Goateed, dreadlocked Jesus freak to speak

BY MEAGAN McDOUGALL
STAFF WRITER

What do Mike Yankoski, Tony Campollo, Trygve Johnson and Max DePree have in common? They all have been keynote speakers at Northwestern’s annual Leadership Conference. This year, Shane Claiborne will be added to the list when he speaks at the conference on April 9 and 10.

Claiborne, who graduated from a Christian liberal arts college similar to NW, travels both around the United States and the world speaking about peacemaking, social justice and Jesus.

“Shane is an inspirational person that will challenge our students to think deeply about how they can influence our world in positive, Christ-honoring ways,” Director of Service Learning Marlon Haverdink said.

Claiborne, who has published books such as “The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical,” “Jesus for President” and “Becoming the Answer to Our Prayers,” just completed co-writing a book with John Perkins called “Lead Me to Freedom,” a book about “leadership through the lens of faith,” Haverdink said.

Claiborne not only has written a book on leadership and Christianity, but he also tries to live it out in his everyday life. He has worked with Mother Theresa in Calcutta, he helped found “The Simple Way,” an organization in Philadelphia, Penn., and he is a member of the Christian Community Development Association.

“The Simple Way” is an organization that encourages people to live their lives simply because God has provided enough for his people to live at with what they need on earth.

“We believe that the Kingdom of God is free of poverty and oppression,” Claiborne’s website, www.thesimpleway.org, said. “We echo and attempt to live out Christ’s prayer that the ‘Kingdom come and will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’ We believe that begins now, with Jesus’ followers, and continues throughout eternity.”

Many students and members of faculty are looking forward to having someone so well-known, action-oriented and experienced speak on campus.

“He has really profound ideas,” junior Michelle Becker said. “He thinks theoretically and practically, whereas we learn mostly theoretically.”

Because Claiborne is a leader of the Christian Community Development Association, sophomore Rachel Plockmeyer is looking forward to hearing his thoughts about Northwestern.

“I’m excited to hear him talk about community, and I’m interested in what he thinks about NW’s community because we tend to think pretty highly of it,” Becker said.

Men wearing heels raise humor, awareness

BY SHELBY VANDER MOLEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Men in red heels may be strutting about the cafeteria on Wednesday, April 14. Now don’t worry, NW does not encourage cross-dressing. But for one day in April—the Sexual Assault Awareness Month—several NW men will be donning red heels as part of a “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” awareness event. These men will be stationed in the cafeteria and equipped with information.

“Many of our students have read Shane’s books or have heard him speak at other conferences, and I know they are excited to hear what Shane has to say to our campus,” Haverdink said.

This event, with roots in Yankton, S.D., took place at the Four Brothers Bar and Grill Restaurant in LeMars last year and was very successful. When senior social work interns Britney Punt and Debbie Warren heard about the event through their work at domestic violence shelters in Northwest Iowa, they started imagining a similar event at NW.

“It’s easy to believe it happens everywhere else but where we are,” Punt said. However, violence does occur in rural communities and in small towns. She also said that some relationships on campus are “viewed as normal” may be unhealthy or worthy of concern.

One issue Punt and Warren have had is recruiting men who are willing to wear red heels.

“As long as we get excited ourselves, I think we can reel in some pretty awesome guys who aren’t ashamed to wear heels to help support victims of sexual assault,” Warren said.

Punt said the humor raised with the event is a vital part of grabbing attention, and laughter in this context is not offensive.

“It’s silence, ignorance, and pride in light of a serious issue that’s offensive.”—Britney Punt

“Serving and sleeping in the RSC

BY LINDEN FIGGIE
STAFF WRITER

Whether traveling abroad or walking down Main Streets in our hometowns, hunger and homelessness are prevalent. Hunger/Homeless Awareness Week is April 12-17. As the week approaches, groups on campus are getting excited for a time of education, experience and reflection.

Locally and regionally involved, Northwestern’s hunger/homeless ministry seeks “to educate students and encourage them to be more active in terms of poverty locally and globally,” Lanet Hane, the group’s intern, said. Working primarily with soup kitchens, shelters, Kids Against Hunger and Love INC—a national cooperation of church affiliates with connections in Sioux Center—the group lends a strong, helping hand throughout the area.

The group’s main project during the week of awareness is a hunger/homeless simulation in which students and faculty have the opportunity to confine themselves to the RSC for a time of reflection and discussion through speakers, devotionals, communion and various activities. Participants can choose to spend only one night or the entire week sleeping in the RSC.

