Epic prizes and ‘elderly’ participants

It’s time for Bingo Night!

BY SHELBY VANDER MOLEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A girl hobbled about with baby powder in her hair, welcoming the streaks, or in this case, puffs, of grey hair. A boy sported long johns and dragged a homemade I.V. along behind him. The “elderly” college students were a sight, not to mention the vault of prizes that would be distributed amongst them. This was Bingo Night last year.

This year Bingo Night begins bigger and better than before. A Student Activities Council tradition and campus favorite, Bingo Night debuted in 2006, and this year is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 19, at 9:30 p.m. in the RSC Gym.

The night unfolds with 15 rounds of bingo, a booty of extravagant prizes and many college students dressed rather comically as the elderly. However, this year instead of receiving just one bingo card per game, participants will have triple sheets per game plus the additional seven they can earn by dressing up. One major prize per game will be awarded, and upon multiple lucky bingo winners, a rock-paper-scissors duel will determine the winner.

By presenting their current I.D. card, students can enter the running on this year’s prizes including a flip ultra camcorder, weeks of homemade treats, a 32 GB iPod Touch and a flight on a Diamond Vogel jet as posted on the Student Activities Facebook page. The evening also includes a prize drawing for those who become a fan of the page on Facebook and a short break in which students can take their “pills” for the evening. Students need not worry though; the pills usually consist of Smarties, M&Ms and Skittles. Whether you win a prize or not, the experience is deemed as one of the best according to director of SAC Lori Couch. “So many young people dress-up that it is a really fun atmosphere,” Couch said. She also said the evening is “fun but intense,” and it “appeals to lots of students.”

Couch is not the only one who thinks Bingo Night is highly worthwhile. Sophomore Katie Nieuwsma attended last year and encourages everyone to do the same. “It’s so much fun dressing up crazy with your friends and then seeing everyone else having fun too,” Nieuwsma said. “If you want a good laugh you should definitely come. You might even win some prizes too!”

Senior Stephen Smith agreed, “I’m definitely going again and would urge everyone else to do the same! Bingo night is not only one of the most fun of the campus events with the biggest turnout, but it gives us a taste of what we all have to look forward to!”

Auction offers airfare to Europe, trip to Disney World

BY MEAGAN MCCODUGALL
STAFF WRITER

What do a trip to Disney World, a Wii Fit Plus, a Brett Favre jersey, a Flip video camera, a handmade queen-sized quilt and Casting Crowns tickets have in common? They are all going to be auctioned off at the Northwestern College Alumni Association’s 27th annual Gala Auction Saturday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m.

There are some things we see donated more often than others,” Aletha Beeson of the NW Alumni Office said. “But we usually get a variety of new things that are different and keep it exciting.”

The Gala Auction is the second largest fundraiser NW holds, and it is unique in that all of the proceeds go toward helping students with tuition. Senior Krystal Van Wyk, who is serving as an intern in the Alumni Office and will be working at the Gala Auction, said she was unaware of how effective the auction actually is to the NW Campus.

“I had no idea this event was so huge and how much it really does for carrying out our financial packages,” she said.

The proceeds of the Gala Auction directly affect students in easing tuition costs.

“So many generous people have given so much to this school to make it possible for almost anyone to attend NW,” Van Wyk said. “I was one of those people who thought I would never be able to come here, but because of the Gala Auction and the generous donations of businesses and other NW supporters, I was able to get an education here.”

Last year the auction raised enough money to give out $1,000 scholarships to 40 students. While every year is different, Beeson is confident that the auction will be successful in its 27th year.

Not all of the items being auctioned off this year are as extravagant and expensive as the Disney World package, airfare to Europe or the variety of golf packages. Van Wyk said that her favorite item this year was free Culver’s ice cream for a whole year, which is one of the items that could be affordable for students.

The coordinators encourage students to come and take part in the whole day of activities, such as the basketball games against the University of Sioux Falls at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and a family meal in the RSC at 5 p.m.

If the sweet items “aren’t convincing enough, then at least come and see what happens when item 48 is being auctioned off,” Van Wyk said. “I feel like you won’t be disappointed.”

