

Northwestern College Beacon

Sun makes harmony among homes

BY GILLIAN ANDERSON

Tec Sun enjoys making music.

The sophomore music ministry major and traveling worship team leader said he is content just to make music and be at Northwestern College.

Sun's contentment with small-town Iowa is particularly intriguing in light of his extraordinary life.

Even though he was born in the Philippines, he is Korean. Sun was born and raised by missionary parents in the Philippines. Even though the environment may seem exotic to NW students, Sun said he felt more alienated by his ethnicity there than in Iowa.

"In the Philippines there is more of a gap between the Filipino people and people from other nationalities," Sun said. "Here there is not so much of a gap."

Sun has traveled around quite a bit, but he has not found a friendlier place than the American Midwest.

"New York is not so friendly, and California seems like whatever. Orange City is nicer, more open, safe and everyone says, 'Hi,'" Sun said.

Sun thinks his experience growing up in the Philippines was markedly different than his experiences in Iowa.



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Sophomore Tec Sun, a native of the Philippines, finds a second home at Northwestern College as he pursues a career in music ministry.

"You get to see the poorest of the poor," Sun said. "So you know what the poorest of the poor is and the richest of the rich is."

Sun believed that his family has been blessed over the years. When Sun lived in the Philippines, a flood came and the water got into the house. Sun went down to get some belongings before the house flooded entirely.

He recalled getting stuck in the house until the water had risen almost entirely to the ceiling. He managed to get out, and none of his family got hurt.

A few months ago, Sun was working at a camp in

Okoboji telling his story when another disaster struck his family's home in the Philippines.

"I was telling my testimony about eternal life and how our house got flooded," Sun said. "That night, the Holy Spirit told me to pray for my parents, and that day our house caught on fire."

His parents were sleeping when his mom heard a voice telling her to get out of the house. She woke to discover the fire and was able to get out of the house.

"The Holy Spirit used my prayers to save my parents'

lives," Sun said. "Prayer is so powerful and God is so powerful. It is so crazy. God is so good."

For five years Sun attended Chinese schooling back in the Philippines. Since then, he's been in the United States and even though he comes from a tropical island nation in the western Pacific Ocean, he doesn't consider Iowa foreign territory anymore. He's lived here since his freshman year of high school.

"I went to Sioux Center high school and I stayed

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Bella Ruse duo bring both new, old

BY JENNA VAN OORT

The folk-pop duo from Minneapolis, Bella Ruse, will give a concert at the Old Factory coffee shop. Their style is a combination of guitar, kazoo, suitcase organ and glockenspiel.

The concert will be held at 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 19. A band from Lincoln, Neb., called "Good Show Great Show" won a contest to open at the event. Bella Ruse will perform songs from their latest album, "Kuhzoo," as well as a few surprise covers and an original song from their Christmas album.

Bella Ruse members Joseph Barker and Kay Gillette tour the country in their carbon-neutral van powered by vegetable oil. Last spring, they played at the South by Southwest Music Festival in Austin, Texas. Their songs have also been heard on Showtime and MTV, which featured them as a Needle in the Haystack artists. Their album, "Kuhzoo," spent eight weeks on the CMJ Radio Top 200.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BELLA RUSE

Kay Gillette performs at one of her concerts. She and co-performer Joseph Barker, an Orange City native, make up the band Bella Ruse, which will be performing at the Old Factory this weekend.

