Problems solved: “Fabulous” performance at computer science competition

BY RACHEL RIETSEMA
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Northwestern College proved their skills in the North Central region of the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest on Nov. 15. The NW representatives included Ben Kester, a senior actuarial science and computer science major from Urbandale, Iowa; John Calsbek, a junior computer science major from Orange City; and Curt Van Wyk, a senior mathematics teaching and computer science major from George, Iowa. The team of three made their way to the top by placing fourth among 201 squads.

They solved all nine problems, falling behind the teams from the University of Nebraska, Iowa State and the University of Wisconsin.

This trio placed first at the University of Nebraska, Iowa State and the University of Wisconsin, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and western Ontario and Manitoba in Canada.

According to Michael Wallinga, instructor in computer science, the boys’ performance was “fabulous.” He said that never before had the team answered all of the problems correctly. The team worked on the easiest problems first. After getting the last couple of problems wrong, their methodical approach led to victory.

“John, Ben and Curt are all phenomenal students,” Wallinga said. “They put in a lot of time preparing for the contest and set their sights pretty high. For them to perform at this level is an amazing accomplishment.”

News may arrive by January as to whether or not their ranking makes them eligible to compete among 100 teams in the world finals next April in Stockholm, Sweden. This is the third straight year that NW’s win has ranked them in the top 10 regionally.

Calsbek has been a member of all three winning teams with Kester joining him in 2006. In 2007, Van Wyk joined them. Three more NW teams participated in the competition, solving three, two and one problems, respectively.

“It’s quite impressive for a department of our size to have this level of participation,” said Wallinga. “We’re proud of all of the students who participated.”

The competition challenges students to solve real-world problems using open technology and advanced computing methods within a five hours time period. In order to succeed, Wallinga said that teams need to be able to work under time pressure, demonstrate creativity and teamwork and decipher which problems are within their capability to solve.

Huddled around a single computer, teams of three students collaborate to deduce the requirements, design test beds and build software systems under the scrutiny of expert judges. The winning team is the one that solves the most problems in the fewest attempts within the least amount of time.

Over 6,000 college and university teams from 83 countries are participating in the competition, which is in its 33rd year and is sponsored by IBM.

SGA gets practical: Small changes make big waves

BY JENNA BOOTE
NEWS EDITOR

Northwestern’s Student Government Association has met with members of the administration regarding a number of recent issues on campus.

Explained President Carson Norine, “This year, SGA is working on being practical. It’s a change for us, from recent history, to start doing stuff like putting printers in the RSC instead of fighting for policy changes.”

Wednesday, Nov. 20 marked the beginning of Trayless Week in the cafeteria. During the week, students will not be allowed to use trays to carry their food. Trays will be returned on Wednesday, Nov. 26.

Senior class representative Tyler Nesper explains, “The goal of Trayless Week is not to make students’ lives inconvenient or make them hate SGA. The goal of trayless week is feedback. We wanted to take [trays] away to see how the students feel about it, and we felt that one week would give students enough time to adjust to not having trays and allow us to collect accurate feedback.”

Also of recent concern to members was the change in policy regarding chapel waivers. Contrary to some students’ interpretation, the change is only in regards to lunch issues. Students unable to eat lunch on Tuesdays due to classes on either side of the chapel hour will no longer be allowed free credits.

According to administration, the policy change was a result of a dramatic increase in requested waivers and is reflective of the important role chapel has always played in the NW community. Both off-campus work and early field experience for education majors allow students to receive waivers, and members discussed whether nursing majors involved in clinicals should also be awarded credits.

Additionally, an anonymous donor has expressed interest in donating a large screen television to be used in the Rowenhorst Student Center, and members of the SGA have debated the best location for the donation.

Vice President senior Sophie Eicher commented, “We want to make the student center an actual student center, a place where people can come and hang out and be comfortable. We’re not sure what that means yet, whether it’s better furniture or another television, but we’re doing our best to find out what students want.”

The group has also begun phoning alumni in an effort to raise funds for new exercise equipment, and are considering applying for grant monies.

“Some changes are small and some are big, but all are necessary,” Norine added.

Northwestern Alert works

BY JENNA BOOTE
NEWS EDITOR

Northwestern Alert proved its stripes, or, more appropriately, its “scroll” on several occasion in the past two weeks.

On Wednesday, Nov. 12, the system was used to aid in the search for a missing student. Around 12:20 p.m., the alert changed to a hazardous materials warning. The alert advised students to remain inside and close their windows and doors.

Members of the Emergency Planning Team (EPT) were happy to report that information from the system was useful in remedying the situation.

Director of Computing Services Harlan Jorgenson explained how the mistake occurred. A few weeks prior, the system had been tested and “pre-conceived” messages had been assigned to various categories. When the “information” scroll was selected to send the all-clear message regarding the missing student, a “pre-conceived” HAZMAT message was instead sent.

