Wacky, wise meet on stage

BY TYLER LEHMANN

Sinister steel baron Mr. Mister has all of Steeltown in a stranglehold, and union advocate Larry Foreman is on a mission to take down the ironfisted businessman in Marc Blitzstein's Broadway musical, "The Cradle Will Rock," which will take the stage next week.

"It's a very wacky, very physical musical comedy," said theater professor Bob Hubbard, who is directing the production. "If you like The Daily Show or the Colbert Report, this is in that spirit."

Written in the 1930s, the stylized play is a social commentary on big business and other social powers.

In addition to the infamous character Mr. Mister, played by sophomore Isaiah Custer, and the hero Larry Foreman, played by senior Andrew Stam, the cast of allegorical characters includes Reverend Salvation, Wacky, wise meet on stage

NW theater presents political comedy

BY HEIDI GRITTERS

With Valentine's Day rapidly approaching, students often are forced to examine their relationships.

Instead of turning to chick flicks for direction, consider looking at a couple who, armed with witty banter and obvious affection, has lasted through all of the ups and downs entailed in a relationship.

Meet Tom and Elizabeth Truesdell, director of academic support and professor of biology, respectively. Their love story begins in the campus bookstore, when Elizabeth noticed Tom buying a book for a class that they were both in. Being a self-proclaimed "cheap Dutchman," she asked if she could borrow it, and the friendship began with dating to follow.

Asked about dates that stood out in their relationship, the couple laughed and Elizabeth bashfully began a story of not only an awkward date, but a not-so-ideal first impression with Tom's parents and a holiday in a hospital.

It all began on a ski trip to Colorado with the Truesdell family when another skier cut Elizabeth off. All seemed well after the accident until Elizabeth began to repeatedly ask Tom's father about the tumble, clueing them in that something was amiss. She was rushed to the hospital and put into a medically-induced coma for a day to recover from brain damage.

Despite their first Thanksgiving together being spent in a hospital, their relationship flourished into a marriage. They attributed the success to a common work ethic, complementing interests and plenty of honesty.

The fact that they both work at Northwestern also gave them a unique edge as teachers. The couple admits to "comparing notes" on students they both taught, as well as recommending books to each other to improve their classes. Students have also taken advantage of this relationship by seeking Tom's help for pranks on Elizabeth, and checking the truthfulness of Elizabeth's stories in class during tutoring sessions with Tom.

Deep relationships with students were cultivated outside of the classroom as well. Once, during a conversation with two students who babysat for them, the Truesdells threw out a McDreamy reference from "Can't Buy Me Love," a movie the couple deems "an '80s classic," one which the students had never seen. One movie turned into several as the couple bonded with a growing number of students. These monthly "'80s Movie Nights" included "Gremlins," "Adventures of Babysitting" and "Sixteen Candles."

So what advice does this couple offer to NW students, both married and in relationships? "Don't try to play the game," Elizabeth said. "Be honest so you know what you are getting into. Also, don’t be in a rush. It is easy to be anxious for the next step after meeting somebody and not enjoy the moment you are in. If it is intended to be a life-long relationship, the steps will come."

As for married couples? "Use birth control!" Elizabeth said. "Kids change everything."

It's also important to continue to be yourself. "Leave room for individual growth," Elizabeth advises. "Marriage doesn’t encompass all of who you are. You are still an individual."
Junior Charlotte Richards would love to cut your hair.

NW’s very own barbers
BY BRITTANY LEIKVOIL

College students are always looking for creative ways to save cash—for instance, having a friend cut hair rather than paying a professional. Northwestern’s campus boasts some excellent and wallet-friendly barbers and hair stylists.

Junior Adrianna Noteboom developed the idea of cutting hair for others when she would cut her own out of boredom. She further broke into the scene when she cut a significant amount of junior Jeremy Bork’s hair off last year. While assisting at a salon in her hometown of Champaign, Ill., she picked up even more tips.

“Mostly I do trims but every once in a while I’ll do something dramatic and cut major length off,” Noteboom said. “A lot of people are recently into the shorter and inverted look.”

Noteboom has also had experience coloring hair for others.

“Every once in a while I’ll get a request for color, but if it’s not the basic all over color, there’s so many technical steps involved that it takes such a long time,” Noteboom said. “It can’t be a spur of the moment thing.”

Another student hair stylist, junior Charlotte Richards, remembers cutting her sister’s hair when she was young, along with trimming the hair off her Barbies.

“I’ve upgraded since then,” Richards said. “I started last year and kind of just taught myself.”

Richards follows a basic formula for cutting.

“Usually just do a trim or some basic layers and then work my way up to taking off several inches,” Richards said.

Richards doesn’t charge a fee for cuts or styles, but sometimes her customers will take the garbage out or perform another chore to show their appreciation.

Nicholas Leither, a senior at NW, started to cut hair when he figured it would be cheaper to invest in a 30 dollar clippers than getting a 12 dollar hair cut every time he needed an update. He got some more experience while working at camp this past summer when two friends needed a haircut before they attended a wedding. He didn’t have shears, but he did have a Leatherman, and gave it try.

“I must say, [the haircut] turned out pretty decent,” Leither said.

Leither’s tools have upgraded to include real scissors, and although no girls have asked him to do their hair on campus, guys request the occasional trim. The only favor he asks of customers is that the hair gets swept up afterward.

“As far as trends go, guys don’t really care about fashion, but I have seen the trend of mustaches in campus,” Leither said.

Leither, a psychology major, even imagined a possible future in the barber business.

“I got the next level would be fooling around with the idea of going to school and opening a small town barber shop,” Leither said.

So the next time you need a cheap cut, check out the services of these and other on-campus barbers.