The simulation will attempt to enlighten the campus on the issues present in our community and world. Along with group discussions and seminars, participants will package food for Haiti and make blankets to be distributed by Love INC. Linking students and staff, the campus-wide simulation aims to enact a compassionate and effective response in the involvement of citizens throughout local and global communities.

The hunger/homeless ministry desires to instill in students the knowledge that poverty is indeed an issue in Iowa, Sioux County and even Orange City. While it looks different from a third-world or big-city view, poverty is prevalent around us, and there are ways even busy college students can get involved.
Old Testament stories in a whole new way

BY SARAH LUPKES

Stories from the Old Testament will be performed in new ways and new plays when the Northwestern theatre department hosts an Ancient Hebrew Drama Festival on Sunday, April 11, from 2-4 p.m. in the English Theatre.

During the festival, theatre companies from NW and Western Theological Seminary of Holland, Mich., will perform stories from the Old Testament, including “Cain and Abel,” “Tower of Babel,” “Moses and Pharaoh’s Daughter,” “Joshua and Caleb,” “Joshua and Achan,” “Eli and Samuel,” “David and Goliath,” “David and Bathsheba,” and “Eliah and the Prophets of Baal.

The dramas, some of which are scripted verbatim from Scripture, are part of an exploration of the idea that the oldest body of theatrical literature may actually be from the Hebrews rather than the Greeks.

NW theatre professor, Jeff Barker, said, “Our hope with this festival is to restore these ancient works of art to the platform that was once intended. Once churches and schools can see their power, they will join us in producing these exquisite Godly plays.”

NW’s theatre department is performing the ancient dramas of the Hebrew people since 2003. “Over the years, I have seen marvelous ancient Hebrew drama productions,” Barker said. “Each one left me with the thought, ‘These need to be shared with more people!’ This festival provides the space to experience the ancient plays and engage in discussion specifically about the ancient plays.

NW and Western Theological Seminary students will be performing together in this festival. Each performance intends to bring scripture to life. Barker is excited for the impact this festival will have on the campus and the greater community.

“We will be together for the first time next week, after Easter,” Moss said.

The first choral section celebrates Christ’s resurrection with music sung in Dutch and Latin. The second section presents texts about spring from the Song of Solomon in the Hebrew Bible and two pieces in recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 11. Dordt’s Janelle Bolkema will feature as a vocalist, along with piano accompanist Laurel Slice. NW sophomore Melissa Marsh will be featured as a flute soloist, with sophomore Sarah Bartz as piano accompanist.

Bartz has choreographed a dance for “Birdsong,” a choral piece based on a poem written by a child in a World War II concentration camp. Dancers will include Bartz and NW’s Hannah Barker, Jessica Kleveland and Alyson Wesselink.

“The concert is sponsored by NW and the Orange City Arts Council, and there is no admission charge. Tickets must be acquired in advance and can be picked up in the music department.

Dordt, NW choirs to unite for concert

By LeAnn Johnson

The choirs’ final set of music celebrates music from around the world sung in Japanese, Spanish and English. The program also includes a new composition, “Wings of Grace,” by NW junior Monica Klarenbeek. The choirs will conclude the concert with an African-American spiritual entitled “Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel.”

Hawk Nelson’s Live Life Louder Tour

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Claiborne to discuss leadership, community

Cont. from pg. 1

Plokmeyer said, “I hope he has some words of constructive criticism for us, because we’re not perfect.”

In addition to listening to Claiborne, students will also have the opportunity to attend two workshops led by faculty, staff and community leaders. All students are encouraged to come, even if they aren’t going to be in an official position of leadership next year. Students can sign up for free online at www.nwciowa.edu/leadership2010.

“Students should walk away with approaches to leadership that they can begin implementing in their lives immediately,” Haverdink said.
**OPINION**

**The Right to Reason: Having class on Good Friday**

**Northwestern’s view of April 2nd**

**BY RACHEL RAGER**

I’ll admit it: in three years here, I’ve never had the guts to skip class. Today, I’ve never been more tempted.

No, it wasn’t a “it’s about time I do something crazy” type of thought. It’s a “today is Good Friday and I should honor that” thought.

