



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 Calsbeek, 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 South Dakota site.

Fourteen other sites took part in this competition, including Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North



PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA

Members of the fourth-ranked team included Ben Kester, John Calsbeek and Curt Van Wyk.

Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, 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.

Calsbeek 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.

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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.



PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA

Students enjoy a trayless dinner, part of the SGA's attempt to get feedback about the issue.

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 occasions 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

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front desk

WITH HEIDI HILDEBRANDT

Share our similarities,
celebrate our differences

The historical significance of the recent election is impossible to ignore. Forty-four years after the Civil Rights Act, our nation seems to not only tolerate, but encourage interaction among races. For the first time in 2000, the U.S. Census gave citizens the opportunity to identify themselves as more than one race. Estimates and surveys show that the number of unions between members of different races has skyrocketed in recent decades. In 1970, it was estimated that 321,000 unions were interracial. By 1990 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 our 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 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 forms of the media and from older 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." Our 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 SSP 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 ways of life on that trip. I was challenged in my view of the world and my view of Christianity. I am very grateful for those experiences.

As Global Vision Week comes to a close, I hope you were able to learn something and to appreciate those around you who are different, whether by race or by anything else. We have something in common with everyone around us and we can learn something from each of them. As Morgan Scott Peck said, "Share our similarities, celebrate our differences."

Come wit' dat fire!

BY JORDAN GOWING

This past summer, I helped lead a service trip to Port Orange, FL. While on this trip, my group found a small green anole, no bigger than the size of someone's pinkie. We named this small lizard Po and brought it back to Iowa with us. All the youth that went on the trip fell in love with Po, and it seemed like this was the start of a beautiful relationship between the youth of the church and Po the lizard.

Po had a problem, however: he (or she) wouldn't eat. No matter how hard we tried, Po refused to eat. We spent hours looking up things that anoles eat and trying to find those types of food. The youth directors and I even invested money in a new home and some special food for Po, but nothing worked. It seemed as though the youth group had inadvertently sentenced Po to his death (please don't report me to animal rights activists).

About a week after I was back in Iowa, I led some middle school youth into inner-city Des Moines, where we helped paint a church. While I was off by myself [note to self: never leave the youth alone with paint], the question came to my head, "Why isn't Po eating? What are we doing wrong?"

I spent a solid fifteen minutes thinking about this when I realized

that Po was a Christian; more accurately, Po was an American Christian (most likely attending a small Christian liberal arts college in northwestern Iowa).

I've lost you, haven't I? While by myself, I realized that Po was starving himself, just as I had been starving myself. I thought about it, and I couldn't remember the last time that I had spiritually fed myself. Then I thought about the rest of the church. We all are refusing to eat! Just as Po had no excuse for not eating, we too have no excuse.

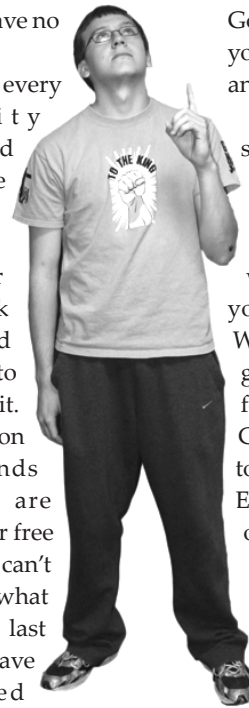
We have every opportunity possible to be fed spiritually. We live in a world where the Bible is the number one selling book of all time, and we still struggle to find time to read it. We live in a nation where thousands of sermons are posted online for free listening, but we can't even remember what the sermon was last Sunday! We have so surrounded ourselves in Christianity that

we've forgotten how to pursue God.

Wake up church! Stop starving yourself of what truly matters! Paul addresses this same issue in Ephesians 5:14, saying, "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." We have to stop blaming God and others for our lack of fire; God has given us every opportunity that we should need to seek him out, far more opportunities than anyone else in history. If your desire isn't to know God to the fullest, then this isn't for you; but if he is your desire, then you and I are without excuse.