Of Montreal is sheer weirdness
MUSIC REVIEW
BY MATT LATCHAW

Of Montreal should be in the dictionary under the definition of weird. They’re crazy, alter-ego weird. This band’s creativity, ambition and carelessness for anyone else’s ideas or opinions make Lady Gaga seem like a slightly more rebellious Rebecca Black.

Of Montreal is out there, and their new album, “Paralytic Stalks,” takes this blatant disregard for normalcy to a whole new level. Avant-garde and experimental can’t come close to the sound in a music culture where anyone can do whatever they want. Even those crazy genres and styles have their own boundaries.

Kevin Barnes, the founder, singer, song-writer and everything else for the band, takes the already strange progressive, electronic, glam and psychedelic pop and adds in 20th-century modern and minimalist classical music. It’s what would happen if Prince, David Bowie and Ligeti collaborated.

The results are at the best moments deep, thoughtful and artistic, and at worst meaningless, incoherent and self-indulgent.

Lyrically, the album doesn’t deviate from the typical of Of Montreal structure. It takes a keen ear, a lyric sheet, and a dictionary to understand what Barnes could be trying to say with this album. Like past releases, he isn’t afraid of vulgarity or taboo subjects. Anything is fair game here. Regret, revenge and relationships all get discussed in ways that other lyrical styles couldn’t begin to describe.

The vocals follow suit with Of Montreal’s own signature blend ranging from overdrubbed, effects-laden falsetto harmonies in one moment to a growling yell in the next. The instrumentation keeps the norm of electronic drum beats, hyperactive bass guitar and twinkling electric guitar.

This time strings, horns, flutes and pianos are thrown into the blender of sounds. Layers and layers of sound fill each song to the brim with different voices. The structure of the songs takes a turn right down Strange Street in this album. Right from the start, seemingly random noise gives way to spoken vocals and droning synths. After this beginning, the album sticks close to the band’s sporadic but pop-like structure. After four tracks, things start getting really weird. The final five songs range from easy-listening elevator music to the most cacophonous, structureless nightmare of a song in the album’s 13-minute conclusion, “Authentic Pyrrhic Remission.” Songs turn into totally different songs without warning or transition. It’s hard to know whether it’s all meticulously planned or carelessly thrown together.

Overall, this is a good album, although tough to listen to at times. Sometimes it feels like a chore to listen to, but other times, the complexity is a breath of fresh air in a world of simple pop music.

Old ideas, new sound from Leonard Cohen
MUSIC REVIEW
BY KATI HENG

“Amen” and “Come Healing” are the last two songs on Leonard Cohen’s 13th studio album, “Old Ideas,” which was released in January. Cohen, who has made it in this world. They’re humbling, with Cohen calling himself an aged man.

They’re humbling, with Cohen calling himself an aged man. Their voices make Cohen’s amazing lyrics more accessible for listeners. The difference with “Old Ideas,” then, is the way in which the focus is taken off Cohen’s words and overshadowed by his matured and raw voice.

The voice has gotten smokier, more mellow and less easy to spread, making lines crack in places while other lines vibrate with sound. It’s the same kind of deep talking, half-singing he’s been doing forever, but age has refined the style to give him a Johnny Cash-like quality of singing. It’s the bluntness and honesty of singing without pretense or auto-tone, saying “here’s my voice, like it or not.” And, oh, we like it.

The lyrics are essentially compositions of old themes, or ‘old ideas’ Cohen’s already sung about—religion, love, where we fit into it all. They’re humbling, with Cohen calling himself lazy and filthy, refreshing to hear from a man who has made it in this world.

The Gospel-quality of the album does get tiring—almost every song is backed by a chorus of bright female voices that would work better on just a song or two, and some lyrics sound almost morbid coming from such an aged man.

Old Ideas” isn’t going to be the album Cohen is remembered for, but that’s all right. Let no one say he went out without a bang.

”Make the throw babies at you.”
- Senior Dm Sikkema on entertaining the audience of RUSH.

“Sometimes I pretend my Mondays are Wednesdays, that way I can have two Fridays!”
- Junior Taylor Hoekstra on making the most out of the school week.

“You’ve got fingers like ET – You could just go around fingering things.”
- Professor Randy Jensen on Brian Brandau’s hands.

“Sometimes Monet just needs to be worn.”
- Senior Ericha Walden on her Monet t-shirt.

Submit your own campus quotes, with context, to beacon@nwciowa.edu
Clooney in Hawaii makes one of year’s best films

MOVIE REVIEW
BY KAMERON TOEWS

George Clooney (“Sideways”), the film has been nominated for five Oscars, including “Best Motion Picture of the Year” and “Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role” for Clooney’s performance.

While delightful silvers of dry humor pop up now and again, the film is surprisingly dreary for having the gorgeous Hawaii as a backdrop.

Spectacular performances by George Clooney and Shailene Woodly (Secret Life of the American Teenager) as Matt King’s oldest rebel daughter hold the narrative together. The two make a great pair and bring their characters to life.

“The Descendants” has an array of lovable, supporting characters from a head-bopping grandfather; to an early-developed, middle-schoolgirl; to a shaggy-haired, tag-along teen struggling with his own family losses. These characters are quirky and play mostly comical roles in the film, but are excellent additions to the story.

Hawaii is the perfect location for a project like “The Descendants.” It offers lush jungles, pristine beaches, modern American cities and laid back residents — plus it allows Clooney to sport the typical Hawaiian floral-print shirt. There is something so fundamentally opposite about placing a broken, distrustful and crude family in such an unspoiled environment that it feels right and disturbingly raw.

It seems as though more and more families around the world are torn apart for different reasons, leaving its members feeling abandoned or helpless. This film strikes at the heart of this problem, forcing the audience to grit their teeth through it all: the vulgarity spewing out of a 12 year old’s mouth and the binge drinking habits of an unappreciated high school daughter. Thankfully, the film allows viewers to leave the theater with hope for today’s families instead of a downhearted silence.