The items that are up for bid at the Gala Auction are available for viewing in the NW bookstore. Items up for bid include a Brett Favre jersey, Wii Fit Plus and Casting Crowns tickets.
Tragedy precludes competition:
World’s fastest luger track proves fatal
BY LINDEN FIGGIE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

No one ever thought defeat could come before the race even started. For Norad Kumsaratsvilii of Georgia, it came the day prior, in a routine practice run for the luger competition at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada.

After veering into the wall in the final stretch of the course, the rookie Olympian flew off his sled and into a support pole, dying short thereafter.

In spite of the emotional trauma, Kumsaratsvilii’s fellow teammates weathered the storm, competing in their beloved teammate’s honor.

To prevent future unexpected tragedies, officials extended safety measures and adjusted the luge course; however, the race and schedule proceeded as planned with only minor delays. The luger who began the day with only minor delays. The luger who began the day.

Regardless of the loss, the Olympics has brought equally as many memorable victories. Alexandre Bilodeau’s gold medal, finishing the moguls race in 26.75 seconds. It was certainly an unlooked-for prize.

In more familiar terms, it seems the Great Plains is not the only place suffering from disagreeable weather. Whistler, the site of the ski resort used in the Olympics, has had to postpone races due to conditions.

However, weather doesn’t seem the Great Plains is not the only place suffering from disagreeable weather. Whistler, the site of the ski resort used in the Olympics, has had to postpone races due to conditions.

Despite the odds, the boys, their teammates and their coaches are inspired by a dream and guided by a mission. They learn to enroll in a graduate school program and be able to keep the bowls.

The public is invited to experience “Amalgamate” in the Te Paske art gallery Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to midnight and Sunday from 1 p.m. to midnight.

SGA: Project benefits non-profit
Cont. from pg. 1

“I think this is a good idea, and I want to contribute by taking shorter showers and using less water from day to day.”

The goal for this semester is to reduce campus consumption by 15%, making the estimated savings to be given $21,519.12. After the savings have been assessed, students, faculty and staff will have the opportunity to nominate a non-profit organization, submitting a short description of the organization and why it should receive the gift. SGA will send out an email to notify the campus when it is time to choose an organization.

The nominees will be reviewed, and SGA will pick some to be put up for a vote with the top five presented to the administrative council.

Garcia said, “My hope is for the money to stay local. Many students volunteer their time and talents in our area, and it would be great to see our community benefit from our efforts here on campus.”

Students can look for emails and advertisements around campus for more information and encouragement to participate in ConServe.

By Jenna Van Oort
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“Amalgamate,” which means to combine or unite to form one organization or structure, serves as the name of Ian Dudley’s upcoming art exhibit. Dudley, a senior majoring in both art and training and snowboardcross as well, due to detrimental conditions.

The Barnstead, N.H., native called his decision to be an art major a “cruel twist of fate” with a complicated story, but he plans on graduating this spring nonetheless. After graduation, Dudley hopes to enroll in a graduate school to pursue his MFA in creative writing.

Foreseeing his future career, Dudley’s ultimate goal as a writer and artist is to “learn the value of seeing,” which is the best way I can sum up my thoughts,” Dudley said.

The movie stars Matt Ashford from NBC’s “Days of Our Lives,” Bonnie Johnson from “The Great Debaters” and Candice Rose from “ER” and “CSI.”

Durham previously directed the award-winning film, “The Prairie Pirates,” which premiered in 2007. His wife, Donna, and Orange City resident Anita Bomgaars are the producers of the movie. “Winning Favor” was shot last summer in Orange City.

Although the Student Development Office’s discounted movie tickets will not be accepted for this movie, if students do want to use their discounted tickets, they will have to pay the difference between the cost of the movie pass and the cost of the movie.

To learn more about the movie and watch the trailer, check out www.winningfavor.com.
The Right to Reason: SSPs - Helpful or Harmful?

‘Short-term mission trips are a necessary evil.’

BY ALEIGH ASCHERL

“You’re so cute I could just take you home with me!” Upon hearing these words from his new American friend, seven-year-old Aaron, Aaron sprinted home to ask his mom if he could accompany his new friend back to the United States to live with her. After an immediate “yes,” Aaron packed his bags and quickly made his way back to where his new white friends were staying for the week. “My mom says I can go!”