Continued on Page 8
The historical significance of the recent election is impossible to ignore. Forty-four years after the Civil Rights Act, our nation seems to take it for granted, but it's still an incredible victory. In 1964, the U.S. Census reported 321,000 unions were interracial. By 2010, the number jumped to 1.5 million and has been steadily increasing since then.

I am proud to see that our nation is headed in the right direction. Many of my great-grandparents probably had some strong feelings about people of another race. Some of our grandparents and even parents may still hold some of these beliefs, but it seems each generation of society is breaking away from the attitudes of the past.

I don't want to downplay the problem of racial issues that still exist today. After the election of Barack Obama in 2008, the media reported numerous stories of hate crimes and racial threats. These are not issues that are suddenly occurring again in our society; the threats just receive more attention when they are directed at a public figure. Little bits of racism are still present in the backs of our minds. We're a little more hesitant about people of other races. I believe that these attitudes come from some of the media and from some members of society who remember the way things used to be. Thankfully, though, we are learning to think independently!

I'm not saying we should see people of other races as someone "just like us." One race is a part of who we are. It gives us a unique personality and distinct experiences and lifestyles. I grew up going to a predominantly white school until my family moved to a "high-minority" school district. I had lots of interaction there with other students of different cultures. On one hand, we were just teammates, classmates and friends, the same as we were with people of our own race. On the other hand, I was able to learn some things from our interaction and develop a different point of view.

My ISP team last spring spoke seven different languages. We were a blend of several different cultures, and many of our team members, regardless of race, had very different personalities, backgrounds and beliefs. We were all able to share our common love for the Lord and even began to call our team a family. I learned a ton about different countries and lifestyles on that trip. I was challenged in my view of the world. I began to call our team a family. I learned a ton about different countries and many of our team members, who remember the way things used to be. Thankfully, though, we are learning to think independently!

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Swift’s sophomore album lives up to name

**BY RACHEL RIETSEMA** ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Ever since pop-country music fans heard the lyrics to the song “Tim McGraw,” Taylor Swift has been an artist to watch out for. In her sophomore album, “Fearless,” Swift’s exceptional storytelling abilities continue as she ventures beyond the halls of high school.

In her debut album, she distinguished herself with a collection of songs that were written solely by Swift, with one of them being her current hit, “Love Story,” which is at the top of the charts and not budging.


Swift’s craft makes sure that one of the catchier tunes entitled “Hey Stephen,” stays in listeners’ minds long after the album. “You Belong With Me” and “Shake It Off” are her current hits, and the girl getting the dream guy. However, although she sings of brilliance, the understated song takes the common life and spices it up with lyrics that speak of brilliance.

Swift’s sophomore album, “Fearless,” is truly “flawless, really flawless,” according to listeners. Although not overcrowding with literary brilliance, “Three Cups of Tea” doesn’t need persuasive rhetoric to convince readers that Greg Mortenson’s work is a noble and necessary conquest. What began as a disappointing failure to climb K2 led Mortenson and CAI to accomplish things never before thought possible.

The emotions in “Fearless” will keep Swift in the spotlight. Like the first kiss described in the title track, experiencing Swift’s new album will be truly “flawless, really something.” It lives up to its name; it’s “Fearless.”

“Three Cups of Tea” promotes peace and education

**BY KADY BRAM** FEATURES WRITER

Part informational and all inspirational, the book “Three Cups of Tea,” co-written by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin, deserves its place on the shelves. The story of Greg Mortenson’s life and the events that lead him to a lifetime commitment of providing and improving education for young children in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

At the age of thirty-five, Mortenson determined to scale the world’s second highest peak—K2. In short, Mortenson’s expedition failed and he was forced to turn back only six hundred meters from the summit. On his way down, in a state of absolute exhaustion and near delirium, he wandered away from his guide and off course into the remote and secluded village of Korphe in Baltistan, a province in northernmost Pakistan. The result of his unexpected visit there took the form of a promise that he has committed to spending the rest of his life fulfilling.

Mortenson recovered under the care and overwhelming hospitality of Korphe’s impoverished citizens. On his last day before returning home to the States, the village chief took Mortenson to view Korphe’s school. When he saw there astounded him. Young children—seventy-eight boys and four girls—sat atop a hill overlooking K2 and its surrounding peaks.

Although not overcrowding with literary brilliance, “Three Cups of Tea” doesn’t need persuasive rhetoric to convince readers that Greg Mortenson’s work is a noble and necessary conquest. What began as a disappointing failure to climb K2 led Mortenson and CAI to accomplish things never before thought possible. To date, Mortenson has overseen the construction of fifty-five schools for young boys and girls in remote villages all over Pakistan and Afghanistan, and plans for future projects are underway with no signs of letting up.

“Love Story” continues to tug at those hearts that still believe in fairy tale endings. This fresh take on Romeo and Juliet’s romance allows listeners to sneak out to the garden with that special someone. Struggles inevitably fall upon the couple, but good news comes when Romeo says to “go pick out a white dress.” Swift’s craft makes way for something believable, “a love that’s difficult, but real.