This film comes surprisingly close to one of those offbeat independent movies where the importance of a good story clearly ranks higher than profit-making strategies for the filmmakers.

It is a breath of fresh and clean Hawaiian air from much of the other junk being shown on the silver screens and truly worth an intentional watch if the threat of tears does not bother you.

Rating: ★★★★

Super powers match real-life drama in ‘Chronicle’:
An action drama that portrays teenagers acting like teenagers

MOVIE REVIEW
By MICHAEL GUTSCHE

The conflict rarely strays into the cartoonish angst that dominates teenage character pieces of late. However, once it escalates to actual, physical conflict, “Chronicle” presents some exceedingly good action sequences. It holds its own against every recent superhero movie and then some.

Of course, there is a bit of somewhat predictable behavior from the darker character. It is a traditional case of someone who’s been abused and never had any real power suddenly getting disproportionate amounts of power. This does not alienate him, and the side plot involving his sick mother and his abusive stepfather makes his side of the story all the more gripping.

What really makes the movie so worthwhile is its unconventional, grounded nature. There are no huge leaps of logic, vigilante escapades or schemes of world domination. They’re teenagers after all.

None of the characters ever really go far beyond believability, and evenbefore they develop superpowers, they’re exceedingly average high school students. Everyone who’s been to high school can find someone who acts like these three teenage guys do.

While using the increasingly relevant habit of teenagers filming their lives for vlogs or posterity, “Chronicle” sticks to the “found footage” medium, cutting to other cameras or security footage when necessary, but always from a specific angle. This enables them to do two important things: Make the film more intimate by narrowing the scale, and cover up some of the occasionally sub-par visual effects.

Regardless of the side budget, the movie has a well-put-together presentation, and is one of the best “found footage” movies as well as one of the finest superhero movies to date.

Chronicle is a great character study, and despite the occasional cheap effects, excellently presented and definitely worth seeing.

Rating: ★★★★
Arts & Culture

Political ideologies at play in new theatre production

FROM PAGE 1
played by senior Joel Koster, Editor Daily, played by sophomore Tiffany Hash and Dr. Specialist, played by freshman Anders Lewis.

“It’s amusing and it’s funny, but it’s also very relevant,” said cast member junior Ali Sondreal.

The play’s themes of corporate greed and union busting are echoed in the present day by the Occupy movement’s protest against economic and general social inequality in America.

“The play makes fun of people in power by taking stereotypes and blowing them out of proportion,” said cast member and junior Abby Bierly. Just a look at the character’s name gives a clue at how the musical plays with our view of stereotypes.

Almost entirely sung-through, “The Cradle Will Rock” more closely resembles an opera than the more familiar genre of musicals popularized by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

“The Cradle Will Rock” will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 16, 18 and the 22nd to the 25th in the Black Box Theater. Tickets, free for NW students, can be reserved from the box office by e-mailing them at boxoffice@nwciowa.edu.

Romance lovers should steer clear from ‘The Marriage Plot’

BOOK REVIEW
BY KATI HENG
ACC. EDITOR

Following three intellectual students from their years at Brown University through their first year after graduation, Jeffrey Eugenides’ latest novel, “The Marriage Plot” presents a modern response to the Victorian tale of love.

The audience is introduced to the novel’s heroine, Madeleine Hanna, hung over and ashamed after a final night of partying, before her class of ’82 graduation. Despite the fact she’s just finished writing an essay on “The Marriage Plot” of novelists such as Austen and Wharton, Madeleine uses no wisdom in her own love life.

From there, the two boys vying for her love are introduced. First, there’s Mitchell, the good guy who’s been crushing on Mad since they met at a toga party freshman year. He’s been obsessing more and more over religious traditions and the idea that Madeleine belongs with him.

Then there’s Leonard Bankhead, the mysterious, wise and easy-on-the-eyes guy in semiotics class with Madeleine and Mitchell. Soon enough, Mad has fallen in love with him, setting aside her preferences for the neat and tidy for nights at his bachelor pad.

Madeleine thinks she’s in love with Leonard, even when his personal problems start messing with their relationship. She sticks with him after graduating college, and past the point most girls would call it quits, ignoring advice from her mother, her sister, her roommates and Mitchell.

Set in the 1980’s, as the United States is just awakening to ideas of feminism, advances in pharmaceutics and punk-rock music, it’s possible Madeleine may be a few decades too late for the clean-cut, fairy-tale endings she read about in college.

Mixing philosophy, psychology, literary references and religious theories into the narrative, “The Marriage Plot” delivers not only plot, but commentary on the uses of education as well. The characters struggle to apply what they’ve learned at college to their post-graduate lives—from Madeleine’s rejection into Yale, to Mitchell’s tests of moral integrity—their educations seem to have failed to prepare them for the real world.

Here’s the first place where “The Marriage Plot” loses impact: While most find some menial job to scrape by on after college, only Leonard has any sort of role resembling employment. Mitchell opts to spend a year roaming Europe and India, while Madeleine lives off the wealth of her parents.

Besides their apparent richness, there’s little to like about any of the characters. Readers will struggle to find a character to connect to, or even a hero to root for.

Even for a book about a literature major, “The Marriage Plot” is extremely heavy-handed with its references to famous authors. If references to Eliot, Barthes, or even Ballard or obscure Salinger novels seem intimidating, be warned.

Despite its lack of a hero, “The Marriage Plot” is readable to the end, if only to find out who will be sleeping with whom at the novel’s conclusion.

Rating: ★★★
Senior Dan Sikkema and sophomore Genna Valvick bend to the music in their performance of “The Golden Age,” choreographed by Aaron Appel and Aaron Bauer. It was a small group, but an energetic dance.

Freshman Rachelle Cole and senior Heather Platt perform in the dance “Seven Nation Army.” Heather and her sister Lynda Platt choreographed the dance together.