From Preschool until now, I have had Good Friday off as a part of Easter break. Local businesses have too. This year, my public school district and local businesses still have the day off. However, I don’t have to go to class at Northwestern College. Northwestern College, a school that prides itself -rightfully so, I might add- as a place that strives to be different from other institutions of higher learning that do not incorporate Christian faith in the educational process. But here, one day a week, we are called to pause and reflect on the meaning of love and sacrifice, I will be sitting in class pondering academic matters instead of spiritual ones.

In honor of my favorite SNL sketch, “What up with that?”

I understand that the calendar is goofy this year and that we have to be gone before Tulip Festival. As Christians on Good Friday, our lives need to be empty for a day. Next year, please allow us the chance to more completely feel the fullness of Easter by having experienced the emptiness of Good Friday.

By Emily Gowing

Photography Editor

"Which is more important: Tulip Festival or Good Friday?" This is a contemptuous question and many like it have been floating around campus all semester. Now that the time is here, students are more perturbed than ever. Why is it that we’re having class on Good Friday? It’s the one day of the year set aside specifically to reflect and rejoice over our Savior’s sacrifice on the cross nearly 2000 years ago. So what does Northwestern have to say for itself? How can this Christian liberal arts college really be holding class on the second most important day of the Christian faith? When it came down to it, it really wasn’t all that hard of a decision to make. Besides, the faculty and staff on the Campus Life Committee have adequately reasoned to back up their decision.

Six years ago the Campus Life Committee (CLC) put into place the guidelines concerning the academic calendar. From deep within the faculty handbook we find examples regarding the academic calendar and class schedules. “Each semester shall contain either 74 or 75 days with approximately 35 MWF classes and 30 TTH classes.” Another example, relative to this particular subject matter, says, “All activities for the second semester, including commencement, shall be completed by the beginning of the Tulip festival.” These guidelines, set forth by the CLC, require approval by every staff and faculty member before being changed. Therefore, any alteration to these guidelines can't come with the drop of a pin.

But why this year? Why now? Vice President for Student Development John Brogan recalls never having class on Good Friday in the past 13 years that he has been here. If Northwestern’s academic calendar has worked out so well in the past, what went wrong this year?

When told in the summer of 2008 that the Tulip Festival would be held the third weekend in May, Northwestern’s CLC scheduled accordingly by planning commencement for that previous weekend. Unfortunately there was miscommunication over what days of the week constitute a weekend and thus, the result was last year’s disastrously double-booked weekend. Consequently, this year’s graduation needed to be moved up an entire week, thus cutting short the second semester.

Three major ideas came forth when planning how to counter the shortened semester. Christmas break could be cut, but the guidelines say it must be three weeks. The January start date could have been pushed back but that would have resulted in scheduling conflicts with traveling sports teams over spring break and therefore would not have worked. The third and final option was to shorten spring break by a day and shorten Easter break by two days.

The one-time decision to cut Good Friday and keep the Monday after Easter as a holiday was so that students could spend all of Easter Sunday with their families rather than be traveling back to school on that day. “By holding class on Friday we’re not trying to take away the significance of Good Friday; we still want to honor that,” said Brogan. That is why special services are being held throughout the day on Friday and chapel will be in honor of Good Friday. In standing with the Reformed theological tradition, it is the view of Northwestern that God can be glorified and worshipped when we do our best and choose to give Him glory. And that can be in or out of the classroom.

From the Strip

**Why you’re still single**

BY HOLLY LAWRENCE

Are you freaking out over the “ring by spring” rule? Are you preparing for the senior scramble? Or are you just plain wondering why the heck you’re still single? Well, I’ve compiled this list of potential reasons as to why you haven’t scored that certain someone sitting on the other side of the lecture hall that you’ve been sneaking glances at.

1. You’re shallow. If the first thing you do when you see someone is analyze their physical appearance, then you should seriously reconsider some things in your life. Conveniently for us here in northwest Iowa, most people are tall, blonde and blue eyed. That’s what most people in Western culture look for anyways, right?

2. You’re a slob. Okay yes, some people are into this sort of thing, but I don’t know many that are. If you haven’t done laundry yet this entire school year and have to wear the same socks every day for a month, I think it’s time to gather your quarters and wash your stuff, as well as buy some deodorant.

3. You pop your collar. Enough said.

4. You are addicted to your Blackberry. You keep your Blackberry to yourself. I’m fairly sure that most people think it’s a little creepy when you know someone’s whole life story upon meeting them.