Of course we know that why this considered an invitation had no meaning behind it. But to seven-year-old Aaron it meant a way out of poverty. Aaron spent the rest of the afternoon with his head buried in his arms not wanting anyone to see how hard he was crying.

Unfortunately, this story isn’t one I made up to prove a point. It’s true. It’s because of stories like Aaron’s that I began referring to short-term mission trips as a necessary evil. You should know that I’ve been on several week-long trips and served for two three-month stints with a ministry that hosts short-term teams. Call me a hypocrite? Maybe. I marketed my first trip just like a week-long trip should be. “We’re going to lead people to Jesus and really just bless these poor people.” The money came rolling in. As I went on more trips I started to question the validity of what I was doing. It wasn’t until I spent two summers with a ministry that hosts week-long trips that my mind was made up. It is a whole different ball game when you see how harmful an overexcited youth group, ready to save the world, can be.

Too often these trips can ruin reputations that ministries have worked so hard to establish in a community. Coming in with fierce excitement, they leave behind a wake of destruction that the ministries will spend the next weeks rebuilding. They come in ready to bring God to the people but fail to realize that God is already there. He was there long before you pulled up in your 15-passenger van and He will be there long after you head back home.

Don’t get me wrong, short-term teams are a necessity to a vast amount of ministries. Most ministries need the man power, volunteers, and the finances that these teams bring with them. But we should find ourselves being an encouragement and not a burden to those who serve in those places full-time. I think that a lot of the blame falls on us and the mindset that we have, or rather the one that we don’t.

In 2 Corinthians 2:12-16, the Apostle Paul says, “When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony of God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.” If we go into these trips with the attitude of Paul we open up our minds to what we can learn and to give, ultimately the only thing we really have to offer.

Please understand that I am not saying that we should do away with short-term teams, absolutely not. As I mentioned before, they sustain many ministries. We do, however, need to make a conscious effort to redefine them if we wish for them to be effective rather than harmful. Go on these trips ready to serve whole-heartedly in whatever ways you are asked and with an open mind, ready to learn whatever God has for you.

Northwestern’s View

Northwestern College annually sends more than 200 students, faculty and staff in teams to serve with ministries in the U.S. and around the world. Spring Service Projects integrate faith, service and cross-cultural learning within a team setting that also allows for the involvement of faculty and staff. The SSP program benefits both the ministries and the students who serve. The efforts of a variety of ministries are encouraged, supported and helped in tangible ways. In addition, Northwestern students are challenged and strengthened in their faith as they see and experience the gospel being lived out in cultures different than the one in which they live.

Want to write for the BEACON?

FROM THE STRIP

BY HOLLY LAWRENCE

To all those who are skeptical or wary of the new ConServe initiative introduced to us, I would like to say that I am a supporter of this idea.

ConServe is a student-led initiative that, during the Lenten Season, encourages us to save water, gas and electricity. The money we save during this time will be donated to a charity of our choice, such as The Bridge.

I want to encourage us all to not think of ourselves, and instead think of those that live in our community that could benefit from this. Even if we are only able to save a mere 5% of the money our school puts towards energy consumption over a two month period, we would have $7,000 that would be given to those in need. If we all unplug our TVs when we’re not using them, making our showers a minute shorter, or even just turning down the temperature on fridges, we can become better stewards of the earth and show compassion for others in our community.

So instead of complaining about our school’s financial situation, we should be more Christ-like in our actions and develop more of an understanding that there are people that need this money more than we do. I also would like to ask those who are struggling with thinking of something to do for Lent to choose something that would benefit others instead of just you, and the ConServe initiative might just be the right choice.

The 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 meet and contribute their writing. To contribute please contact the editor for the Beacon, nwciowa.edu. All students are welcome to become a part of the long standing tradition.
Features

Eating disorders awareness week: Gain a healthy perspective

BY MEGHAN SCHUSTER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Beauty has so many different meanings. To the media world, beauty is seen in a girl with a perfect, beautiful body. But that girl is usually edited by a computer to make the “beauty” completely fake.

Many people follow the media’s example and try to make themselves beautiful by that worldly standard. It doesn’t work. No one can be that beautiful because it’s not even real. And since it’s not real, it really isn’t beautiful at all.

I see beauty in all of God’s creation, and I especially see beauty in the people God creates. People are made in God’s image, and He is more beautiful than anything! He has handcrafted each individual to be absolutely glorious.