Another song worth noting is “The Best Day.” Unlike the rest of the typical “boy songs,” it depicts the love between a daughter and her parents. With no chorus to lean on for support, it leads listeners to reminisce about wonderful days spent with their own families. This understated song takes the common life and spiced it up with lyrics that speak of brilliance.

Swift makes sure that one of the catchier tunes entitled “Hey Stephen,” stays in listeners’ minds all day long. Throwing rocks at a boy’s window may be a little cliché, but the song is still relatable. For those on the verge of confessing their affection for someone Hollywood wouldn’t deem perfect, this song might prove useful. If nothing else, this tune may cause uncontrollable humming, swaying back and forth and maybe a smile or two.

Fairy tales don’t come true in the song “White Horse,” which may seem contradictory after listening to “Love Story.” Regardless, Swift rises above the anger associated with breakups seen in her first album. This new level of emotion may pave the way for a catharsis upon crying the words: “I’m gonna find someone someday who might actually treat me well.”

The emotions in “Fearless” will keep Swift in the spotlight. Like the first kiss described in the title track, experiencing Swift’s new album will be truly “flawless, really something.” It lives up to its name; it’s “Fearless.”

Listen and enjoy “And God Said”

**KRISTI KORVER** ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The encore showing of “Terror Texts” opened on Nov. 14, but there was no encore a year later for “And God Said,” the 2004 musical Professor Jeff Barker created in collaboration with Broadway composer Ron Melrose. But for those who want to hear the musical again, it is now available on CD.

Like “Terror Texts,” the script and lyrics for “And God Said” are drawn exclusively from the Old Testament. The text becomes song 14 times in the musical. Some of these songs, such as “Ritual” and “Confessional Prayer,” are transitions between stories. Other songs like, “The Broken Heart of David” and “Sarah Laughs,” are God’s words.

The CD also includes “The Battle Song of Deborah,” a song thought by some to be the oldest song written by a woman. The demo was recorded in New York City in March 2007 using several NW alumni and the Professors Jeff and Karen Barker as background singers. It was produced and mixed by Kenny Seymour at KMW Entertainment Studios. Album design and cover art was done by Vaughn K. Donahue.

The music has an ancient and melodic sound to it with a variety of musical instruments. Anyone who wishes to own a copy of the CD should contact the theatre office. The artists desire that the CD inspires other churches, schools and theatres to consider performing the Bible.
Car accidents, injuries and lost voices... Still, the children's show went on

BY LEANN JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

From a child audience member ripping up a prop during a performance to an actor breaking his toe, the Northwestern theatre department’s children’s show had its share of small problems to overcome. However, this year’s cast also had to rise above much more serious setbacks.

According to student assistant director, senior Jean Punt, the first several weeks of rehearsals and the first couple of shows went terrific. “Then things just started happening.”

Senior Margareta DeBoer, one of the six members in the cast, was hit by a car while riding her bike on a crosswalk five days after the opening show. After being released from the hospital with a fractured shoulder and many pulled muscles, DeBoer thought, “Oh good! I can still do the show.”

However, after arriving home and discovering she could not even sit up by herself, DeBoer realized she would not be able to perform in that Thursday’s show.

Punt stepped in and played DeBoer’s part using the script for the next two shows.

DeBoer refused to quit the show, however, and took notes on one of the next performances so she could figure out what changes would need to take place for her to be back in the show.

DeBoer’s reasoning for continuing with the show was “when you sign your initials saying you’ll take the role, you take that commitment.”

DeBoer decided to act in the next show only a week and two days after her accident. “Not being there affected all of [the actors] and the kids coming to see it.”

Some blocking was changed due to DeBoer’s limited range of motion, but otherwise the show was back to normal.

During the next couple of shows, DeBoer actually described herself as being “in the healthier group.”

One actor, junior Jon Manchester, got sick backstage during a show but still managed not to miss any of his speaking parts. He injured his wrist in another play’s rehearsal, lost his voice so he had to use a microphone and broke his toe. Through all of this, he still performed.

Another actor, sophomore Eduardo Rodriguez, hurt his knee in a longboarding accident, requiring more blocking adjustments in the show.

Punt said, “Then came the biggest problem.” Rodriguez lost his voice.

After going to the doctor, he found out he had strained his vocal chords and was given orders not to talk for several weeks. “It’s kind of hard to perform and refrain from speaking at the same time,” said Punt, “so I took his role for the rest of the run of the show, which totaled six performances.”

Despite all these obstacles, the children’s show never missed a single performance. According to Punt, “We wanted so much for these children to hear the stories and, for some of them, have their first theatre experience.”

“The shows that we should have struggled with the most, we just focused harder,” DeBoer said. “When someone got injured or was struggling, the whole cast stepped up. There was no question. That’s just what’s done.”