5. You refer to Target as Target. Want to write for the Beacon? Contact us with ideas or opinions: 101 7th St. SW Orange City, IA 51041 beacon@nwciowa.edu Or visit us online: beacon.nwciowa.edu

Northwestern College Beacon takes pride in being a student-run newspaper. Anyone interested in writing an article for the Beacon is encouraged to attend the staff meetings and contribute their writing. To contribute please contact the editorial editor at beacon.nwciowa.edu. All students are welcome to become a part of the long standing tradition.

6. You do the flat pump and are serious about it and/or are the president of a Jersey Shore fan club. See reason number 3 for more information.

7. You own a 60-inch flat screen plasma television, but sleep on a broken futon.

8. You refer to Target as "Tar-jey." I know that being exotic and post-modern is the hip and groovy new thing right now, but really: That’s almost as bad as calling October “Rock-tober,” your new Blackberry is your new “Crackberry” and Grey’s Anatomy is simply called “Grey’s.”

The administration at NW set the schedule to have class on Good Friday this year.

OPINIONS:
Dorm Beat: Steggy Keggy is coming

BY SARA CURRY

Steggy's dorm rooms, walls and mean 'never ever.' the same sentence together; but as are virtually never mentioned in words "Northwestern" and "keg" STAFF WRITER

Keggy. Dorm Beat: Steggy Keggy is coming

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE EBERLINE

Junior Carrie Mullenburg and Junior Laura Stair act the part of a Who from Whoville and the Grinch in last year's Steggy Keggy.

BY SARA CURRY STAFF-WRITER

It's pretty safe to say that the words “Northwestern” and “keg” are virtually never mentioned in the same sentence together; but as this sentence itself obviously proves otherwise, “virtually never” doesn’t mean ‘never ever.’

Monday, April 12, marks the decade anniversary of Stegenga Hall’s prized campus-wide event “Steggy Keggy.” From 9-11 p.m., Steggy’s dorm rooms, walls and floors will be completely decked-out with decorations transforming into an alternate reality.

Though Steggy Keggy has been around for 10 years, it hasn’t always carried the catchy name. The event first got started when Steggy was called North Hall back in the day, so Steggy Keggy was named “NightOut at North.” Clever, but still not nearly as catchy or as effective at provoking raised eyebrows and suspicious comments from those who have not yet experienced the event.

Similar to Coly Christmas and the Heemstra Harvest Bash, Steggy Keggy incorporates a creative theme into every inch leading up to a dorm-wide competition. Decorations line the entire hall and imaginative costumes on every Steggy resident. The ladies aren’t satisfied with just decorations and costumes, however. They also dramatically get into their characters so they can give students the full effect of their alternate reality.

Steggy RD Rebecca Alsum describes the theatrical dynamics of the event as a way to say to campus, “Come imagine with us!”

Alsum’s favorite Steggy Keggy memories date back to her time of root beer floats? of entertainment time traveling through the decades than a round of root beer floats?

It seems as though the weather is finally done messing with our heads. The student body has come to life! Camping, kite flying, disk tossing and picnicking are activities students can do across campus. Study parties on the green and taking walks around town have suddenly become as popular as they were last fall.

A plethora of lively activities has come along with spring. Plains Paintball in Sioux City offers affordable prices all season long and has no requirement on the minimum number of players on Sundays. If open shooting ranges interest you, take a drive on over to the Rock Rapids Gun Club and shoot trap or clay pigeons.

Perhaps an afternoon of fishing would help you shed off all the school work you’re dying to desert away. In that case you can take your fishing rod down to Fairview Pond five miles south and three miles west of Inwood for a little fly fishing. Before you endeavor to catch the bluegill, catfish and largemouth bass in the pond, however, remember to buy your license from the Iowa DNR. You can opt to purchase one day, seven day, or year round Iowa fishing licenses, all for under $20.

Celebrate the earth at Elmwood Park in Omaha on April 24. The Earth Day event will provide an abundance of activities, food, exhibits and information on how you can help save the earth. Improve your golf skills at Landsmeer Golf Course right here in Orange City.

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It’s Spring!

BY HOLLY STEWART

It seems as though the weather has finally done messing with our heads. The student body has come to life! Camping, kite flying, disk tossing and picnicking are activities students can do across campus. Study parties on the green and taking walks around town have suddenly become as popular as they were last fall.