I have seen beauty in all mothers. There’s the beautiful mother with the glow on her face as her belly begins to grow with life inside it. There’s the beautiful mother with the tiny, beautiful baby in her arms. There’s the beautiful mother with three children wanting her attention. There’s the beautiful mother whose babies are all grown and is soon to be a grandmother.

I have seen beauty in the girls I met one summer in Arizona (and have met since then). They didn’t always see their own beauty, but it was there. They loved each other like sisters, and they always wanted to care for one another.

They built each other up and always pushed each other to try their hardest. They offered their support during those hard days that just seemed impossible to get through.

I have seen beauty in the girls on my wing in the dorm. Their faces glow with the love of Jesus, and they let their lights shine for Him. They are caring and compassionate, and their natural beauty is only enhanced by the beauty from within.

They never fail to encourage one another and to just be there in times of need. Beauty is all around us. It’s in God’s creation, and it’s in the way people show love to one another. Beauty can be found in everything if a person just takes the time to look.

Students seek to turn the tables on poverty and injustice

BY HOLLY STEWART
STAFF WRITER

Nearly fifty Northwestern students attended the Faith & International Development conference at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan that was held Feb. 4-6. Led by Dave Nonnemacher, the students rode on a bus through the night to attend.

The conference featured a unique group of talented speakers and activists, including Milton Amayun, Dana Bates, Ron Sider, Davis Omanyo and Leymah Gbowee, as well as representatives from a number of organizations.

“They furthered my passions for development,” said senior Michelle Cundy, “and it was so encouraging to be around people who care about the rest of the world and will take action to make a difference.”

Many students felt the conference was a reminder of God’s love and compassion for the poor and oppressed. “One of the main things I learned was about justice and charity: God calls us to both, yet we cannot simply be caring for people’s short-term needs nor throwing money at them for our own type of ‘good Christian’ feeling,” said junior Janelle de Waard.

“We must be compassionate and we must be about justice. The leader of our small group gave the analogy of charity and justice like feet. She said it would be the most logical to walk forward, yet many people are hopping around.”

Freshman Jordan Vermeer echoed the thoughts of Cundy and de Waard. “The conference helped me realize where my passion is, in international development, in being on ‘ground zero’, not just giving my money to organizations.”

The opinion of most of the attendees was that it was a life changing experience, opening many eyes to issues around the world and here at home. As Cundy said, “This conference left me to ask new questions about my future and really think about what God is calling to do with my life.”

Senior Stacey Bernardo attended the conference for the second time this year. “I left the conference wanting to do more to help, even if it was simply spending less money on things that I didn’t need,” said Bernardo.

“I hope that people can begin to realize when they are buying and using more than what they need and I hope we can work on reallocating the resources of this world to make them more equal among people,” continued Bernardo. “Until this starts to happen, I believe that this problem will continue and most likely become worse.”
Northwestern’s best dorm rooms 2010

BY EMILY GOWING & ANNA HENKE

PHOTO EDITOR & STAFF WRITERS

As students on campus were rushing around making plans with their loved ones before Valentine’s day, two students in particular were on a mission as they snuck around campus and peeked in dorm rooms to find out who had the sweetest dorm room on campus. Notes were scribbled down furiously as the habitants of ten dorm rooms rambled off everything cool their room had to offer. And after analyzing, critiquing, and contemplating, we can finally offer you a list of “The Top Ten Sweetest Dorm Rooms.”

Most Homely

The decoupage door of Fern 216 invites its occupants into a warm and calming room, with its hues of purple, blue and green. Subdued lighting softens the atmosphere of the space, as the fish tank bubbles soothingly beside the fridge. Old-fashioned window frame set up behind the couch and a mint green cabinet beside the fridge.

Best Vintage Vibe

With Norman Rockwell calendars covering the walls of Fern 231, the vibe Senior Beth Mouw is attempting to portray in her room is “delicious organized chaos.” It has been cleverly mastered along with two rocking chairs for relaxing and studying, a fish named Luis and a golden lamp named Evelyn. While walking in to the room any onlookers can spot Mouw’s room from across the street and know exactly where Waldo is found.