Several weeks of rehearsals and committing the show to memory, but still managed to not miss a single performance. According to Punt, “We wanted so much for these children to hear the stories and, for some of them, have their first theatre experience.”

“The shows that we should have struggled with the most, we just focused harder,” DeBoer said. “When someone got injured or was struggling, the whole cast stepped up. There was no question. That’s just what’s done.”

“This group of actors has transformed into a family of friends,” said Punt. “It wasn’t just one person keeping the show going. It was always an ensemble working to make it possible.”

Top four free spyware removal downloads

BY LEANN JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Northwestern students use their computers on a daily, sometimes hourly basis. This is why spyware problems on a computer can be frustrating and hindering to a student’s life.

However, the Internet provides hope for students in the form of free downloads that can identify and remove destructive spyware, malware, adware and oftentimes viruses.


According to maker Lavasoft, Ad-Aware 2008 has “the ability to scan your RAM, Registry, hard drives and external storage devices for known data-mining, advertising and tracking components.” It also includes “an improved threat detection, enhanced rootkit removal system, faster updates and Lavasoft ThreatWork to submit suspicious files for analysis.”

The editors of download.com gave Ad-Aware 2008 a four-out-of-five star rating. Although the program “detects and removes malware with ease,” the editors only recommend it as a “secondary detection engine” because other anti-spyware programs offer free downloads with more features and stronger protection.

The second most popular download is Malwarebytes’ Anti-Malware, which according to NW’s Computing Services’ help desk manager Tina Jansen, “removes malware and other malicious software from your computer.”

Jansen describes malware as “one of the latest threats to be aware of whose damage can range from annoying pop-ups, redirection of Internet Links, change of DNS or TCP address or loss of files.”

According to malwarebytes.org, Anti-Malware works on Windows 2000, XP and Vista and can “stop malicious processes before they even start.”

Download.com gave this program a four-star rating for the program’s speediness, effectiveness and features, the option to scan-on-demand for individual files and the FileAssassin tool that removes locked files.

One drawback to this download is that automatic protection is only offered in a paid version and not in the free trial.

Spybot-Search & Destroy is the third most popular download. One of its main features is its ability to “clean program and Web-usage tracks from your system, which is especially useful if you share your computer.”

The newest version “features improved speed for on-demand scans, support for a dozen different browsers and easier on-access use.”

Spybot-Search & Destroy received a three-star rating due to its “tendency to lock up” and because it sometimes “makes errors in flagging spyware that isn’t.”

Download.com recommends this download only as a second antispyware program for computer users.

The fourth most popular download, SpywareBlaster, “doesn’t scan for and clean spyware—it prevents it from being installed in the first place.”

SpywareBlaster also “prevents the installation of ActiveX-based spyware, adware, dialers, browser hijackers and other potentially unwanted programs” and can “block spyware/tracking cookies in many different browsers.”

It also “includes a System Snapshot feature, which lets you take a snapshot of your computer in its clean state and later revert, undoing many changes made by spyware and browser hijackers.”

Although the editors did not rate this download, the average user rating was four-out-of-five stars.
Life as an academic can be Sigma Tauastic

BY AMANDA KEUHIN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

This past May, 10 Northwestern juniors shared supper in the back room of Nederlandter's Grill. Following the meal, Joel Westerholm, professor of English, closed off the room, solemnly lit a candle and pulled out a tattered notebook. It was time to induct the new members of Sigma Tau.

Westerholm, faculty sponsor of the senior honor society for the past 15 years, went on to explain that it was time to induct the new members of Sigma Tau, founded in the early 1960s, icon of the oldest institutions on campus.

It was started by Lyle Vander Werff, a former NW professor of religion, in order to provide an opportunity for bright students to converse with one another and do things together, including serving the community.

The mission of Sigma Tau—to stimulate intellectual engagement and community—have since been superseded by larger organizations, including the Honors Program and the Campus Ministry Team, but the original society remains for the sake of tradition.

"It doesn't have its original functions," Westerholm agreed, "but I think the college ought to honor people's accomplishments, so I don't really object to the notion of having an honor society that is largely a social group. Why not reward such hard-working people by letting them enjoy some time together?"

"It's a group of people pretending not to be pretentious, but who secretly revel in pretentiousness." - Sara Moser

Sigma Tau is rather unique in that its members have little to do with their own membership. During the spring semester, the registrar's office puts together a list of the top 10 percent of the junior class by G.P.A. and sends it out to the faculty for vote. Submitted votes are compiled and the top ten students become next year's Sigma Tau.

This year's members include: Jenna Boote, Tyler De Jong, Jameson Guthmiller, Ben Kester, Rachel Kleinassam, Amanda Kuehn, Brittany Lassen, Sara Moser, Jessica Post and Joshua Van Der Maaten.

Prior to that evening, in May, many of Sigma Tau's members were unaware of the society's existence.