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Celebrate the earth at Elmwood Park in Omaha on April 24. The Earth Day event will provide an abundance of activities, food, exhibits and information on how you can help save the earth. Improve your golf skills at Landsmeer Golf Course right here in Orange City. (Don’t forget- there is an Early Bird Special if you get there before 11 a.m.!) If you prefer to stay indoors, check out the Planetarium at Sanford Museum and Planetarium in Cherokee for free on the last Sunday of every month starting at 2:30 p.m.

The Quest Center in Omaha will be hosting a Spring Arts & Crafts Festival on April 9, featuring hundreds of fine artists and craftpeople displaying and selling their handcrafted creations. There will be stage entertainment and hourly gift certificate drawings, and the whole day will cost you only a $7 entry fee.

Also in Omaha, on April 24, broaden your worldview by attending Dia del Nino (Day of Children) at El Museo Latino. This is an international celebration that will focus on children. Hands-on activities, games, dance and entertainment will complete this free event (happening noon-4 p.m.) and will offer a day of learning and enjoyment for all ages.

Don’t have time to travel? Take a run of the Puddle Jumper from Orange City to Alton and back after class. Gather some friends and hang out at Kinderspeeland Park. Join a Frisbee game on the green. Or a run of the Puddle Jumper from Orange City to Alton and back after class. Gather some friends and hang out at Kinderspeeland Park. Join a Frisbee game on the green. Or

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PICK THEM. Happy Spring!

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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Pondering from Across the Pond
From the Precious Mind of Emily Muilenburg
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT FROM THE ESTIMATED OXFORD UNIVERSITY

I don’t think I’ve ever been a pilgrim, not unless you count the frigid trek from Fern to Granberg in the negative-thirty-degree winter wind-chill of Northwest Iowa. I remember when I was little, thinking the only pilgrims were the guys in funny clothes that sailed on the Mayflower in 1620. Sadly, pilgrimages are one of the many things that England did first and we sort of copied.

Two weeks ago my program took a trip to St. Albans, a small town 59.6 miles away from Oxford. Here we visited one of the two remaining saintly shrines left in England after the Reformation in the 16th Century, the shrine of St. Alban. St. Alban was martyred by the Romans sometime in the third century after sheltering a Christian in his home and taking that Christian’s blame. Pilgrims often make the journey to St. Albans to pray at this shrine, and Pilgrims have been coming to this shrine for many centuries.

In the current health insurance system, women are at a distinct disadvantage. According to the National Women’s Law Center (NWLC), 12 percent of women are uninsured in Iowa, and women are more likely than men to be underinsured, meaning they do not have sufficient coverage to protect their physical and financial health.

For those who are insured, there are typically financial consequences for being a woman. For instance, any self-employed person must purchase health insurance directly from the insurance company. However, according to the NWLC, women in this situation “are often charged more than men for the exact same coverage,” a practice called “gender rating.”

In Iowa, gender rating is also allowed in the group insurance market, although it takes a slightly different form. According to the NWLC, “while federal law prohibits employers from charging individual male and female employees different rates for coverage, insurance companies are allowed to consider the proportion of women a business employs when determining the group’s overall premium.”

To apply this concept in a more tangible manner, it is a large employer’s workforce comprised of a high percentage of women, such as the case with many child care centers and non-profit organizations, these businesses will pay a much higher premium than a company predominantly employing men.

This difference in premium costs stems from a higher tendency of women using the health care system. Some may argue that in a fair system, women should pay more since they have a higher probability of using more of the health care resources. However, the difference in premiums, according to the NWLC, is largely due to reproductive health needs. Once a woman has had children there can be further difficulties in either obtaining health insurance or paying for it because a pregnancy can be counted as a preexisting condition. “If a woman has previously had a Cesarean section, for instance, insurers may refuse to pay for future C-sections or reject her application altogether,” as stated by the NWLC.

While having children is expensive under the current health care system, women may be penalized simply because they are the only people biologically capable of reproduction.

Another result of eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge is economic differences between men and women who also contribute to women’s problems with health insurance. According to the NWLC, women in Iowa are paid approximately 75 cents for every dollar men earn. This difference in earnings paired with higher health care costs causes a heavy financial burden for many Iowa women.

The result of higher costs and lower earnings is choosing to go without certain medical services. For instance, “more than one in ten women in Iowa reports not visiting a doctor due to high costs.”