Junior Mario Garcia declares himself “so dope” with a message on his stomach. Also pictured is junior Meg White.

Freshman Jaclyn Dykstra, senior Carley De Jong, senior Anna McClear and senior Lizzie Thompson throw their hands in the air in “Turn All The Lights Out.”

Senior Robbi Bogdanffy and junior Sarah Simmons perform in “The Romanian Dance.”

Senior Mario Garcia takes flight over the backs of Sikkema and senior Aaron Appel.

Junior Dani Maurer twirls her colorful skirt in the dance titled “Gypsy Dreams.” Also pictured is Tara Woodward.

Senior Paul McCleary leads a long line of men flexing their muscles in “The Avatar Dance.”

Junior Ryan Rydberg, sophomore Alix Baughman, junior Jacob Vander Linden, freshman Nicole Elbers and sophomore Michelle DeJarnette perform in the dance “War.”

Junior Mario Garcia takes flight over the backs of Sikkema and senior Aaron Appel.

Freshman Jessica VanDerNoord takes freshman David Runia’s hand in the “Jar of Hearts” dance.

Junior Dani Maurer twirls her colorful skirt in the dance titled “Gypsy Dreams.” Also pictured is Tara Woodward.

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Day of Learning provides opportunity to discuss diversity

BY JOSHUA KLOPE

During college, almost any day is a day of learning. When we’re not learning about science, art or writing, we’re discovering new things about our fellow students, other cultures and God.

But the upcoming Day of Learning in Community on Feb. 15 is set aside as a day to learn about unique topics outside of our current classes. It will consist of a number of different events hosted by a variety of speakers.

Students are looking forward to the broad range of subjects being covered.

“I love getting a new perspective on things,” said sophomore Meghan Thomson, a science major who plans to attend the “Neuroscience of Difference” event. Her family history gives her a special interest in the topic. “My grandfather was an immigrant from Hungary, so I love learning about people who are different from us.”

The neuroscience event focuses on people with mental conditions like autism and William’s syndrome, and will examine the differences and similarities they share with us.

“We have a lot we can learn from them,” said junior Amanda Hussman, a student leader of the event.

In her presentation, Hussman will show how a certain part of the brain connects us all and bridges the gap that mental disorders can create. “Even people with these conditions are children of God,” she said.

Kai-Hao Chen, a senior music major, is looking forward to an event regarding the role of gender in our lives. It relates to part of his major. “I’m taking a special music topic that looks at women in jazz during the 1940s,” Chen said. “It will be interesting to hear about the role of women outside of class.”

Cami Turner is one of the speakers. She will begin with the question of how your life would change if you woke up as the opposite sex.

“We want students to see what we have discovered through taking the Sociology of Gender class,” Turner said, “but also what they can learn themselves.” The event will address a number of gender stereotypes in today’s world.

Junior Elisa Banninga is interested in the “Ebonics” event. Even after several years at Northwestern, she has been drawn specifically to this kind of topic. “Linguistics has been my favorite class so far,” Banninga said. “Anything about different languages fascinates me.”

Ebonics is a dialect of English specific to African-Americans. “During the slave trade, they were not taught proper English,” said Angelica Perez, a senior and one of the leading speakers. “So they began saying things that were considered improper.” This way of speaking became known as Ebonics.

During part of their presentation, they will even be using this dialect themselves. “We want to expose students to that kind of language,” Perez said. They will also focus on the role it plays on Northwestern’s campus.

The Day of Learning is meant to be a time when students can come together to learn about each other and hear new perspectives. It will start with a presentation in Christ Chapel at 9:30 a.m. and will end with an interactive discussion session at 2:30 p.m. in the RSC. Lunch will be available at noon.

Classes and other regular activities will be canceled to make this day possible. All students are encouraged to attend so that we can explore our unique voices together.

Jensen to speak about welcoming differences

BY BRIAN BRANDAU

Marque Jensen lives in a Hmong neighborhood in northern Minneapolis, but he won’t be out of his element when he comes to visit the wide open spaces and predominantly Dutch community Orange City next week.

“The biggest draw for bringing Marque to campus for the Day of Learning was that he’s an Iowa native,” said Multi-Ethnic Student Counselor Rahn Franklin. “He’s got some great farm stories. And how we went from that experience to one where he is building bridges in the inner city. We thought he could really speak to our student body.”

Many students will recall that originally, there was not going to be an outsider speaking for the Day of Learning in Community.

“We were pretty well set on not having an outsider come in,” Franklin said. “We wanted to be able to develop community within our community. But [Jensen] was the closest outsider we’d recently dealt with who could speak to where NW is and where we’re going.”

For Jensen, the college campus was where he first encountered diversity of his own.

“Really in college was when I started being exposed to new ideas and people who really began to challenge and encourage me to see other pieces of the world I never really thought about,” Jensen said. “I had friends who were first-generation immigrants.”

Jensen said that he had many encounters with people from other cultures during and after his college years at Crossroads College in Rochester, Minn.

He said that he remembered interacting with Hmong immigrants from Vietnam, listening to sermons by an African-American pastor the college brought in to speak and eventually garnering a close relationship with a resident of northern Mexico.

Through this close friend and a time of living in northern Mexico, Jensen acquired strong roots in Latino communities.

“At each point, my connections have grown,” Jensen said. “There have been many relationships that have allowed [me and my family] to move outside of our homes and how we see the world.”

Until recently, Jensen worked as the Program Director of Community Engagement at the Sanctuary Community Development Corporation in Minneapolis. It was in this capacity that he had his first interactions with Northwestern faculty and staff.

During training in August, campus Resident Assistants were taken up to Minneapolis to hear from Marque about how he fosters community in a rundown area of the city. According to Director of Resident Life Marlon Haverdink, it was this notion of community-building that they wanted to impart on this year’s RAs.