"I had no idea what Sigma Tau was before I was elected to it," said Post. "And I do not appreciate...the impression of superiority it leaves. I don't think my specific God given talents are any more deserving of such treatment than the talent of the bottom ten students in our class."

Kester was familiar with the group due to his relationship with one of last year's members. From Kester's perception, the organization is "a campus honors society that provides a variety of activities for academically-minded students."

Moser, who also knew of the group's existence prior to her inclusion, described Sigma Tau as, "A group of people pretending not to be pretentious, but who secretly revel in pretentiousness."

When asked how she would describe the group, fellow member Kleinassam replied, "It's a secret society—I can't tell you."

Post feels differently. "Sigma Tau is the most nerdy honor I have ever received, and thus I do not claim it very readily," she said.

The group organizes their own events and attempts to get together several times a semester to go out to dinner, take in a concert, discuss a play or join together in service projects.

In October, several members of Sigma Tau joined congregants of Faith Lutheran in Orange City as they served at The Banquet, an organization that serves food and fellowship to the hungry of Sioux Falls, S.D.

The group tries to do a variety of activities, but nothing can please everyone. "Just because one gets good grades, that doesn't mean they like listening to orchestra music," Post pointed out.

In December, Sigma Tau will join together for Westerholm's favorite event of the year, the post-Vespers Christmas party he hosts.

"Since taking on the role of faculty sponsor, Westerholm has seen events flop and flourish." The conversations," he said "are the best part. These are bright people who engage each other in some pretty substantial ways."

Did you know? Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving too!

BY ANNE EBBERLINE
STAFF WRITER

Thanksgiving evokes thoughts of food and family, pilgrims and Native Americans, football and afternoon naps—everything that makes an American holiday. However, this autumnal celebration is not unique to the United States. Canadians also teach the same colonial story that is the basis for the holiday. "We learned about until I came here," said junior Emily De Weerd. "And who doesn't like to get a movie for Christmas?"

5. Go out for dinner with friends and consider that a present instead of buying a gift for each person.
6. Don't buy anything for yourself and friends a good distance from home. It can happen and you need an extra five bucks."

8. Turn your schoolwork into presents. Some majors have creative projects that can be great presents. Cinema majors could give someone one of their videos. Writing majors could give a story or poem they wrote. Music majors could write a song or record a CD for family and friends.

9. Shop online. Many stores offer more clearance items on their websites than they do in each store. However, be sure to watch out for shipping and handling prices, which can sometimes make clearance prices as expensive as normal.

"Even though we are college students, that is not an excuse to not be frugal," said junior Emily Mortensen. "Therefore, we need to save so that we can still offer things to the people that we love."
**Sports**

**Raiders lose close games to Division I USD and dominate College of St. Mary**

**BY BETH MOUW**

**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

The Northwestern women’s basketball team lost to NCAA Division I University of South Dakota Wednesday night at home and beat the College of Saint Mary in a decisive victory in Omaha, Neb. last Saturday.

“I have been very pleased with the progress of the basketball team,” commented Head Coach Earl Woudstra. “We have a lot of young players and only a few players who had a significant varsity playing role last year.”

NW 61, USD 69

The Red Raiders were defeated by the USD Coyotes Wednesday night at the Brian Center. NW fell to a 4-4 overall record in all non-conference games while USD improved to 2-1.

The Coyotes jumped ahead by five points before the Red Raiders went on a seven point run to take a 14-12 lead. The score was tied at 18 when NW went on an eight point run to grab its largest lead of the game, 26-18 with 6:56 left in the half. The Coyotes came back with a vengeance and outscored the Raiders 15-4 to take a 33-30 halftime lead.

USD scored four points to begin the second half before the Raiders cut the deficit to two points when freshman Kamal Kuhlmann sunk a three-pointer. A 12-2 Coyote run gave them their biggest lead, 55-40, with eight minutes left in the game. NW went on a 10-3 run to close the gap to eight points but couldn’t get any closer as time ran out.

The Raiders shot 35 percent from the floor and 30 percent from behind the three point line. Kuhlmann scored 14 points, 11 in the second half, before she fouled out with the team down 12 points left in the game. Freshman Val Kleijnan netted 11 points and dished out six assists. Sophomore Kristin Neth and junior Anna Anderson each scored nine points and pulled down six rebounds apiece.

NW 106, CSM 59

The Raider women started strong in the first half against the College of St. Mary and went into the locker room at halftime with a 55-35 lead. The second half was much the same as the first with Coach Woudstra’s squad outscoring the Flames 51-24.

“We have tons of talent on the team,” said junior Anna Anderson. “Offensively we push the ball well and have good ball movement.”

The statistics agree. While holding CSM to a mere 29 percent in shooting, the Raider women were almost 60 percent from the field and 40 percent from behind the arch.