Since this is a vast topic, I focused on researching Iowa specifically, but many of these practices are applicable nationwide. Women are subject to higher costs and more difficult access to health care simply because of their gender.

While it is still unclear if the new legislation will relieve the extra burden placed on women in the current system, it is clear that there is a problem that must be addressed.

To learn more about how the health care reform impacts women, go to www.anewinsurant.compreexistingcondition.org.
Porter’s prose packs a punch

BY SARAH KUGLER
STAFF WRITER

In his first collection of short stories, The Theory of Light and Matter, author Andrew Porter details the lives of realistic people in unremarkable situations. By unremarkable, I do not mean to suggest that these stories ring with inconsequence or monotony, but instead, that the stories of these people are so normal that they strike a deep chord within us. The story of a little boy who deals with the guilt of his friend dying in his presence. A grad student who tumbles into a questionable relationship with her much older professor. A childless couple who house an international student and try to learn the balance between “parent” and “friend.” Each story feels like something any one of us could tell or hear from a friend: so personal, tender, and conversational that the characters spill from the pages and solidity into beloved companions. Porter writes in first person, adding to this deep appeal because each narrator speaks in his own strong, unique voice. Both men and women narrate these stories: people of various ages and backgrounds, but, despite this diversity, none sound false. Rather, they sound autobiographical, so vividly detailed and achingly honest that it’s hard to believe they’re fiction.

Porter’s striking writing style contributes to this tangible connection. He writes in short, simple sentences: no flowery prose rank with excessive adjectives or useless descriptions. Each detail adds to readers’ understanding and perception of the characters in that specific story: if knowing what breakfast cereal Character X enjoys, for example, will not advance or contribute to the tale, Porter omits it. Though this sparse style may appear at odds with deep meaning, he manages to convey complex ideas of loyalty, family and loss in his concise language. Showing us how the characters feel through their actions or inactions solidifies these themes. When Paul, for example, sneaks into his host son’s room, steals some weed and smokes a joint alone in the bathroom, it shows us his confusion and his yearning for release. Though we may not agree with their actions, following these narrators through their lives helps us understand their motivations more than any rambling monologue ever could.

Though the truth and beauty of Porter’s words reverberates, the most compelling aspect of his short stories – at least for me – was that they made me want to write. Not to write an academic paper or a lab report, but to document the fear, sadness and joy of everyday life. They made me feel like I have stories to tell, embedded within the monotony of class, relationships and mistakes. They reminded me that telling a good story doesn’t have to be obscure or extravagant. It can be one moment, one look, one conversation. It just has to be honest, to witness to those terrifying truths we’re too scared even to whisper to ourselves late at night. And if we’re brave, gritting our teeth against the horrible, beautiful normalcy of our lives, any one of us can tell a story like that.

Dragon: a soaring success

BY LISA WALTERS
STAFF WRITER

When I considered the movies showing at the local theater, I would have to say I was somewhat disappointed. Nothing really seemed to “fit my fancy.” I thoughtfully debated all the choices, read the reviews and the ratings, but still wasn’t completely convinced about any of them.

I would have to say that I didn’t really feel like sitting through a raunchy comedy about a time machine found in a hot tub, or a movie starring an overrated vampire, or even a film about the life of a middle school student. I lived that once, and that was enough.

There was one film, however that seemed like it could have potential. The main reason I even noticed it was due to its 97% rating on rottentomatoes.com. It had to be worth something. The ratings and critics were sure in favor of this animated tale, therefore I decided to give DreamWorks’ “How to Train Your Dragon” a shot. I can honestly say now, that was a very good decision.

Hiccup, whose father is the Chief of a Viking tribe, is, to say the least, not your stereotypical Viking. He has no desire to fight dragons, and is overall considered a disappointment by the village and by his father. Hiccup is determined to make a name for himself by killing “Night Fury,” the most dangerous and the ratings, but still wasn’t completely convinced about any of them.

This heartwarming tale is a story about acceptance and understanding. It is about overcoming the odds, and learning to find help in the most unlikely ways. Not only does this film have a great plot and story line, the animation is simplistic and brilliant. The innocent humor in this film is proof that a movie can still tickle your funny bone without any inappropriate innuendos or abrasive jokes.