“Marque led a wave of discussions about the concept of becoming a ‘Beloved Community,’” Haverdink said. “Our hope was that his style of building community would be transferable to the residence halls.”

This concept of Beloved Community is an important idea for Jensen.

“I’ll be talking about Beloved Community, what it looks like, why we have such a hard time achieving it,” Jensen said. “Beloved Community follows that idea of Shalom from the Old Testament, a fair community, peaceful, ...”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Gandhi used the term “Beloved Community” often. It’s the biblical idea of people really connected.

Both Franklin and Haverdink described Jensen as “authentic,” a quality that Haverdink believes is important when building community.

“Marque is genuine, hospitable and authentic. He can break down walls,” Haverdink said. “I hope he’ll kind of encourage, motivate and inspire students to think seriously about what is needed for students to live hospitably and welcoming to the people around them.”

Jensen will be speaking in chapel on Monday, Feb. 13, giving the opening address at the Day of Learning in Community on Feb. 15 and leading a seminar for DLC. He will also be visiting several classes and invites students who are interested in talking with him to contact him during his stay.
Unapologetic. That’s how one former resident describes the Heemstra community in the film. “It’s All True.”

The film—detailing traditions such as El Gato Negro, the fact that every Heemstra resident has a nickname and the annual production students, the documentary details the history and heart of Heemstra Hall in its last months of existence before facing demolition in Spring 2010.

“It was a kind of farewell to the building because living in that dorm has meant so much to so many,” Toews said. “This year they showed it in the two Heemstra wings of Colenbrander to show the guys: this is the community; these are your traditions.”

Toews cites his favorite part of the film as an interview with former resident Jared “Gill” White. “He speaks to how he learned that vulnerability spurs on vulnerability. That’s really what we were trying to get across. That living intentionally with other people and sharing all that you have, while it may seem odd to other people, can be extremely impactful.”

Although the documentary focuses some on specific traditions, it’s this emphasis on the idea of living in community that Heemstra continues to build upon in their new home on third floor Colenbrander.

“So what is it like living in the Heemstra community two years later?”

“It’s hard because some of the traditions might be considered disruptive by other Colenbrander residents,” said junior Matt “Gadget” Latchaw. “Normal people don’t like some of the things we do.”

“It’s good because there are so many more guys to experience life together with,” Toews said. “But that’s a downside too. There are so many guys to know so you don’t always know them as deeply.”

A recent survey of freshman at the Heemstra table around the five o’clock dinner hour showed an overwhelming consensus: they don’t think they’d be as satisfied with their residence life experience without the community traditions.

“They’re kind of scary at first,” said freshman Mark Van Sprooten. “But once you participate in them, they’re really fun.”

“I don’t know about the traditions yet,” said freshman David “Snakes” Green. “But I love the community.”

The change is felt most by upperclassmen. “The fact that we don’t have our RD makes it a little different,” said Nathan “Dad” Mastbergen. “I think the traditions lose a little bit of depth. But there’s added meaning because they’re completely headed by students.”

Still, the change is promoting a new kind of community. Around fall break of this year, a group of men from Colenbrander set out for the Colorado Rocky Mountains. Originally an all-campus men’s event, Heemstra residents have been the only ones to participate in years previous.

“It wasn’t all Heemstra this year,” said freshman Brook “Ruffio” Stevens. “Mostly Heemstra guys. Some from Coly. And [Colenbrander RD] Ryan Anderson. I thought it was awesome.”

Over the course of 48 hours, they drove to Colorado Springs, took 45 minutes to rest, hiked Pike’s Peak and made it home in time for 7:45 classes on Monday.

“We didn’t take the trail, we just went up the mountain,” Stevens said. “It took us eight hours to get up and probably three hours to get down. It was the ultimate test of the mental will.”

It’s this mixing of traditions that will continue to define the Heemstra community in the years to come.
Seim leads Raiders in road

BY MICHAEL SIMANELINK
SPORTS EDITOR

The No. 15 Northwestern men’s basketball team scored the first bucket of the game, and never looked back in their 87-66 road victory against Mount Marty on Wednesday night.

NW is now one game away from a 20-win season, and is sitting third in the GPAC with a 12-5 record.

The Raiders came out firing immediately, and started out the game on an 18-2 run. They continued to put on the pressure throughout the first half, leading by as many as 43-24 with a few seconds left in the first half before a buzzer-beater three gave the Lancers some momentum going into half.

NW refused to let the hosts have life, and continued to outplay Mount Marty, leading by as many as 35 in the second half. Every player in a uniform had at least eight minutes of action in the contest.

Senior Walker Seim continued his hot streak, scoring a game-high 18 points in only 17 minutes. Seim leads the team in rebounds with eight.

Kim, who led by as much as 17 at the midway point, dominating the paint with penetration and drawing trips to the charity strip. The Bulldogs couldn’t buy a basket on their home court, and shot 36 percent from the field while going 2-11 from downtown.

Concordia slowly began to find their stroke and steadily chipped into the visitor’s lead. By the time there were seven minutes left in the game, the hosts had claimed an eight-point lead.

“We got the lead we began to relax a little bit,” Hoegh said, “which is something we’ve struggled with all year. Once they got that lead, we kicked it back in gear and got it going again.”

NW did not remain dazed and stuck with their game plan of attacking the rim, which helped them reclaim the lead with just over four minutes remaining.

Despite the impressive double-double by Seim, he was far from the only Raider to show up Monday night. Senior guard Jon Kramer contributed 23 points on 10-15 shooting in the Raider’s latest road win over Concordia.

“We just got stops,” Hoegh said, “we could run on them. They were out of position a lot, and that caused them to foul us a lot more.”

NW will return to their home court Saturday and play last place Doane at 4 p.m.