Eat up! Read a Christian spirituality book, listen to sermons, get into Bible studies, spend time in prayer, meet with other Christians for discipleship and when all that fails, you can read your Bible (just kidding; God's Word is always the first place to go). If you don't know how to feed yourself, find others; we are a Christian community. We are here to support each other. Paul says in Ephesians 5:16, "Mak[e] the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."

Northwestern, stop being lazy, stop seeking after the worthless things of this world, and start passionately pursuing the risen King.



The blessing of inconvenience

BY MATT HULSTIEN

I strongly believe that if every Northwestern student knew the tremendous benefits of eating without trays the entire campus would embrace the program. Not having trays encourages us to be more careful when picking what we're going to eat—saving the caf lots of food. In fact, 25 percent less food is wasted, and since the trays don't need to be washed, 1/3 gallon of water per tray is saved. Saving these resources saves money and is economically just.

Economic justice is the biblical precept which demands that every person is adequately provided for. It also condemns extreme inequality. Many of us are annoyed by the inconvenience of not having trays. I am too at times. But then I remember what my professor taught me in Hunger class: "Give so you can feel it."

Somehow we have forgotten that when Jesus called us to himself, he called us to give him everything. Our material wealth is not our own; it is God's, and God's economic justice calls for some level of sacrifice on our part. Unfortunately,

many of us refuse to be materially inconvenienced by our faith.

Remember the rich man and Lazarus? Lazarus longed to eat the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table, but the rich man ignored him. When they died, Lazarus went to heaven and the rich man went to hell. This parable gives cutting insight into God's economics. The rich man didn't wrong Lazarus directly, but he was calloused, and the immense size of his wealth condemned him. He did not use God's gifts responsibly.

Wasting piles of God's food and gallons of his water is not responsible. Trays are a luxury, not a right. It would be foolishness to claim that we are entitled to them. Not having trays is a sacrifice we as a Christian community can make. While we gripe about the inconvenience of walking back a few feet for seconds, somewhere

in the developing world, a young, impoverished woman walks miles, every day, to the nearest well, hoping she can carry back enough water to keep her family alive.

Ten million people died this year because they did not have enough food. There were 1.8 million children who died of diarrhea, which is usually caused from unsanitary water. Some would claim that the food and water we save won't help these people. Not true. Wasting food and water costs money. The money we save can then be used to fight poverty. Also, our false sense of entitlement makes us more calloused to the hardships of the poor and less inclined to help. Being inconvenienced actually makes us more sensitive. Next time you walk back for seconds, think of the woman who has to walk ten miles for water.

Now that you know the benefits, I hope my faith in our student body is not misplaced. Please support this program. Getting rid of trays not only saves enormous amounts of food, water and money, it is also economically just and instills a greater sensitivity to hunger issues.



Northwestern College

BEACON

THE BEACON is the student newspaper serving the campus community of Northwestern College. Published weekly and distributed Friday noon, The Beacon encourages comments from readers. All letters must be 300 words or less, signed with a phone number, and turned in to the Beacon office located in the basement of Granberg Hall by Wednesday at 6 p.m. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters. To obtain a subscription, please send \$10 to address below.

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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.

As in her debut album, she distinguishes her music by having a hand in all 13 songs on "Fearless." Six of the songs 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.

Branching out from the high school world wasn't a complete success. The song, "You Belong with Me," does succumb to naivety as Swift whines about the popular girl getting the dream guy. However,



PHOTO COURTESY OF ITUNES.COM

a universal theme can be found in pouting on the bleachers as unrequited affection rings true among all ages.

Most of the songs lack the classic country music quality as one can only detect a slight twang with a few references to a one-horse town. The sounds of violins and banjo are sparse, but that charm of hers sets up beautiful scenes with an honesty that shines.

"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 spices 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.

"Three Cups of Tea" promotes peace and education

BY KADY BRAM
STAFF WRITER

Part informational and all inspirational, the book "Three Cups of Tea," co-written by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin, deserves its place in the spotlight. This biography turned Bestseller outlines 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. What he saw there astounded him. Young children—seventy-eight boys and four girls—sat atop a hill overlooking K2 and its surrounding peaks. With no facility or supplies

available to them, they scratched out their lessons on the frozen ground, unchaperoned because their only teacher had to be shared with a neighboring village.