I may consider saying I was delightfully surprised with this charming film and its story line. It was a great all-around film that anyone could enjoy. In a society that praises book and movie genres with mythical creatures and fabricated fables, this is one tale that soars high about the rest. It was a delightful ‘feel good’ movie that leaves a person wanting a pet dragon in the end.
Fiction: The Mystery Deepens

BY KEVIN FREEBIRD WALLACE and JOSH DOORENBOS

The blackness was absolute. His head pounded as he leapt to his feet and groped blindly through the darkness. He flipped on a light, John blurted his eyes against the sudden brightness, trying to examine the transition into wakefulness. As he did every morning for the past few weeks, he searched James' bed, hoping that he had come back and hadn’t wanted to wake John. A sigh escaped John’s lips, partly out of worry for his roommate but mostly out of frustration that he’d have to gather James’ homework for another day.

John put James to the back of his mind and ran off to his first class of the day: General Psych. The same General Psych class that they were all a part of—James, Audra and Sheila—and the ranks had thinned dramatically for the year. John was in his room after the round and got to work on homework. He had just pulled out the Calculus book when he heard a knock on the door and someone come in.

“Hey John,” his RA said, “how are ya doin’?”

“Just workin’ on some homework.”

“Oh yeah? What class?” his RA asked as he sauntered over, uninhibited. A puzzled look came over his face as he picked up the calculus homework. “John, why does this have James’ name on it?”

“Because the organization asked me to do his homework while they are ‘training’ him,” John thought. “Must’ve just gotten mixed in with mine.”

A single lamp was lit in the middle of the dark room. On the table was a manila folder with a name on the front. James stumbled through the dark, past the chair, and picked up the folder to read the name. He flipped open the folder to take a look at the papers of information inside: history, training and all the important things. James looked up from the folder to look into the eyes of the man who was always on the other side of the table.

“I’ll do it.”

Spring mix-tape for a sunny day

BY JORDAN LANGER

For students, there’s always a week that marks the beginning of the end. There are a few indicators that everybody’s ready for the spirit of summer: blankets on the green, frisbees and finally a mix of long and short sleeves.

For me, the great symptom is a complete shift of music. For instance, the Beach Boys seem a little more appropriate than they did with piles of snow on the ground.

Like a good friend, I’d like to share a spring mini-mix with you. If you haven’t been infected with the sunshine epidemic, these four tracks from 2009 will bring some sunshine in.

Alan Palomo’s debut album Neon Indian: “Deadbeat Summer”

The same General Psych class that John thought, “I really don’t like you” sat at the other end of the table. He flipped the page to look into the eyes of the man who was always on the other side of the table.

“I’ll do it.”

Neon Indian: “Deadbeat Summer”

“Child-like wonder in literature is aided by recreational drugs.”

“Blood froths and out it comes.”

“We’ve got Speed 1 and Speed 2 here, this one’s on a bus that one’s on a boat!”

“Must’ve just gotten mixed in with mine.”

“I’ll do it.”

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“I’ll do it.”
**Baseball sweeps Waldorf**

The Northwestern baseball team took on Waldorf College on Tuesday night and won both games, 16-11 and 8-4.

Coach Brian Wede picked up his 100th win in the first game. Freshman Stu Goslinga pitched 5.2 innings to get his first win, allowing 11 hits, ten runs and seven earned runs, walking one and striking out three. Senior Brad Payne then earned the save.

Payne went 4-4 on offense with two solo homeruns and five RBIs. Sophomore Ty Bouchard also had two homeruns and went 3-3-5 in the game. Sophomore Matt Negaard was 1-for-1 with a RBI and scored four runs. Senior Matt Gray went 1-for-3, scoring once and batting in three runs. Sophomore Levi Miller scored three runs and had one RBI, going 2-for-3.

Freshman Noah Bohlmann pitched 3.2 innings in the second game, giving up five hits and four runs, walking one and striking out two. He was relieved by Jesus Santoyo, who earned this third win out of three games this season, giving up two hits. Santoyo pitched 1.1 innings before sophomore Eddie Pantall took over and pitched two innings to earn his first career save. He gave up one hit and struck out two.

Freshman Taylor Morris went 2-2-for-3 with two homeruns, four RBIs and two runs scored. Sophomore Mike Shields went 1-for-1, hitting a home run, scoring twice and driving in four runs, while Negaard went 2-2-for-3 in the game.

**Tennis struggles to find momentum**

The Red Raider tennis team fell to both Nebraska Wesleyan and Hastings on Saturday, March 27, in Lincoln, Neb.