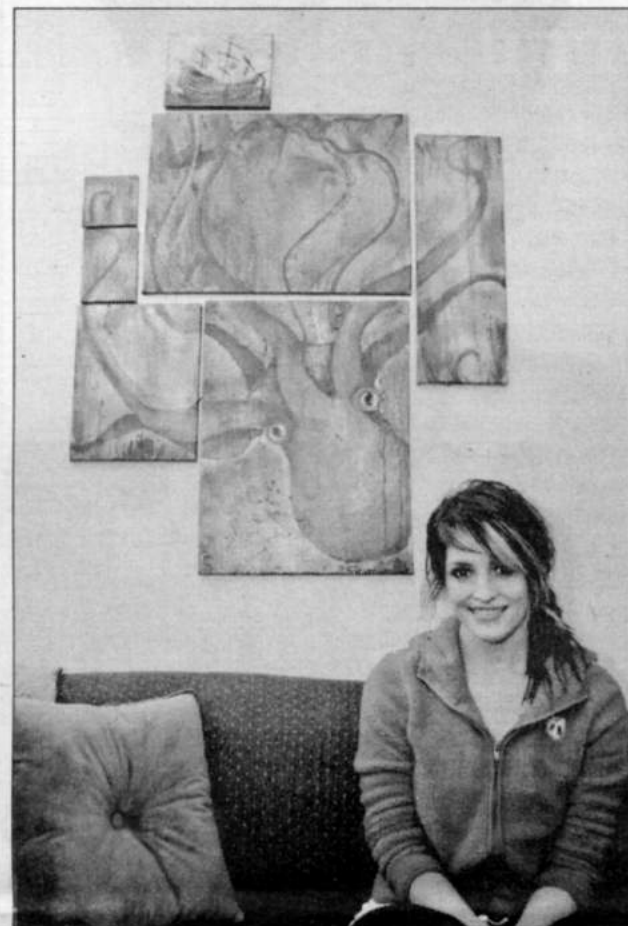


PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Amanda Kundert, the wife of West RD Corey Kundert, uses her passion for art as relaxation and a way to express the comedy of life and love.

West woman defines romantic art comically

BY JEFF HUBERS

One doesn't normally think of a zombified couple riding a tandem bike as art, but for Amanda Kundert, it's her expression of "romantic comedy."

"I love to insert a comedic element into romantic portrayals to lessen the mushy stuff," Kundert said.

Amanda Kundert, wife of Corey Kundert, R.D. of West Hall, works in the public relations office at Northwestern, but it's easy to see that her real passion is art.

Her paintings and cartoons fill the space of the RD's apartment in West and add a vibrant atmosphere to their corner of the building. Zombies, dinosaurs and deep-sea

See "Romance" on page 3



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Art pieces of various styles and forms by Kundert hang in the kitchen in their West apartment.



Mac Miller is only 19 and he's already had a top Billboard album.

'Blue Slide Park' delivers hits without depth

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

With Mac Miller's first official release, "Blue Slide Park," it would be easy for listeners to nod their head for a while, pause, then have no idea what any of the first five songs were about.

Here's the simple truth: Mac Miller is a talented rapper with absolutely nothing to say.

On his earlier mixtapes, Mac was endearing because of his silky smooth flow and the wide-eyed delight with which he viewed his newfound success. The general theme in most of his tracks was simply, "Dude...I can't believe how awesome all of this is."

And it worked. He was relatable because we could see ourselves saying the same thing if, at age 19, we were given a mic, a wickedly catchy flow and a stage with

thousands of screaming fans.

"Blue Slide Park" is well on its way to the number one spot on the Billboard Top 100. Suddenly, Mac has made it.

So what happens to Mac lyrically when he has adjusted to his fame?

Bad things happen. He's only 19, after all. Mac isn't clever enough to match Lil Wayne's punch-lines. He doesn't, and probably can't, think as deeply as Kanye. His stories of drug use aren't nearly fascinating enough to rival Eminem.

To be fair, Mac's flow is still intact. It saves several songs ("Frick Park Market," "Up All Night," and the album's title track), and makes them eminently listenable, if the listener can ignore the lack of substance.

And often, one can. Mac's verses, which are spit at an oddly constant

tone, roll off his tongue with a notable smoothness throughout "Blue Slide Park." It's easy to spot trouble on the lyrical horizon when an album's opener contains the line "when life around you changes, try to keep your sameness/try to keep your brain maintaining through the lameness." Sameness, Mac? Lameness? The only lameness here is a lyricist making up nonsense words.

Throughout the album, Mac's topics never really stretch beyond parties, marijuana and clumsy attempts to make himself sound awesome.

The closest "Blue Slide Park" comes to a poignant moment is also coincidentally the worst song.

On "Missed Calls," Mac talks about a breaking up with a girl as he becomes more rich and famous. Unfortunately,

the beat is made up of weak synthesizers, and he seems unable to show any real emotional bravery in the lyrics, reverting to a tired "guy loses girl, guy moves on" story. Even the cliché isn't convincing, since he has just spent the previous 13 tracks bragging about groupie conquests he's experienced since he became famous.