Clean and Refreshing

Fern 325 is like a fresh breath of spring with its bright colors. Though LeAnn Johnson apologizes for its messiness, the room is nearly spotless. There is a distinctively girly theme to the room; not only are there flowers, but also polka dots and babies. Johnson and roommate Greta Hayes have dressed up their closets with silky curtains in varying shades of blue, and their house plant “Franz” dwells on the top shelf of LeAnn’s desk. The girls have a vocabulary word each week, archived in fluorescent note cards on the far wall. They also have a “Bucket List” framed on the desk, including goals for cleaning and community.

Most Quirky

Hospers 216 is cluttered in a naively kind of way; it’s something of a cross between the Burrow and the Bohemian boutique. Junior Anne Philo and sophomore Ericha Walden even have an owl theme. Sewing and art projects are scattered and hung around the lived-in space, a beautiful piece with fabric rosettes and button clusters hangs from the top bunk, and “Sylvester” the sculpture perches atop their home-constructed shelving unit, in which a tea set and a hermit crab hold residence. Old-fashioned hats adorn the shelves and walls, further enriching the quiriness of their homespun environment.

Best Use of Space

Just like a child’s playground, Heemstra 9 hosts a fort that wraps around the entire room. This enables Jared White and roommate Bob Latchaw to enter their room and never touch the ground. That is until they feel the need to slide down their slide. That’s right, a slide in a college dorm room. It may be poorly lit like the entire hall of Heemstra, but using Beatles flags as light covers sets the mood. This room appeases “Watching the World Go By,” while still maintaining a masculine atmosphere.

Calling on Constellation

West Hall 105 is the Nintendo “Cruis’n World” arcade game. Hats hang on the antlers next to the game and posters decorate the walls. Juniors Will Schroeder, Alex Menning and Phil Hegeman also have three love seats and three-man stacked beds. The other focal point of the room is their plasma TV, in a self-constructed entertainment center, which also houses “Leslie” the statue. They have a coffee table between the love seat and TV, on which sit their computers. Their fish, “Peter”, “James”, “Lawrence” and “Will’s illegitimate,” overlook the scene from a bowl on a shelf of the entertainment center.

Entertainment Center

The most striking feature of West Hall 105 is the Nintendo “Cruis’n World” arcade game. Hats hang on the antlers next to the game and posters decorate the walls. Juniors Will Schroeder, Alex Menning and Phil Hegeman also have three love seats and three-man stacked beds. The other focal point of the room is their plasma TV, in a self-constructed entertainment center, which also houses “Leslie” the statue. They have a coffee table between the love seat and TV, on which sit their computers. Their fish, “Peter”, “James”, “Lawrence” and “Will’s illegitimate,” overlook the scene from a bowl on a shelf of the entertainment center.

Sweetest Statues

West Hall 311 welcomes visitors with a CD-covered ceiling, and a corner dedicated strictly to guitars and musical instruments. Turn around and you’re certain to see a samurai standing erect in the corner near the window. As with any room in West Hall, the arrangement of furniture makes for tight living quarters with a relaxing vibe. But seniors Cody Raak, Caleb Kester and Matthew Skelton will welcome any visitor with a smile.

Most Random Objects

Hospers 10 has never seen so many movie characters or wild animals at the same time. Freshmen Sarah Kugler and Amber Amundson have dedicated an entire corner of their room to stuffed animals from random movies or mini-statues of cats, llamas and pigs. On top of the corner of random objects, the walls and ceiling of Hospers 10 is covered in posters of movies and bands from the Beatles to Watchmen. This room appeases more than your eyes with the ever-present smell of coffee. Tying all these things together makes a room that matches the personality of the young women who inhabit it.
Ride the 90’s New Wave

BY JORDAN LANGER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the last decade, alternative music has gained complexity. It’s delicate, full of trinkets and tricks, orchestrations and orchestration. It’s more frantically intricate than it’s ever been, and you either like that or hate it.

It’s nearly forgotten the lo-fi, DIY strands that kept things even during the 90’s—let alone the democratic, fierce personality of 70’s punk. But the current still moves, even if it’s in small, unseen ways. Last year saw the rise of small venue acts like Japandroids, Girls and Cymbals Eat Guitars, which revived some of that classicism and conventionality. They remember where we’ve drifted from: Pavement, garage rock, and a few good lessons from the grunge guys.