Six players scored in double figures, led by sophomore Kristin Neth and freshman Val Kleijnan with 17 points each. Kleijnan sank 5-of-12 three point attempts, and Neth pulled down a game-high 11 rebounds on her way to her first double-double. Sophomore Becca Hurley added 16 points off the bench and post players Anderson and sophomore Amy Kallemeyn added 11 and 14 points, respectively. Both Kallemeyn (7-of-7) and Anderson (5-of-5) were perfect from the floor and combined for 12 rebounds. Freshman Katie Nieuwma collected ten points and four assists off the bench for NW.

Anderson reflected, “We are a young team in terms of experience at the varsity collegiate level, but regardless of that, we have done some really great things and we keep improving.”

Woudstra agrees and adds “The women on the team worked very hard in the pre-season to prepare. I have been really impressed with the way they have been sharing the basketball. It really shows up in very balanced scoring, and a balanced number of assists. I believe we will be able to compete well with any team in our very competitive conference.”

The Raider women will host Dordt College next Tuesday, Nov. 25. Tip-off is set for 6 p.m.

**Spotlight on Senior Athletes**

The fall sports season has come to a close for most Red Raider athletes, and with the season ending the teams say goodbye to their seniors. These students have dedicated countless hours of their time to their teams and to representing Northwestern. They learned to be leaders not only with their play but with their lives and they will be greatly missed by teammates, classmates and fans of NW.

**Men’s Cross Country**

Ryan Dembeck of San Diego, Calif., is the son of John and Cindy. Dembeck says the best thing about being a Red Raider cross country runner is Dale Thompson.

**Women’s Cross Country**

Kelsey Driver from Le Mars, Iowa, is the daughter of Brain and Sheri. Her favorite memory during her college cross country career is “getting stuck at Wendy’s in Yankton Iowa, is the daughter of Paul and Bonnie. Her hometown is Huxley, Iowa.

**Football**

Blake Groeneweg, an offensive lineman from Rock Valley, Iowa, is the son of Arlin and Carla. Groeneweg says the best part about being a Red Raider is the way the coaches shape their athletes into better people in all aspects of life.

Jen Handsaker from Radcliffe, Iowa, is the son of Paul and Bonnie. Handsaker playlinebacker for the Red Raiders.

D.J. Hansen, son of Dirk and Melinda, is from Paulina, Iowa. The wide receiver’s advice to underclassmen is “to enjoy your time as a Red Raider because it goes fast.”

Nathan Jansen, NW linebacker, is the son of Kevin and Nancy. Jansen is from Orange City, Iowa.

Tyler Meekma from Orange City, Iowa, is the son of Terry and Rachel. Meekma played tight end for the Red Raiders and says his favorite memory is beating Concordia on a last second play and celebrating like crazy.

Jordan Menning of Edgerton, Minn., is the son of Ron and Kim. Menning played on the offensive line, and his favorite NW football memory is making the playoffs and playing in the quarterfinals in 2006.

Seth Moen’s favorite memory is going to Italy the summer after his freshman year with the football team. The wide receiver from Inwood, Iowa, is the son of Dan and Pam.

Tim Naiman, son of Mike and Jan, is from Longmont, Colo. The fullback said his favorite memory was last year’s midnight game against Doane after the bus blew a tire on the way down and a thunderstorm delayed the game.

Kyle Ochsner, of Sutton, Neb., is the son of Lon and Linda. The running back’s favorite memory is scoring his first varsity touchdown at one in the morning.

Tony Otten, the son of Orv and Ev, is from Orange City, Iowa. He played defensive end for the Raiders.

Matt Roesner from Orange City, Iowa, played quarterback for the NW. Roesner, the son of Steve and Laurie, said his favorite thing about being a Raider is the chance to go out and compete against the best every day in practice.

Cody Van Sloten, son of Gary and Barb, is from Doon, Iowa. The defensive end’s favorite memory is returning his first interception this year for touchdowns and getting kicked out of the end zone by the referee because they were celebrating too long.

**Men’s Soccer**

Chris Bergst, of Colorado Springs, Colo., is the son of Mike and Kim. Bergst said that the best thing about being a Red Raiders soccer player was having the Heemstra Hecklers at every home game and even some away.

Steven Grand was a midfielder for NW. Grand’s hometown is North Branch, Minn., and he is the son of Peter and Gina.

Kyle Heynen was a forward for the NW soccer team. Heynen, of Boyden, Iowa, is the son of Bruce and Kim.

Matt Hulnerkoch of Georgetown, Ind., is the son of Marla and Bryan. The Raider defender’s favorite memory of his college athletic career is going to nationals after beating Hastings twice.

Andrew Jansen, son of Daryl and Joa, is from Sioux Falls, S.D. The midfielder’s favorite memories were going to the national tournament and the Heemstra Hecklers.

Brady McNellis was a defender on the NW soccer team. The son of Vince and Penni, his hometown is Kearney, Mo.

Caleb Tilstro of Northfield, Minn., played outside defender for the Raiders. The son of Darwin and Lydia, his favorite thing about being a Red Raider is that the fans are unmatch and the relationships made are genuine.