Against Nebraska Wesleyan, freshman Kellie Korver and senior Bobbie Lydick both forced a tie-breaker, but Northwestern failed to score when both Raiders lost 10-8. Korver was defeated in the No. 4 singles spot 1-6 in her first set but came back to win 6-7 in her second set. Lydick followed at No. 6 singles with a 1-6 loss and 7-6 win. Sophomore Julie Mineart and freshman Jenni Linsen lost a close match, 6-8, in the No. 1 doubles.

NW earned some wins in a 3-6 loss to Hastings. Senior Jessica Pomereneke picked up a win in 3 doubles, 6-4 and 6-3. Junior Nessa Summers added a win in the No. 6 singles spot, winning 6-1 and 6-0. Summers joined junior Laura Starr to win in the No. 3 doubles spot, 8-6.

Summers and Lydick each claimed a victory on February 26 against Southwest Minnesota State. Summers went 7-6, 5-7 and 6-0 to win at No. 5 singles and Lydick won in the No. 6 spot 6-4, 5-7 and 11-9. The Mustangs won by a 7-2 margin.

Next the Raiders take on Briar Cliff at home on Wednesday, April 7, at 4 p.m.

**Softball rolls with three-game win streak**

The Red Raider softball team split games with Mount Marty on Tuesday night in Yankton, S.D.

The Lancers took the first game, 6-1. Northwestern had nine hits, led by sophomore Kami Kuhlmann with three.

Kuhlmann pitched five innings, giving up seven hits and three earned runs, to take the loss.

NW fared better in the second game, finishing the night with a 16-14 victory. The Raiders outhit the Mount Marty 16-51. Junior Rachel Curby led the offense, going four-for-five, scoring two runs and batting in two runs. Senior Sara Curry belts a two-run homer in the seventh, the first homerun of her career. She went three-for-six in the game for the Raiders, going all seven innings striking out one batter and allowing seven runs off 12 hits. She also led the Raiders in hitting going four-for-four with one RBI. Harris also was perfect in hitting on the day, going three-for-three and scoring two runs herself.

In the second game, Hooper took the mound, giving up 5 innings and striking out five. She allowed two runs off ten hits before Kuhlmann came in for relief. Kuhlmann gave up three runs off two hits in her 1.1 inning of work.

Leading in hitting for the game was Curry, going three-for-four with three RBIs and scoring twice herself. Sophomore Glory Bensom went four-for-four in the game with a homerun and two RBIs.

The Raiders are set to take on Dakota Wesleyan on Wednesday in Mitchell, S.D.

**PLAYER PROFILE**

Jessica Pomereneke

"Enjoy it while you can and live in the present each day. Four years flies by so fast!"

Jessica Pomereneke has been playing tennis since she was a young girl and she plans to play for the rest of her life. She said that is one of the reasons why she loves the sport so much. Pomereneke knows people who are 70 or older who “still go out and hit the ball around and they are still legit.”

Northwestern, as many of you know, just reinstated the women’s tennis team last year. Pomereneke is a senior here but was thrilled to hear the Raiders would have a tennis team again and quickly signed up. “It just seemed like a really good fit and an opportunity to compete again.”

Tennis has taught her a lot. Pomereneke says that tennis is a very “mental” game and one has to have a lot of mental toughness in order to have the will and find a way to fight back when you are down a set.

Pomereneke will miss a lot about playing on the tennis team. She will miss not only playing on and being a member of a team, but the specific girls that are on the team. “Our tennis team has a unique and amazing group of girls who have made the experiences so great! I’ll miss the joy I get just seeing them everyday.” Being an athlete is not always easy, she said, but she loves getting to compete and build relationships with her teammates.

Pomereneke does not forget who gave her the ability to play tennis. She says: “I try to use the opportunities in tennis to glorify God in my relationships with my teammates and when I encounter other opponents.” God is a big part of what playing is all about.

As for her advice to other athletes, “Enjoy it while you can and live in the present each day. So many times I have taken the experiences for granted and for years flies by so fast!”

When Pomereneke isn’t playing tennis, she loves being outside and being active. She also “loves Northwestern events, they’re always the best” and she is infamous for her “mother P. packages.”

Pomereneke is a mathematics teaching major and plans on teaching high school or middle school math. If she cannot find a teaching and coaching job around here, “I will move somewhere warm where it doesn’t get below freezing for four months—so we’ll see!”

**April 2, 2010**