Miller is unquestionably talented, and this album is going to blow him sky high in popularity. Already, it's made the kid tons of cash, his music videos have gone viral on, and it is nearly impossible not to nod your head to his irresistible beats on songs like "Party on 5th Avenue."

But unfortunately, his catchy music is the puffcorn of the current hip hop industry: Edible, but full of air and ultimately unsatisfying.

Drake fakes his way to the top of Billboard album charts

BY KATI HENG
A&C EDITOR

It's a strange and sad coincidence that Drake has become famous as a rapper.

To put it simply, there is nothing interesting about Drake, and the Canadian star's newest release, "Take Care," only further proves this point.

Compared to other popular rappers today, he's lacking personality. While Jay-Z grew up hustling on the streets, Drake grew up on the sets of the campy TeenNick drama "Degrassi." If Mos Def is iconic, Drake is

a sponsored sellout. If Kanye West is unafraid to rap about anything, Drake is afraid to surprise anyone with his lyrics and instead sticks to stereotyped subjects he thinks rappers rap about, such as money, girls with implants and expensive cars.

On the subject of his lyrics, the sheer contrast from one song to another is just disturbing. Going from a song like "Underground Kings," with the lines that repeatedly call women by derogatory terms to his song "Make Me Proud" that compliments a woman

for "sounding so smart like [she] graduated college," it's hard to believe Drake could have much respect for women.

Compared to rappers performing at talent shows in every small town, Drake's voice is basically indistinguishable.

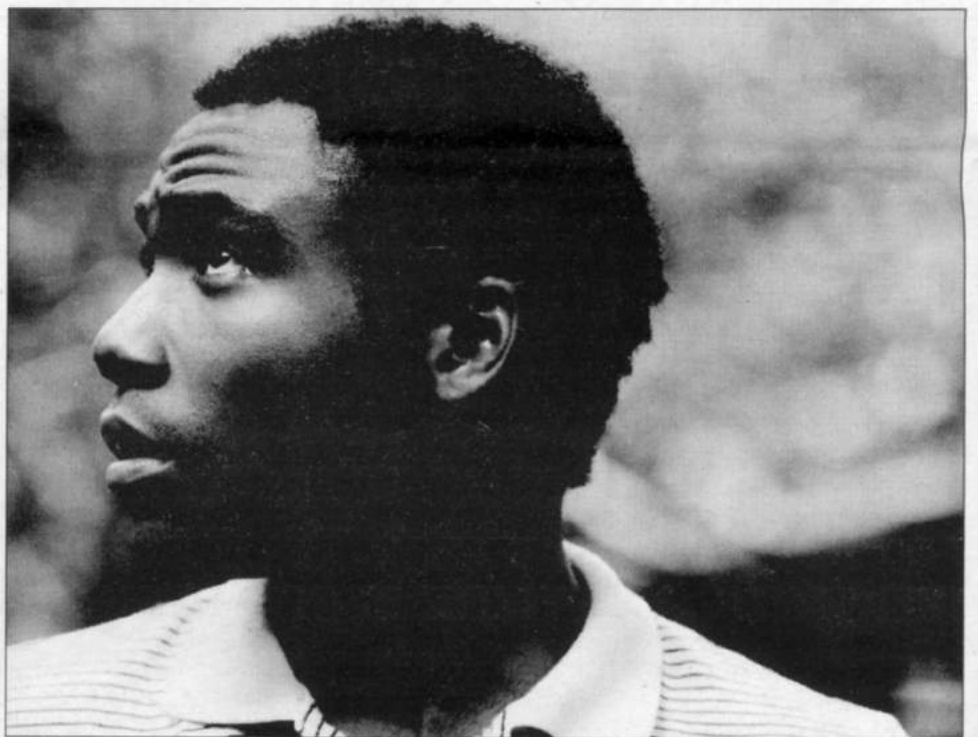
It's not necessarily bad—it's just not unique. Unlike others, it's hard to distinguish his sound from a crowd.

Even worse is when he tries new things, like double-speed rapping on "HYER." It's uncomfortably evident how limited his style must be.

The same can be said about the rhythms and beats on the album. "Take Care" sounds as if the background to Drake was provided by a group of musician who just graduated R&B 101. They know the basics and can pull it off, but don't expect showstoppers here.