**Women’s Soccer**

Tara Blatt of Des Moines, Iowa, was a defensive player for the NW soccer team. Blatt said that the best thing about being a Red Raider soccer player was having the Heemstra Hecklers at every home game and even some away.

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Volleyball falls to Morningside in GPAC championship

BY BETH MOUW
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Northwestern volleyball team dropped three straight games to the Morningside Mustangs in the GPAC Championship game Saturday night in the Bultman Center. The disappointing loss broke the Raiders’ 16-match win streak and puts them at 27-7 overall. The loss also dropped NW to the number ten spot in the rankings, which is still high enough to grant them an automatic national tournament berth. The win gave the Mustangs their second straight GPAC championship.

The Raider women started the first set with five straight points, but Morningside soon tied it at seven. After another tie at nine, Morningside pulled ahead again to secure a 25-19 victory. The Mustangs came out strong in the second set and grabbed an early 6-1 lead before cruising to a 29-15 victory. Although set three saw both teams hold the lead early on, the Raiders were unable to rally back completely and dropped the final set 25-18.

The key to the Mustangs’ victory was holding NW to .156 in hitting for the match. Freshman Kylee Hulstein led the Raiders with 12 kills and hit .333 for the match. Junior Randa Hulstein hit .381 and tallied 10 kills and seven blocks. Sophomore Karlin Beaver lofted up 27 assists and junior Janna Bloemendaal led the defense with 14 digs.

Because NW was ranked in the top 12, they earn a first-round bye and head to the final championship site, Sioux City, from Dec. 2 to 6. Head Coach Kyle Van Den Bosch said, “We are preparing ourselves to play hard. We could play five days in a row of intense volleyball.”

The Northwestern men traveled to Davenport last weekend for the Pepsi Men’s Basketball Challenge and lost both games. The Red Raiders fall to a 2-3 record in all non-conference games.

NW 89, Olivet Nazarene 101

In the first game of the tournament on Friday, the Raiders jumped to an early 14-13 lead. Junior Michael Jiskoot made a basket with just over ten minutes left before halftime to give NW their biggest lead of the game, 30-22. Then Olivet Nazarene pulled themselves together and outscored NW 20-6 in the next five minutes. The Raiders battled back and pulled within five, 50-45, at the half.

NW closed the gap to three at the beginning of the second half, but the Tigers pulled away again with a run of ten points. Junior Ben Brown made two free throws to bring the Raiders within eight points, but they could not close the gap any further and Olivet Nazarene went on to win, 101-89.

The Raiders shot 33 percent from the field as well as from the three-point line. Olivet Nazarene shot 55 percent from the field but NW held them to only 32 percent from behind the three-point line. Brown led the scoring effort with 22 points. Senior Kyle Wiertzema added 21 points and five assists. Jiskoot had 14 points, sixrebounds and two assists and junior Brent Dunkelberger added a career-high 11 points. Senior Andrew Stimson dished out seven assists and junior Travis Van Regenmorter pulled down six rebounds.

NW 67, St. Ambrose 81

The Raiders played the host St. Ambrose on Saturday. The Bees took off right from the start, scoring the first eight points of the game. They continued to pull away and built a 25-11 lead with 12 minutes left in the first half.

NW closed the gap to four points within eight minutes before NW began to fight back. The Raiders closed the gap to four points with only four minutes left in the half, but St. Ambrose scored ten unanswered points to end the half ahead 40-28.

NW scored the first two baskets of the second half, but the Bees pulled away again and led by as many as 20 points to finish the game 81-67.

Wiertzema scored 26 points to lead the Raiders, who shot 38 percent from the field and 35 percent from the three-point line. St. Ambrose shot 49 percent from the field and 50 percent from behind the three-point line. Brown and Stimson scored eleven points each and Brown pulled down seven rebounds. Freshman Alex Huiskin dished out four assists.

NW is scheduled to play in the USF Classic this weekend, taking on Nebraska Christian tonight at 6 p.m. and St. Ambrose again tomorrow at 4 p.m.

Three more wrestlers qualify for nationals

BY CAMERON CARLOW
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In only two tournaments, Northwestern’s wrestling team has already qualified five athletes for the National Tournament. Seniors Claudel Noel and Cole Spree qualified on Nov. 1 at the NAIC Open. At the DWU Open last weekend the Raiders added three more to the list – seniors Levi Price and Tom Eaton and sophomore Clay Bosch.

Price wrestled the 157 weight class and finished third. He went 4-1 on the day, also qualifying him for the National Tournament. “Tom is a real in-your-face kind of wrestler,” said Head Coach Rik Dahl.

Wakefield also qualified for the National Tournament, going 6-1 on the day and finishing in third. His record this year as a whole sits at 9-3. This is quite a rebound for Wakefield, who only put up four wins all last season.

The turnaround “just shows how much Clay worked in the offseason and how he works during practice,” said Dahl. Raider wrestlers finished with a record of 18-12 for the day.