The Pakistani government would not supply them a school or a teacher and the village couldn't afford to pay for either on its own. Standing there on the mountainside Mortenson made a promise—he would build them a school.

The Korphe village school was completed and similar projects have sprung up all over Pakistan and are now reaching into war-torn Afghanistan. Mortenson and his foundation's (Central Asia Institute) mission is simple—the best way to fight poverty and terrorism is through an unbiased education of these countries' children.

"Three Cups of Tea" provides an invaluable perspective on a very misunderstood portion of the world's population. Before, during, and following the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq, Mortenson was traveling the countryside learning languages and customs and forging friendships with those whose devotion to Islam is their lifeblood.

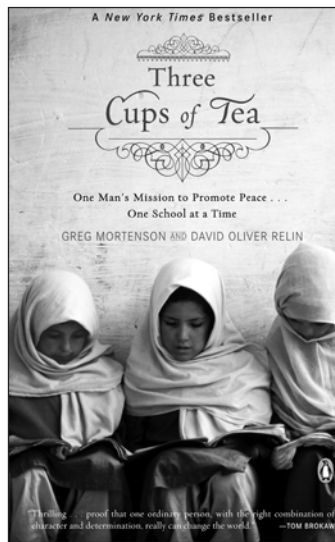


PHOTO COURTESY OF WORDPRESS.COM

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 that 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.



campus QUOTES

"It seems like the further north I go, the happier I am."

- Junior Jose Sanchez talking about being born in Mexico, moving to NW and doing mission work in Alaska.

"I used to try really hard at sports and stuff, until I realized that you can buy trophies."

- Sophomore Curtis Ver Mulm speaking of the Clash of the Classes trophy.

"Yeah, you were visiting your husband, don't lie."

"Yep..." *pats stomach* "Baby number three on the way."
- Junior Ryan Birkland to Professor Elizabeth Truesdell about why she was late to Microbiology lab.

"You probably don't want to be with me because I'm unclean."

"That's ok. We're in the New Covenant now."

- Junior Bryant Brozik and freshman Sarah Bartz speaking on Brozik's lack of a shower that day.

Send your Campus Quotes, with context, to beacon@nwciowa.edu.

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<p>Role Models R Ends Tuesday! Nightly 7:20, 9:30 Sat & Sun Matinees (1:50, 4:20)</p>		<p>Four Christmases PG13 <i>Starts Weds November 26th!</i> 7:20, 9:30, Plus (1:50, 4:20) on Thu</p>			
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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 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."