"Take Care" does have some bright spots. "Crew Love" opens with a section by The Weekend, and "Make Me Proud" features a verse by Nicki Minaj.

It's not a good sign when the best parts of "Take Care" are the parts without Drake.



Donald Glover, the voice of Childish Gambino, sets the comedy aside and gets serious about rap.

Childish Gambino: Artist on the rise

BY LYRIC MORRIS

Childish Gambino's first full length rap album "Camp" has proven to be everything one might expect from a man who created his stage name from an online "Wu-Tang Clan Name generator."

Donald Glover, the man behind Childish Gambino, is best known for his role as Troy on the NBC comedy "Community," but after his success with this album, that soon may change.

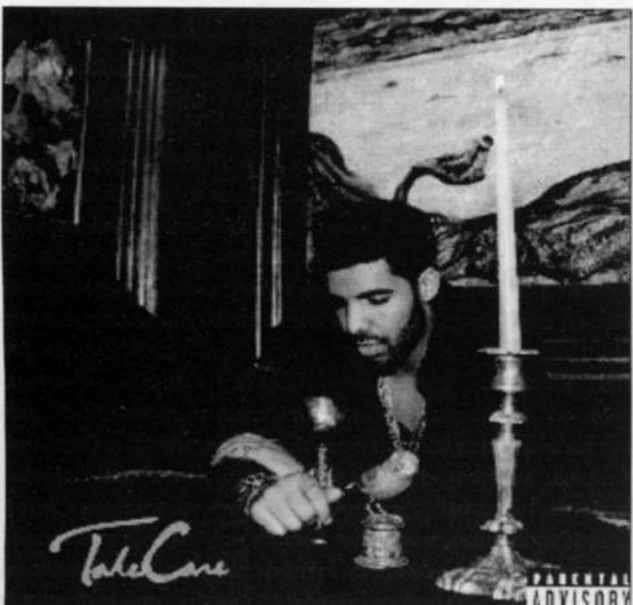
The album is a refreshing diversion from many of the monotonous and commercialized albums being produced in the rap industry today. Glover's lyrics are unique and often speak against the labels he has received of not being "black" enough for the rap industry.

The album shows the various and often conflicting interests of Glover by interspersing

a heaping dose of profanity with endless humorous cultural references, including allusions to Sufjan Stevens and Invader Zim.

When it comes to musicality, Glover again remains a step above the competition. The instrumentation used to build his beats provides an intriguing background for his raps and allows for a comfortable ease-of-listening.

Childish Gambino makes it clear throughout his album that he is taking his music career seriously and wants his listeners to do the same. And it seems that he has succeeded: On the day of its release, "Camp" unexpectedly shot up to number 2 on the iTunes album charts. Hopefully this is a sign that the rap industry is prepared to support refreshing, new sounds from original up-and-coming artists.



Critics are debating whether Drake's album cover is iconic or cliché.



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3 offers no surprises for those familiar with other versions of the Call of Duty series. It does, however, offer lots of guns and violence.

Duty calls for some extreme violence

BY MICHAEL GUTSCHE

Anyone who owns a previous Modern Warfare game and buys and plays Modern Warfare 3, has forfeited their rights to ever again make fun of anyone who's shopping for shoes or a handbag.

"Don't you already have one that looks just like that?"
Yeah. That kind of thing.

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3, for the somehow oblivious, is a video game, and is quite popular. It has already broken sales records, moving over six million copies in the first day. That's absolutely insane. There aren't words for that.

More topically, it is a video game that wants to be better than its predecessors.

The games have been trapped in their own legacy, constantly one-upping themselves in an attempt to be more explosive than the previous ones.

Not to imply that the

game wasn't trying. It was trying quite hard. For all the flack these games get about being shooting galleries with rail-borne vehicle sections chaining them together, Modern Warfare 3 has addressed these issues by somehow managing to make a campaign that consists of almost nothing but that and lots of breaching.

While I suppose the best adjective for the Call of Duty campaigns has always been "bombastic," a secondary word that might be brought forward would be "plosions." Implosions, explosions, sideplosions—all of them.