Few’s and women’s track squads qualify five more events

BY DALTON KELLEY

The Northwestern track and field team traveled to Sioux Center last Saturday to compete at the Dordt Invitational indoor meet.

The Raiders made the trip a successful one, leaving with 22 top-five finishes among the team. Three more events qualified for the national meet automatically and with 22 top-five finishes among the team.

Junior Brandon Hammack thought those who have made it to the national meet are deserving and expects more to qualify as the season progresses.

“We just have to keep our heads down and keep working hard,” Hammack said. “The people that have made nationals are our elite athletes, and the rest of us are working hard trying to get there.”

The women’s side of the team will be sending three more events to the national meet, including senior Kristyna Bouchard and senior Brianna Hobbs in the 600m, both finishing less than a second apart at 1 minute 37 seconds.

Bouchard took second in the race while Hobbs finished in a close third.
Raider women recover after dropping key game

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

The Northwestern women’s basketball team went on the road Wednesday night and defeated Mount Marty 71-57. The Raiders improved to 13-4 in the GPAC, and 19-6 on the season.

Junior forward Kendra De Jong led the Raiders with 16 points and 9 rebounds, but it was the defensive effort that won the game for NW. The Raiders held Mount Marty to just 3-19 shooting from three-point range.

“Mount Marty has good balance in scoring on the perimeter and inside,” said head coach Chris Yaw. “It was a great opportunity for us to play another good team on the road.”

NW also owned a big advantage on the boards, out-rebounding the Lancers 43-27. Senior guard Kami Kuhlmann added 12 points for the Raiders, while freshman Karen Hutson contributed nine off the bench.

On Monday, the Raiders lost a tough road game to second-ranked Concordia 76-62. Concordia went on a 16-0 run in the second half, from which NW never recovered.

“They didn’t do anything special [during the run] but made baskets when we didn’t,” De Jong said. “We were getting shots but we were not making them, and they were hitting theirs. We started being passive and just settling for the easy shot instead of attacking the basket.”

NW also turned the ball over 26 times, while Concordia had just nine.

“The turnovers had a definite impact on the outcome,” Yaw said. “I believe they scored 28 points off our turnovers.”

De Jong was more blunt with her observation.

“[Turnovers are] the reason we lost,” De Jong said. “In every other area we were matched evenly with them.”

De Jong led NW scorers with 12, while sophomore guard Kenzie Small chipped in nine. Sophomore forward Alli Dunkelberger led the Raiders in rebounds with eight.

NW stayed close until half-time, leading at the break 32-29. The Raiders shot 50 percent in the first half, but cooled down to 43 percent in the second.

“Defensively we remained pretty consistent throughout,” Yaw said. “We did lose track of their shooters a couple of times in the second half. We also had a few turnovers that led to layups that we had no chance to defend.”

Concordia shot just 34 percent for the game, but improved to 44 percent in the second half. Concordia’s leading scorer dropped a game high of 27.

“This game is a good reminder for us,” De Jong said. “We need to continue playing together for each other and have passion for the game.”

The Raiders will look to rebound in a battle with Doane in the Bultman at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Single-game playoffs and truly crowning a champion

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

You may or may not have heard, but the Giants won the Super Bowl.

Yes, New York has been crowned champions of the NFL world and now, like the sourdest of all sour grapes that I am, I must complain.

After 22 weeks of football, I don’t think New York is the best team in football. Don’t believe me? Please.

Aaron Rodgers playing anything can happen, like the current system. I’m just saying that the 2008 Celtics proved themselves to be the absolute best. Can the same be said for the Giants?

I understand the argument that predictable sporting events aren’t much fun at all. But shocking upsets should be just that: upsets.

We always want to see David smite down Goliath, and in our culture of immediate gratification, we expect to be treated to a shocking Cinderella story every game.

I hate this. The reason is that they can’t go to a multiple game playoff system. The season would stretch too long, the players would revolt against having to play more games since injuries would skyrocket and the league would suffer. Plus, the average fan seems to enjoy the current system. I’m just registering my complaint: I don’t.

Of course, it could be worse. It could be the BCS.

NW wrestling squad hits wall versus Midland

BY TOM WESTERHOLM & MICHAEL SIMMELINK

On Thursday night, the Northwestern wrestling squad suffered a humbling setback against Midland, falling hard 42-1.

The lone bright spot was senior Josiah Simburger’s 14-4 win at 141-lbs. Junior Pedro Ruiz started out the meet with a 6-5 loss at 125-lbs.

At 165-lbs, Jesse McCarr was in a high-scoring match-up, but fell 15-7.

Following him onto the mat was senior David Carter, who had the last best shot for a Raider win, but ran out of time and was defeated 3-2.

Senior Nic Leither found himself in an unusual place after losing his 197-lbs, match 14-5, just his fourth blemish of the year.

Last Saturday, the NW team qualified another wrestler for the nationals at the Briar Cliff open, as freshman Tyler Schaefer placed eighth in the 157 lbs. class to punch his ticket.

Sophomore Ariel Bosque, another member of the 157 lbs. weight class, also performed well, placing second in the event.

“I felt pretty good this weekend,” Bosque said. “I beat a lot of kids. I wasn’t supposed to beat. When you have nothing to lose, you kind of go all out.”

Bosque said the Raiders were pleased with their performances as a whole. “We only had one loss in our first round, so we did fairly well,” Bosque said. “A grounding safety.

Single game playoffs make it easier for less talented teams to beat more talented ones. Sometimes, this means that the best team in a single season doesn’t win the championship.

Doesn’t this bother anyone else? I love being able to say that the 2008 Celtics were clearly the best team in the NBA. They beat the best the Western Conference had to offer four times. They proved themselves to be the absolute best. Can the same be said for the Giants?

I understand the argument that predictable sporting events aren’t much fun at all. But shocking upsets should be just that: upsets.