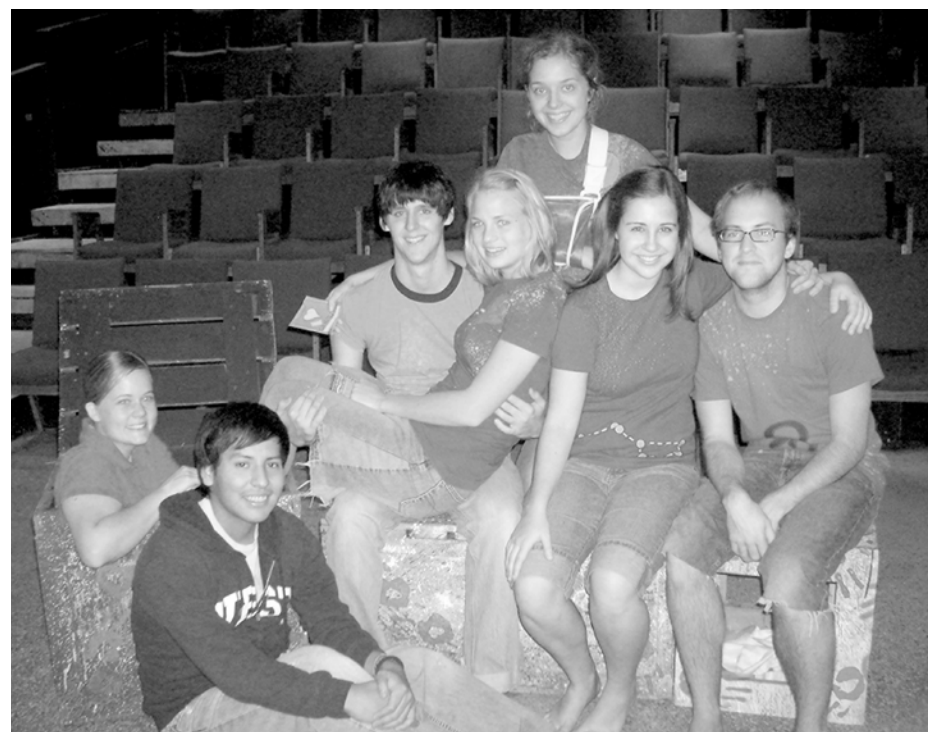


PHOTO COURTESY OF GRETA HAYS

The cast of "Tell Me the Truth" (left to right): senior Jean Punt, sophomore Eduardo Rodriguez, junior Jon Manchester, sophomore Anna Pitney, senior Margareta DeBoer, sophomore Greta Hayes and senior Tucker Schneider.

"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 download.com, the four most popular spyware remover downloads are Ad-Aware 2008, Malwarebytes' Anti-Malware, Spybot-Search & Destroy and SpywareBlaster.

The most popular download, Ad-Aware 2008, works on Windows 2000, XP, 2003 Server and Vista (32- and 64-bit).

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 anti-spyware 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.

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Life as an academic can be Sigma Taustic

BY AMANDA KEUHN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

This past May, 10 Northwestern juniors shared supper in the back room of Nederlander'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 Sigma Tau, founded in the early 1960s, is one 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 missions of Sigma Tau—to stimulate intellectual engagement and community—have since been adopted and 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 Kleinsasser, 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 Klenissasser 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 about half of them met for dinner prior to the piano concert of Juyeon Kang, NW assistant professor of music. On Nov. 1, 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."

Nine ways to be frugal this Christmas

BY KILEY SELIGMAN
FEATURES EDITOR

It's almost time to start Christmas shopping. However, buying gifts for everyone on your list can get expensive. As junior Becca Bruns said, "Being a college student just calls for frugality—you never know when the next Perkins run can happen and you need an extra five bucks."

Here are some ways to save money this holiday season.

1. Narrow down your list, and buy gifts only for those closest to you. Senior Tyler Tigges said, "I only give gifts to really special people. The rest I show my love for through my actions."

2. Shop at inexpensive stores like Wal-Mart, dollar stores and other places that are known to be cheaper. Stay away from expensive stores, so you won't even be tempted to spend more money.

3. Shop the day after Thanksgiving, when stores offer multitudes of clearance sales. "I would say that DVDs are the best presents to get that day, because they always have a wide variety for very reasonable prices," said junior Emily De Weerd. "And who doesn't like to get a movie for Christmas?"

4. Make gifts. Decorate a picture frame, create a coupon book, make cookies, burn a mix CD, carve figurines or create anything you are good at.

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 so you have money to spend on other people.

7. Check out coupon sites that offer coupon codes for online shopping or printable coupons for different stores.

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 website than they do in each store. However, make 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 give generously," said junior Emily Mortenson. "Therefore, we need to save so that we can still offer things to the people that we love."

Did you know? Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving too!

BY ANNE EBERLINE
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.

Canada has also celebrated an annual Thanksgiving holiday since 1879, according to Thanksgiving-day.org, to "thank the Lord Almighty for a bountiful harvest." This tradition

is borrowed from the Puritans, who periodically observed thanksgiving days of prayer following a plentiful harvest.

Unlike the U.S., which celebrates Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November, Canada observes Thanksgiving "on the second Monday in the month of October every year," said Thanksgiving-day.org.

The earlier date is based on geographical differences. The "autumn season starts earlier

in Canada than in America." Since the onset of winter causes their harvest to be finished sooner, the bounty can be celebrated at an earlier time.

No matter where or when Thanksgiving is celebrated, the holiday still centers on coming together. "Spending time together is important," said Canadian Sunita Mathew, the RD of Stegenga Hall. "To me Thanksgiving is



PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA

all about family and having a meal together."