Oh, and Weezer (RIP: 1994–1996). Yes, we’ve missed their naïve take on that whole time.

But rising Floridians, Surfer Blood, are functioning in that same role with their recently released “Astro Coast.” It’s refreshingly guitar driven, with its fair share of standard chords. There’s a certain reverb, reminiscent of the time. But there’s enough sunshine, buoyant melody to meet the demands of post-Barack music trends. These usually come in Vampire Weekend guitar mimicry or, on rare occasion, “tropical” percussion.

So it’s a good balance of the old and new.

There’s also a great deal of vocal nostalgia. I see an ongoing similarity between the lead vocalist (John Paul Pitts) and the distinct voice of The Shins. He’s also Rivers Cuomo (Weezer) on “Twin Peaks,” between the falsetto of an early bridge and a crescendoed outburst at 1:20. “Catholic Pagans” is similar, and then adds some of his immaturity. But, despite influence, I don’t mean to infer that his is an unconfident or dependent character. To me, the anhemic “Swim” is proof that he’s not a reserved cheat.

They have hidden all kinds of texture in these ten tracks though. Pitts has cited the influence of several sonic pioneers, including The Pixies, My Bloody Valentine and Dinosaur Jr’s 1987 influential “You’re Living All Over Me.” Raw tracks like “Harmonix” and “Anchorage” are especially indebted to what he mentions, and to Pinkerton. But even the other tracks, drenched with chord progressions, are crowded with electronic space. I’m sure the recording adds some of that thickness, but it’s better for it. The effect is very tidal.

From what I’ve read, these guys don’t surf. Frankly, it doesn’t matter. You can group them with all of that beachy pop. There’s all the jangles and twang. But, as Weezer demonstrated in 1994, there’s also something in the sandy grain—the sounds harmonically-circular pop forgot. “Astro Coast” reminds us of the good in returning to shore.

Fiction

week 3 of the NW mystery

BY JOSH DOORENBOSS & KEVIN WALLACE

STAFF WRITERS

Sheila’s red notebook was puzzling. For most of its pages it was her Gen. Psych. notes, but for one page it became obscure, vague.

It’s been two weeks and two days since she died and James can’t stop thinking about her. Something was going on, and ever since the Memorial Service on Tuesday, he has been especially troubled.

There was a prayer service in the chapel on that Tuesday. The campus chaplain and a local pastor came to speak and pray about the pain of loss and grief. They honored her life and prayed for her surviving family.

After the service Audra was waiting in the chapel lobby. “I need to talk to you.”

She brought him to a practice room.

“I didn’t see you in there,” James said, sitting down on a piano bench beside her. Audra was tall, lean and strong, like a rock climber.

“Yeah.” She looked down at the ground. “I really didn’t want to be hugged and prayed for. I couldn’t take that, so I waited in back after it started.”

“I understand,” James looked down at the ground. “So what did you need?”

“What was she talking about? When she—” Audra stumbled over her words, “You spoke to her before she died, what was she talking about? Did she suspect… I don’t know…”

“You don’t think it was allergies,” James said.

“I— Audra stuttered, “I don’t know.”

“I don’t either.” James said.

“Did she say anything?”

“No.”

They sat in silence for a long time, both afraid, both uncomfortable with the situation. Northwestern isn’t a place for murder, death, mystery – it’s a cloistered world, a world away from those things that the rest of the world deals with.

“So you don’t think she suspected anyone was trying to kill her?”

“No,” James lied, “At least she didn’t say anything if she did.”

Audra exhaled deeply. “What a terrible way to end my junior year.”

That was Tuesday. On Thursday, James couldn’t put down Sheila’s red notebook. At the top of the page was the phrase, “Tell Rahab I want to see her.” What the heck was that supposed to mean? The next line was “1988, 1993, 1999, 2010.” The next, Tuesday, February 2.

“Yeah.” She looked down at the ground. “What did you say?”

“What’s the pattern?” James whispered.

“And who’s Rahab?”

The last line read “JSAIL.”

“She knew it was coming,” James shot to his feet and began pacing, “Tuesday, February 2, 2010. JSAIL. She knew she would die.”