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Opinion

V-day is what you make it

BY TANYA WOODWARD

What are you doing for Valentine’s Day? Is that a rhetorical question? Should I be doing anything for Valentine’s Day?

As a self-proclaimed unromantic, I’m not the most qualified to recommend activities for Valentine’s Day. I don’t know, it’s Tuesday—dohworkum, Watch a sappy chick flick, Wear red and pink; at least Hallmark had the sense to not make them opposites on the color wheel. Bake heart-shaped muffins. Write a sonnet in iambic pentameter. Eat dinner at an over-priced, crowded restaurant. Mock the couples who “celebrate” Valentine’s Day by sitting across from one another and texting the whole time. Read my favorite book, “Pride and Prejudice”—it’s about more than love. Do what you normally do on Tuesdays.

You can take one of four stances to celebrate Valentine’s Day: (1) debate between giving chocolates or a teddy bear, (2) be courageous enough to make eye contact with one who’s caught your eye, (3) observe Cupid’s Day with “alternative” activities such as painting toenails or watching a “man” flick, (4) if you dare, celebrate like John the few individuals who will be completely unsentimental and insensitive by forgetting it is actually Valentine’s Day.

Whatever you do, don’t use “SinglesAwarenessDay” as an excuse to reduce Jesus to being your “one and true Valentine.” He does know and love you for being you, but making him your boyfriend is awkward (and your girlfriend, well, that’s really awkward.)

Probably the best Valentine’s Day I’ve ever spent was during my freshman year of college. My sister, her roommate and I were looking for an excuse to leave campus because we didn’t want to witness love-sickness or possibly catch the V-day virus.

Braving the threat of a snowstorm, we drove to Des Moines and spent the weekend with her roommate’s family. We ice-skated at an outdoor rink to Frank Sinatra music, ate more food than is anatomically possible and spontaneously watched badly filmed home-movies of the infamous version of Cinderella I’ve ever seen. It was one of the most memorable trips of my college experience.

My cheeky self challenges you to ask that attractive “someone” from bib. studies out to coffee. The part of me that likes to believe I’m counter-cultural, fumes at the commercialized nature of this holiday. My connection to Northwestern suggests Valentine’s Day might become name for “ring by spring.”

The indecisive part of me wonders, maybe Valentine’s Day is what you make it.

But let’s be honest, what girl wouldn’t mind the V-day excuse for receiving a bouquet of flowers?

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We are blind to racism not color

BY DEVON CADWELL & NATE JOHNSTON

I am half black. My mom was white and my dad was black. I never knew my father, and I was raised in a white household. My mom married my step-dad when I was two-and-a-half years old. I have four brothers and sisters and I was the only one who was not white. Growing up in rural South Dakota, I really noticed that I was not white.

I have heard some people say that racism is not a problem and most people are now colorblind. That is definitely not true. Even little kids notice race. When I was in third grade, my school did a multi-racial Christmas program.

One of the characters in the play was the Kwanzaa child. I was the only kid in the school who wasn’t white, so it was almost implied that I would be the Kwanzaa child. The first time I ever sang in a public, I sang the line, “I have what it takes to be a Kwanzaa child.”

As a little kid, I was constantly aware that I was different because of my skin color. One time, a friend and I were trying to fill out a form. I didn’t know what to put for my race because I was half black. My friend told me to just put white. It was a big deal for me. I didn’t know where I belonged.

It wasn’t until high school that I started to appreciate my “blackness.” I used to always keep my hair short so I would look like everyone else, but my freshman year of high school I started to grow my hair out. By my sophomore year, I hadn’t had a hair cut in over a year, and I could pick my hair out into a massive fro. I also started learning to play the guitar from a man named John McNeal. John McNeal was a pastor who used to teach school in the South. John experienced racism because he was a white guy who was friends with black guys. He used to play guitar in a lot of black jazz funk bands, and he still talks about guitar like a black guitar player. He always used to tell me, “You can’t come in my house and play the guitar like a white guy.”

John told me a story about a show that he played in an upper class white country club. As soon as his band walked in the country club, John could tell that the people were infuriated that a white guy was playing in a band with a bunch of black guys. They made the band wait in the kitchen until it was time for them to play.

“You can’t come in my house and play the guitar like a white guy.”

This story brings to mind the Langston Hughes poem, “I too.” “I am the darker brother. They tell me to eat in the kitchen when company comes. I laugh and eat and grow strong. Tomorrow I will sit at the table when company comes. Nobody will dare say to me eat in the kitchen then. I too am America.”

Racism is still a problem. If you haven’t seen it, you probably haven’t looked hard enough. Talk to black people who are living in metropolitan areas. Talk to the people who are getting profiled. Racism is a reality for these people.

Saying that racism isn’t a problem lacks empathy. To ignore a brother or sister who says it is a problem is a slap in the face. It’s offensive because we can’t see the issue from someone else’s point of view. I couldn’t say to a woman that sexism isn’t a problem. I wouldn’t know for myself. There are a lot of inequalities, and I shouldn’t disregard someone’s statement because of my lack of knowledge.

America is far from being colorblind. A few years ago I was hanging out with a girl who said, “My dad would be so mad if I brought a black guy home.” She was caught completely off guard that I was offended by that statement.

Racism is so deep-seated in our culture that I don’t even realize that I might be offended by what she said. It would be untrue and offensive to say that America is colorblind.

We need to acknowledge that racism is a problem. We shouldn’t concentrate on it all the time or bring it up in daily conversation, nor should we strive to become color blind.

The real difference brings with it some good comedy and stories. I think it’s important to appreciate that.

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Day “Off” Learning

BY JEFFERY HUBERS

The Day “Off” Learning.

It’s a funny joke. People laugh. But is there something more serious to this joke?