Aesthetically, the game is a sense-gorger. The sounds and sights of Europe being run over by tanks and planes are as impressive as ever. The shooty bits are alarmingly good, but since all the mechanical parts of the game have had about five iterations to be perfected, they have no excuses for

having anything less than some of the best gunplay that consoles have to offer.

The sneaky bits are well-made enough, and the ever-frequent, vehicular-driven setpieces are all sorts of absurd and ridiculous, giving way too much emphasis on the Michael Bay and not enough on the Tom Clancy, but there is endearment.

The plot, on the other hand, is only a bare semblance of a story. Apparently, there's a nasty Russian man doing nasty World War III things to America and must be stopped. It is the least clear about what's going on that the series has ever been, but it hardly seems to matter when one is in a passenger jet that is plummeting from the sky while trying to have a shootout to protect the Russian president.

What's most impressive then is the direction that Activision has taken this

series is the way that they've been making it one game, augmented or tweaked slightly, but never overtly changing it. They have not encouraged their developers to change the core values of the series. It is one of the most steadfastly homogenous and long-running video game franchises to date.

Yet, people keep buying it. A flabbergasting number of people have paid for this game. This means, somewhat conveniently, that the multiplayer is absolutely overflowing with small children ready to swear at you and call you confusing names when they win, or when they lose, or when you just meet them for the first time.

It's a testament to the studios and people in charge of making the games. They've got some of the best talent in the industry, simply because they have all the money in the world.

'Immortals' unlikely to stand the test of time

BY KAMERON TOEWS

From the producers of "300" comes the next epic narrative, "Immortals."

As legend goes, evil King Hyperion (Mickey Rourke) began to raze villages and murder innocent families in his search for the legendary Epirus Bow, an explosively powerful weapon created by the gods. With the bow, Hyperion sought to release the treacherous Titans, locked away by the power of the gods. Theseus (Henry Cavill), a lowly peasant with the favor of Zeus, then rises up to defend the land and lead an army against Hyperion, thus leading to "Immortals."

"Immortals" has a similar feel to its predecessor, "300." Dazzling computer-designed backgrounds of enormous cliffs, colorized skyscapes and hazy desert expanses are keyed into the picture. With the help of computers, the film's creators are able to take the audience places otherwise inaccessible.

The visual novelty and brilliantly designed story of "300" leaves one expecting a second film to be worthy of equal awe, but this is in no way the case. While "Immortals" is visually stunning, the story is told through boring techniques with uninspired acting.

The story lines feel chunked together without any real coherence, and the viewer is forced to piece the segmented parts together. It's confusing and ultimately hard to watch.

Usually, the likability of the protagonist drives the story along and makes the movie fun to watch. In "Immortals," Theseus is supposed to be a likable guy, but he isn't at all. The storytellers failed to make the audience care about Theseus or about any of the characters. The cast is not complicated, so it seems reasonable that at least one of the characters should be cared about, but this never happens.

The film drags on with a dull plot and lackadaisical acting performances. The writing was not bad, but its delivery was dreadful. Theseus' speech before the long final battle had potential to be as memorable as Braveheart's "freedom" monologue, but instead, it became one more paragraph of dialogue in the movie that quickly passes out of mind.

Given all the visual beauty of the movie, it makes sense to place an equal amount of energy on creating an engaging story involving characters the audience will actually care about.

Following the hype of "300," "Immortals" had a lot to live up to, but unfortunately it is a movie not even the gods can be proud of.

Professor Playlist

	Song	Artist	Description	
compiled by Brandon Woudstra department Business 	1	Snow (Hey Oh)	Red Hot Chili Peppers	Tough to narrow a RHCP choice, but this song has some powerful imagery.
	2	I'm Gonna Miss Her	Brad Paisley	Can't beat a fishing song. Plus, Brad Paisley is incredible in concert.
	3	All Things Go (Remix)	Chiddy Bang/Sufjan Stevens	Not sure how this song came up on my Mumford & Sons Pandora station, but I am currently hooked.
	4	Praise to the Lord Almighty	Josh Bales	I really enjoy hymns, and this is a great acoustic rendition.
	5	Say It Ain't So	Weezer	My favorite song off my first CD.

Top 5

Reasons not to go to "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1"

Are you going to see it?