He remembered stopping by her room a few days after she had died. Her room hadn’t changed, and there hung a “Happy 21st” sign. “2010 minus 21 is,” James froze, “1988.”

James threw open his laptop and tapped his fingers against the desk, waiting for Facebook to come up. He clicked over to Sheila’s page. “No, she’s a sophomore, she’s only 20, and her birthday was on December 21.” Then James thought for a second. “No…” He typed in Audra’s name.


James flew out the door, past the parking lot, across the street nearly getting hit by a biker, nearly running into a couple who were saying goodnight outside of Ferrm. He ran in the door, which was falling shut, into the first floor hallway and ran down the hall. The RA came out and called after him, “Hey! It’s closed dorm hours.” But James ignored her and tossed open the door that had Audra and Sheila’s names and favorite ice cream on it.

Inside was Audra. Hanging from the ceiling.
Venti latte, no foam and a tall decaf yuppie?

BY SARAH KUGLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“We buy things to say something about ourselves,” claims Bryant Simon in his book Everything but the Coffee: Learning about America from Starbucks. In these pages, he analyzes Starbucks’s rise from a small, independent location in Seattle to the global coffee giant of today. Simon dismantles the chain piece by piece in chapters with names like “Real Coffee,” “Predictability of the Individual Way” and “Not-So-Green Cups.” Each discusses a specific attribute of Starbucks, analyzing its emotional appeal and detrimental impact. This careful dissection reveals that, despite our “hope to purchase our way to happiness and salvation,” Starbucks is just as calculated as any other corporate shill.

Among the many topics discussed, the way Starbucks caters to “the individual” caught my attention. Starbucks customers are people who think for themselves and know what they like. With IKEA-style furniture and natural tones of brown, green and red, Starbucks suggests independence from the mainstream (think McDonald’s-style sparsity and bold colors). Rather than settling for a cookie-cutter cup of BK Joe, you selected a more sophisticated drink. Walking down the street with one of their trademark white and green cups makes a statement about you: you know your coffee, and you have money to spend on such “luxuries.” The music Starbucks plays also contributes to this image: not obscure enough to turn off mainstream listeners but unique enough to suit them in. Choosing chill tunes by Bob Dylan or Coldplay, Starbucks sells the perception of taste. If you drink Starbucks, clearly you know your coffee and your music.

Starbucks has become as much a symbol of status as anything else, an accessory to a specific public image. If you drink Starbucks, maybe you listen to National Public Radio. You have liberal sensibilities, care about the earth and probably drive a sensible yet cool foreign car. These assumptions obviously fail frequently but, Simon argues, at the start of the 21st century, they were accurate enough to form this stereotype. You can access all of this - the perception of independence and social status - for the comparatively small price of an expensive cup of joe.

I have a confession to make: I go to Starbucks. I have a Starbucks card, which provides me with free wireless every day and free coffee on my birthday. I spent seven hours in a Starbucks last semester, furiously pouting out a final paper and sipping my Grande Americano (two extra shots and room for half-and-half). And yes, I have liberal sensibilities. I drive a Honda Accord. I care about global climate change and worker’s rights. And I like to think that I have eclectic, compelling musical taste. I hate to think that Starbucks has created a Frankenstein’s monster from my loves, perfectly molded to my young, urban tastes. But what do I do about this? Shun the white cups and earth tones, seek truly independent coffee houses and ignore my obvious ensnarement by “the man”? I won’t delude myself; I am a product of the system. But maybe, as Bryant Simon implies in Everything but the Coffee, I should burn my Starbucks card like a 1960’s draft notice. I can get a good cup of coffee elsewhere.

The Full Moon Turns Red

BY MEAGAN YOUNG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the full moon rises over a Gothic mansion set in 1892 Blackmoor, England, people have reason to close their doors to a rabid “Wolfman,” who roams the land with blood-thirst. Ripping through towns in an old English countryside, “The Wolfman,” sends echoing howls to disturb the countryside, “The Wolfman,” a bloodbath, is at the Holland Plaza.

Simon’s witty, revealing tale of how Starbucks sells us an image: the liberal minded-yuppie.

The Wolfman, a bloodbath, is at the Holland Plaza.