The Day of Learning is a day free of classes, which is reason enough to be joyful for its existence. Yet while students rejoke for this break from academia, some professors grumble about the DLC missing with their class schedules, while others require their students to attend a session or two. And then there’s the whole situation with extra chapel credits to be earned by attending the large seminars in the morning and evening.

If this array of influences wasn’t enough to make you think twice about the DLC, there is always the friendly reminders in chapel and from the administration not to receiving a bouquet of flowers.

There is a lot of growth and understanding to be had at the DLC sessions. However, I think there is also worth to the concept of Day “Off” Learning.

I’m not waving a banner promoting remaining in bed till 3 p.m. only to wake and order a pizza and sit in your underwear and watch your favorite episodes of Lost.

What I’m trying to envision is that the DLC is a day where you have the option to engage in the community inside and out of the structured DLC curriculum and events.

What if Feb 15 is a gorgeous day—I’m talking like one of those weird winter days we’ve had where it’s like 55 degrees and the sun is shining bright overhead. The snow is mostly gone at this point, so when I step outside, I know the grass is practically screaming at me to go toss the Frisbee on it.

If I spend the day out in God’s creation with my friends, laughing and tossing the frizz, enjoying the company of people I love, is that truly a Day “Off” Learning?

What if how I learn best is when I’m in the midst of those I admire most I grow from just by being around and conversing with? Also, what if I start the day with one of the chapel seminars but then return to my dorm and catch up on homework or sleep or even that mystical activity, leisurely reading? Is that also considered “off” learning?

I think life is about balance. The DLC should be a day of balance—learning and community.

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Bingo wins bike

**BY NATE JOHNSTON**

Bingo night is one of Northwestern College’s many quirky and unique campus events.

This tradition gives students the chance to don elderly attire and enjoy an evening of bingo. Last year, the SAC took the competition to a new level by offering several big prizes.

“Bingo night is a night when all your wildest dreams come true,” said junior Nathan Mastbergen, who was one of the winners from last year’s bingo night.

An unsuspecting Mastbergen had given up hope of winning when he returned from the restroom in the middle of a game of bingo. He realized that he was only a few numbers away from a bingo. Mastbergen ended up winning the round and became the proud new owner of a LoveSac bean bag chair.

Although Mastbergen enjoys bingo night for its unique atmosphere, he admitted that the prizes enhanced his evening.

“Everyone gets really into it so that makes it fun, but when you win, the level of fun goes up a notch,” Mastbergen said.

Mastbergen’s bingo night prize has proven to have a lasting impact on his college experience.

“It’s a nice, comfortable piece of furniture for D-groups, lockdowns or just hanging out,” Mastbergen said. “It’s very good for naps, and it’s in a great place to jump off the top bunk onto.”

Mastbergen also admits that although some people have suggested that the LoveSac would be a draw for women, it has not had that effect.

Like many other students, Mastbergen has big plans for this year’s bingo night.

“I am a firm believer in doing everything to the best of my ability, so I’m in it to win it,” Mastbergen said.

Another success story from last year’s bingo night comes from sophomore Janet Pitsenberger, who won a yellow tandem bike.

“I didn’t realize at first that they had called my number,” Pitsenberger said. “I was close to a bingo and I was anticipating it. It took me a second; then I ran up in my old-person costume and heard that I won the bike and was very surprised.”

Like Mastbergen, Pitsenberger was pleasantly surprised by winning such a big prize.

“I was very in shock because I never win anything,” Pitsenberger said. “I was super pumped because of all of the prizes, I knew the bike was the one I would most likely use and thoroughly enjoy.”

The yellow tandem bike, which has become well known on NW’s campus, has been enjoyed by Pitsenberger as well as many other students.

“I’ve loved riding it, and I’ve let a lot of people borrow it. A lot of people have gotten use of it on campus,” Pitsenberger said.

Pitsenberger plans to attend bingo night again this year and is excited to dress up and have fun with friends.

This year’s West and Heemstra Hall Date Night will take place Saturday, Feb. 11.

Sophomores Janet Pitsenberger and Rachel Mullenburg enjoy riding the tandem bike that Pitsenberger won at last year’s bingo night.

**PHOTO SUBMITTED**

**West and Heemstra Date Night tradition lives on**

**BY GILLIAN ANDERSON**

West and Heemstra Halls are prepping for their annual date night.

Even though many former Heemstra residents now live on the third floor of Coly, they have managed to keep up this tradition.

This year the group will be going to a hockey game featuring the Sioux City Musketeers versus the Des Moines Buccaneers.

“We usually go to a hockey game,” said junior Nate Johnston. “We usually scream our heads off.”

Amber Maloney went on Date Night last year with Nathan Mastbergen.

“It was the first time I’d been to a hockey game so that was exciting,” Maloney said.

While most of the guys choose to ask girls who are their friends or girls who they are possibly interested in going out with, this isn’t always the case according to junior Abe Klafter.

“It can also be a man date,” Klafter said.

He will be going to the game with his roommate.

While most couples attend the hockey game, the date night is not completely planned out. Some couples choose to go out to eat beforehand separately or in groups.

“It is better to be in a group of friends and to meet new people,” Johnston said.

Residents ask their dates in a variety of ways. Freshman Ignacio Higuera asked his date in the very public setting of the Cafe.

“It was just a spur of the moment kinda thing,” Higuera said. “I was extremely nervous. My heart was pounding really fast, but I think it was because of the adrenaline. The whole thing just feels like a dream; not because it was magical, but because I can’t believe I did that.”

According to sophomore Kori Heidebrink, for some girls who are dating West residents it “was just assumed” that they would be asked. This will be Heidebrink’s second time participating in date night.

“I attended when I was a senior in high school,” Heidebrink said.

However, for many students, like junior Bekah Mabrey, this will be their first time attending.

“I am most excited to watch the hockey game,” Mabrey said.

Date Night will take place Saturday, Feb. 11.