Canadian tradition mirrors that of the U.S. "We have a lot of the same foods," said sophomore Janelle de Waard, a NW Canadian. "We usually have turkey, pumpkin pie, mashed potatoes."

De Waard said there are differences in what some consider Thanksgiving staples. "Green bean casserole is something I never heard about until I came here," she said.

Canadians also teach the same colonial story that is the basis for the holiday. "We learned about the pilgrims and the Indians sitting down and sharing a meal together," said de Waard. "It's really not that different."

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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 Bultman 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 Kami 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 three minutes left in the game. Freshman Val Kleinjan 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 out 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 Kleinjan with 17 points each. Kleinjan 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 Nieuwsma 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."



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Junior Andrea Wedel drives the lane against USD. NW fell to the Coyotes in a close battle on Wednesday night.

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 for over an hour waiting for their food because the worker forgot to enter their order.

Kendra Thomas, daughter of Terry and Sherry, is from Rockwell, Iowa. Her favorite memory is nationals her junior year.

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.

Jon Handsaker from Radcliffe, Iowa, is the son of Paul and Bonnie. Handsaker played linebacker for the Red Raiders.

D.J. Hansen, son of Dirk and Melinda, is from Paullina, 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 of Orange City, Iowa, is the son of Terry and Rachel. Meekma played tight end for the 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 a touchdown 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 Cheri. The goalkeeper 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.

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 Huhnerkoch 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 Janssen, son of Daryl and Joan, 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 Tilstra 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 unmatched and the relationships made are genuine.

Women's Soccer

Tara Blutt of Des Moines, Iowa, was a defensive player for the NW soccer team. The daughter of Tim and Jeanne, her favorite memory of Raider soccer is standing on the line with her teammates as they pushed through conditioning together.

Serah Bugler, a forward for the Raiders, says her favorite memory is beating Dordt her sophomore year for the first time in NW's history. The

daughter of John and Kristin, her hometown is Huxley, Iowa.

Rebecca Corlew, daughter of Kevin and Joyce Callies, was a defender for the Raider soccer team. Her hometown is Brandon, S.D.

Valerie Love of Gilbert, Ariz., is the daughter of Tim and Carolyn and played defensive midfielder/stopper for NW. Her advice to underclassmen is to remember that "You are blessed to be a college athlete. Give everything you have all the time so that at the end of the game, race, match or meet you left it all out there and give the glory to God."

Heather Paulsen played defense for NW. She is from Owasso, Okla., and her parents are Jerry and Rita Corbin.

Volleyball

Kayla De Geest of Spencer Iowa, is the daughter of Scott and Nancy. The outside hitter's favorite memories as a Raider are the road trips, especially to the national tournaments.

Krista Hibma, the daughter of Gary and Barb, played outside and right hitter for NW. The senior from Sheldon, Iowa, wants to let underclassmen know that four years goes fast and hope they will make sure to leave more behind than records and banners in the Bultman.

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 25-15 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 Rylee 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 Kaitlin 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."



PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA
Sophomore Hillary Hanno goes up for a spike last Saturday in the game against Morningside.

"This is what we've been working for the whole year and we're excited that it's finally here," said Bloemendaal. "We know we're going to see some great competition and we're looking forward to the challenge."

Van Den Bosch added, "We are very excited about being part of the national tournament again. The Lord has blessed this team and we are excited to see how he is going to use us at the tournament."

Raiders fall twice in Pepsi Basketball Challenge

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT
SPORTS EDITOR

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 53 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 Kale Wiertzema added 21 points and five assists. Jiskoot had 14 points, six rebounds 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

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 Huisken 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 NAICC Open. At the DWU Open last weekend the Raiders added three more to the list – seniors Levi Price and Tom Eaton and sophomore Clay Wakefield.

Price wrestled the 157 weight class and finished fifth out of 21 wrestlers at his first

tournament of the year. His record is now 3-1.

In the 184 weight class Eaton 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 winning the regional title," said Dahl. "On more of a long range basis I 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.

It's Saturday night. It's Orange City.