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THE WOLFMAN

PHOTO COURTESY OF FILMOFILIA.COM

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As the full moon rises over a Gothic mansion set in 1892 Blackmoor, England, people have reason to close their doors to a rabid “Wolfman,” who roams the land with blood-thirst. Ripping through towns in an old English countryside, “The Wolfman,” sends echoing howls to disturb the tranquility. These howling howls appear throughout the movie as foreshadowing for a ravaging bloodbath that occurs at every expiration, decides to track this mythical beast which launches the plot into action, finally. The rest of the film is spent displaying the savage detachment of limbs and occasional flinging of organs. You can be sure to experience a stomach churn when the number of death scenes take over the entire end of the movie.

With the constant suspense of dissonant chords and building music we are, after being dragged through the mud with the “overkill” of slaughter scenes, exposed to the twisted truth behind the deaths that have been occurring. Overall, I thought the plot was creative and suspenseful, but the gore of the movie ruined the actual story line. As I looked around at my fellow viewers before the movie started I realized that it was myself and one other woman pathetically anticipating what kind of fantastic adventure “Wolfman” would be. I felt out of place, since all the rows ahead of me were lined with guys who anxiously awaited the human mutilation and destruction of mankind. In preparation for Valentine’s Day, “Wolfman” reminded me why I focus on love instead of death.
Red Raider Sports Shorts: by Heidi Hildebrandt

Three more qualifiers, two school records for track and field

The Red Raider track squads finished up their regular season last Friday, Feb. 12, at Dordt. The team added three new national qualifiers and broke two individual school records in the final show before the GPAC meet.

On the women’s side, junior Stacey Dietrich beat the provisional qualifying mark in the women’s 55-meter hurdles, running 8.76 and placing second. Fellow juniors Corrie Faustch and Kara Den Herder also qualified provisionally. Faustch placed third in the 600 with a time of 1:39.93, while Den Herder threw 49’1.75 to place fourth in the weight throw and break the Northwestern school record as well. Sophomore Danie Fry threw 40’4.25 in the shot put and broke a school record as well. Sophomore Shannon Bowar will participate in the heptathlon at Doane College on Friday, while the team will head to the University of Nebraska on Saturday.

Men’s basketball falls short in two games

The Red Raider men’s basketball team lost to a pair of ranked teams this week, starting with Hastings last Saturday, 79-93. Freshman Daniel Van Kalsbeek scored 20 points to lead the offense, while senior Ryan Hoogeveen scored twelve. Freshman Ben Miller added 11 points and eight rebounds, while sophomore Ryan Stock netted ten points in the game. Northwestern shot 42.7% from the field.

NW followed that up with a heart-breaking loss to seventh-ranked Dakota Wesleyan on Wednesday. The Raiders held the lead until three minutes of play were left when a Tiger lay-up put them ahead, 76-75. The rest of the game was back and forth, with Dakota Wesleyan claiming the victory, 88-86. Hoogeveen had a career night, scoring 24 points to lead NW. Van Kalsbeek added 17 points and nine rebounds. Senior Brent Dunkelberger earned his second double-double of the season, scoring 12 points and pulling down 11 rebounds. Miller dished out seven assists for the Raiders, while freshman Mike Vorwald had three steals.

From the field and 50 percent from behind the arc. The Raiders finish their regular season at home for parent’s day and senior day, hosting USF on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 4 p.m.

A loss, then domination

Hastings College snapped a five-game winning streak for the Red Raider women last Saturday, Feb. 13. Senior Randa Halstein registered her fifth double-double of the season, netting 16 points and pulling down 11 rebounds. Freshman Kendra Dejong had 14 points and five rebounds, while junior Becca Hurley added 13 points, eight rebounds, five assists, and four steals. Northwestern shot 42 percent from the field, while Hastings made 50 percent.

The fourth-ranked Raiders came back with a vengeance and walloped

for women’s basketball

Dakota Wesleyan on Wednesday, 102-49. Every NW player scored in the game as the Raiders reached 100 points for the fourth time this season. NW shot 59 percent from the field, led by Hurley with 20 points. Sophomore Kemi Kuhlman added 19 points, while Dejong and junior Kristin Neth scored 13 and 11 points, respectively. Dejong and Halstein pulled down six rebounds in the game and Halstein dished out seven assists.

Next up, the Raiders host USF in the last regular-season game on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m.

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