In his first year as head coach, Dahl would like to “get to know guys and build rapport.” He would also like to take “each individual athlete’s skill and let them use that” while he throws in his own touch here and there.

Dahl said, “I was really impressed with the guys’ work ethic, interaction with each other, how their faith shows and how easy they are to coach.”

According to Dahl, the Raiders hope to send nine athletes to Nationals. After only two meets, NW has already sent five. The Raiders have more than just individual goals, though.

“Our goals are to win the conference and compete in the regional title,” said Dahl. “On more of a long range basis hope to build up the numbers of the team and get more bodies on the mat.”

This week NW will travel to UNO and compete in the Kaufman Brand Open. This meet will help the Raiders “see where we are. They will split the classes up by freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior,” said Dahl. “There will be a lot of bigger schools there so it will be a good test for us.”

The tournament is on Nov. 22 in Omaha, Neb., followed by a Dec. 3 meet at Dana.
Tulip Festival vs. commencement: 2010 breaks on the chopping block

BY TEDI SWANSON
STAFF WRITER

Since its inception in 1936, the Orange City Tulip Festival has become a long-standing tradition within the Dutch community. Yet after the Tulip Festival steering committee instated a schedule change, the Northwestern community realized that the college’s 2010 commencement services and the Tulip Festival were once again in conflict.

This conflict was in clear violation of the faculty handbook, which states, “All activities for the second semester, including commencement, shall be completed by the beginning of the fall semester.”

NWC ALERT: Continued from page 1

to various categories. When the “information” scroll was selected to send the all-clear message regarding the missing student, a “pre-conceived” HAZMAT message was also automatically sent out. The situation was a direct result of earlier testing and is not likely to happen again, according to EPT.

This past Saturday morning between 8 and 9 a.m., the alert system was activated again. This time the message was caused by the software supplier, who was in the process of restarting their computer systems after a procedure. The EPT is concerned that students will disregard the system due to recent mistakes. Jorgensen explained that students always need to make judgment calls when they are alerted to a problem. He added that some students won’t take alerts seriously, but that will not stop the college from sending important messages.

Overall, Jorgensen explained that it is up to the student to make wise choices, and to decide if the problem directly affects them. He provided examples of situations in other colleges where a system like NW Alert would have been useful, such as Hope College’s recent flu outbreak. Upper Iowa University students panicked when several mischief-makers threw firecrackers out a dorm window; in light of recent national events, students believed a shooter was on campus. The Alert system could be helpful in situations like these.

Jorgensen also offered a helpful hint to students frustrated by the frequency of weather alerts. Users have the option to remove adjacent counties from the alert system by going Menu, Options, Select counties.

Alsum’s art philosophy

BY JENNA BOOTE

Students can appreciate Mark Alsum’s artistic style at his senior art show from Monday, Dec. 1 through Saturday, Dec. 19, with an opening reception on Monday at 7 p.m. in TePaske Gallery.

Alsum does not have a favorite medium or a favorite piece, but explains that his indecisiveness is purposeful. “My concept for this show is to create a body of work that is completely interdependent, so to say one piece is better or means more to me than another is to say I have failed in my concept. Because my works are completely interdependent, they could be thought of collectively as one piece. Therefore my favorite piece in the show is my show.”

He hopes viewers think critically when viewing his art — cognitively engaging the pieces, not simply hoping for an evoked emotion. His work is inspired by Sheppard Fairey and Ralph Steadman, whose work was influential in its political and social statements. Alsum hopes to make a statement of his own, explaining that his work arose out of his “frustration with the despicable disease that is nationalism and the vile things that are done in the name of God and country — things that directly contradict the gospel and the role we are to play as Christians.”

Alsum assures students that a visit to his show will not be wasted time. “Students can expect to be so completely infatuated with my majestic displays of artistic prowess that they will fall madly in love with me. Either that or they’ll become insatiably furious and wish they had the black flag back.”

Bigger bandwidth fixes downloading issues

BY LEANN JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Northwestern’s computing services recently increased the bandwidth of Internet access on campus. According to Harlan Jorgensen, NW’s director of computing services, bandwidth is “the size of the pipe or road that we use to connect our school to the Internet.” It also controls the amount of Internet traffic per minute available on campus.

Jorgensen said that since the beginning of the school year, NW Internet users have been pushing the maximum amount of traffic possible, which has caused some browsing and downloading issues. The staff at computing services realized a change was in order. Jorgensen said they came to the conclusion that they could not effectively restrict areas of Internet access without having detrimental effects on the academic use of the Internet, so they decided to increase the bandwidth on campus.

Fortunately, after increasing the bandwidth, a lot of the earlier problems have been eliminated, and students can experience faster browsing and downloading.

Paul Beltman, NW’s academic computing manager, believes that this increase will benefit NW. “Our goal,” said Beltman, “is to ensure that everyone on campus will be able to have Internet access when they need it to get their work done.”