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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 Tulip Festival, generally the third Wednesday or Thursday of May." With the goal of finding a solution to this issue, the Campus Life Committee met on Monday, Nov. 10 to discuss possible solutions.

The committee came up with many solutions, including starting the spring semester on an earlier date by shortening winter break, shortening the spring semester to 15 weeks or shortening the first half of the spring semester by altering the dates of spring break. All of these solutions created more dilemmas than they solved.

The committee came to the conclusion that the most effective

way to solve the conflict between spring commencement services and the Tulip Festival was to begin the spring 2010 semester one day earlier, on January 12, and to shorten both spring and Easter breaks, eliminating one MWF class from the schedule. As a result, spring break will now officially end on Friday, March 14 instead of Tuesday, March 17, with classes resuming on Monday, March 16. Easter break will now consist of a 3-day weekend beginning Saturday, April 13, instead of a 5-day break beginning Thursday, April 9. Commencement services will be held on Saturday, May 9.

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. Jorgenson 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, Jorgenson 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.

Jorgenson 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
NEWS EDITOR

Students can appreciate Mark Alsum's artistic style at his senior art show from Monday, Dec. 1 through Sunday, Dec. 7, with an opening reception on Monday at 7 p.m. in Te Pasko 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."

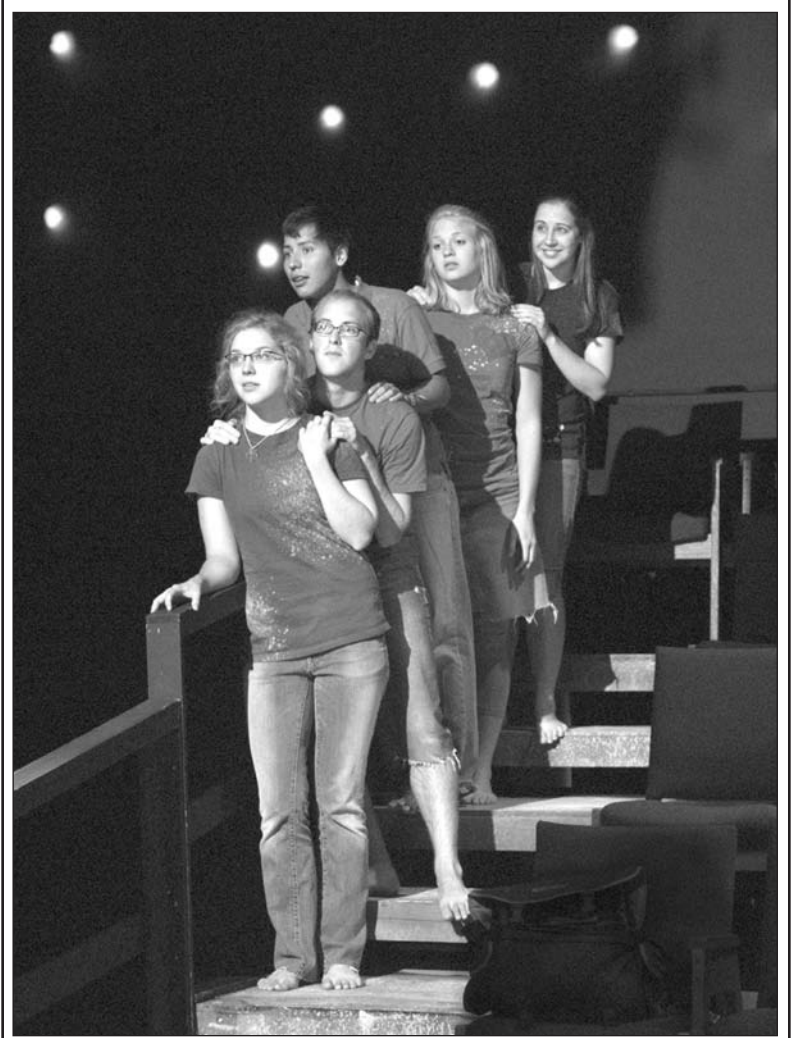


PHOTO COURTESY OF THEATRE DEPARTMENT
Members from "Tell Me the Truth" performed many renditions, inducing a wide variety of emotions for audience members.

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."

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