleheaders. Game one of today’s match-up will start at 5 p.m. Tomorrow’s competition is set to start at 1 p.m.
Weekend to bring plethora of events
Battle of the Mighty Floyd, Ballyhoo, The Bridge Sleepout

BY SARA JANZEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the end of the semester quickly approaching, the Student Activities Council (SAC) has planned several events for students.

This Saturday, April 19, students are invited to Alton to observe one of NW’s oldest traditions: the Battle of the Mighty Floyd. SAC Adviser Lori Couch said the raft race goes back to the early 1960s. The race requires participants to construct their own rafts out of salvaged materials to race down the Floyd River.

The Battle of the Mighty Floyd begins at 1 p.m. by the bridge on Highway 10 over the Floyd and ends in Alton.

One of the biggest changes to the event is that this year oars must be handmade, where in previous years contestants could use real oars.

On Saturday at 10 p.m. Ballyhoo will be held in Christ Chapel. Ballyhoo is an annual talent contest in which students are encouraged to show off whatever talents they have.

This year Couch said the SAC was “a little concerned” by students’ slow response because students seemed willing to attend the event but reluctant to perform.

“We’re evaluating if this is an event NW wants next year,” said Couch. “Even though some of the acts came in last minute they’re good and definitely worth coming to see.”

Although this year’s Ballyhoo is highly musical, SAC President Rachel King encourages students to think outside the box.

“It’s not that we don’t want the music,” said King. “We do, but we encourage people to do things that aren’t related to singing or dancing.”

Between the different Ballyhoo acts SAC will be showing the NWC YouTube entries. This year the videos will be judged by students randomly selected from the audience.

Juried art show

BY KEVIN WALLACE
STAFF WRITER

Northwestern’s 41st annual Juried Student Art Exhibition will be on display in the Te Paske Art Gallery until May 2.

The exhibition gives students the chance to compare their works competitively and have the results of the competition exhibited. Artwork from a myriad of mediums are on display; all the pieces were made in a NW art class, however, not all the artists are art majors or even minors.

Judging the competition was Peter Sheesely, an instructor of art at Dordt College. After judging the pieces on the opening night of the show on April 15, Sheesely gave a gallery talk introducing the winners.

Senior Mark Alsum signs a piece entitled “Contemplation 72” by Emily Sweet during the Juried Art Show open house.