BY EMILY BROUWER

1. THE WEDDING
Bella marries Edward, (not Jacob), while they are only teenagers—bad role models.

2. THE BABY
The scenes of the birth may be very gory if the film follows the book. Not everyone can stand blood or the thought of a half vampire baby.

3. A PREDICTABLE STORYLINE
Like almost every other

4. IT'S IN TWO PARTS
For anyone who wanted the movies to be over so they could see the end, it is not happening in this movie. Also, there is no release date set for the second part, so you may be waiting another year.

5. HORRIBLE ACTING
Kristen Stewart doesn't know the difference between a happy and a sad face. She makes everything awkward.

love story, part one ends with the kids together.

Romantic art meets zombies

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creatures come to life on the walls of the apartment as examples of Kundert's taste in "exaggerated, bold and fanciful art."

"My mom was a graphic artist, so there were lots of art supplies around the house when I was a kid," Kundert said. "She was a huge influence on me, especially because she told me whether what I made was good or bad. I appreciated that feedback."

Growing up with that sort of motivation, cultivation and freedom of creativity gave Kundert a love for art to last throughout childhood and into her adult years.

In college, Kundert took classes that stimulated her interest, including a life drawing class and painting.

"If you don't exercise it, you'll lose it," Kundert said.

The talking shark above the loft in her apartment is solid proof that Kundert is nowhere near to losing it.

Art isn't a career to Kundert, though. It's a way for her to find some relaxation and recreation.

"When I come home



ARTWORK COURTESY OF AMANDA KUNDERT

from work and I want to draw something, it's really refreshing to just draw a cartoon," Kundert said. "I've been hired before to paint or make a portrait, but I didn't really like it. To me, art is more to help myself relax and less about profit."

As for future creations, Kundert doesn't have anything too drastic in mind.

"I would love to publish a children's book someday. Making art for the little things that are more meaningful and expressive is far more attractive to me

than corporate and highly-publicized art," Kundert said.

Whether it's album art for a friend's band or a zombified portrait for the sake of "zombie humor," Kundert is willing to take the time, relax and do something she loves.



ARTWORK COURTESY OF AMANDA KUNDERT

Black Friday blitz

BY BRITTANY LEIKVOLL

On the morning after Thanksgiving, some students will sleep in, some will spend extra time with family and others will get a head start on holiday shopping by taking part in America's unofficial holiday, Black Friday.

Black Friday also marks the unofficial start of the Christmas shopping season. Some praise the stores opening at midnight on the end of Thanksgiving, while others feel that Thanksgiving is being overshadowed.

"I'm against it. I think it highlights a lot of flaws in our society," said senior Rachel Peterson. "Stores compete, and people are literally fighting and getting trampled. No matter how good the sales are, I don't think it's worth it. I love the idea of the holidays starting, but it definitely does not bring out the holiday spirit. People's lives are at stake."

Senior Angelica Perez participated in Black Friday with her mom and sister for an all girls day and had mixed feelings about the event.

"It was crazy," Perez said.

"I almost got trampled, and people were so vicious. I did get some good deals on presents, but this year I think I'll choose to sleep."

Senior Jill Black works in retail at Victoria's Secret and has participated at the other end-of-the-holiday chaos.

"I'm not really into the whole Black Friday shopping craze myself yet, just because I don't ever have money to do it," Black said. "I do spend a lot of time at work getting the store prepared. We have furniture to move and marketing to replace—it's a lot of work."

Black brought up the fact that not only is Black Friday stressful for early-morning shoppers, it's bad for employees as well.

"What makes us most nervous is not that there are people who want to get in, but that there are people who take advantage of the craziness and want to take stuff out without paying. It makes me very nervous," Black said. "Scary customers come in every so often, but it definitely heightens during the holidays."

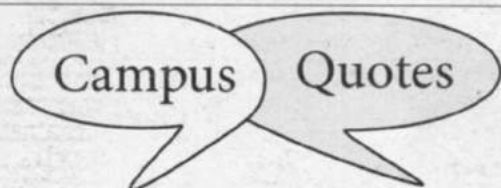
Black Friday shopping tips

There seem to be mixed feelings concerning Black Friday on campus, but if you do plan on shopping, here are some strategy and safety tips:

- Make a Christmas list for family and friends. If you have it written down, you won't get caught up in the moment and impulse buy.
- Bring a buddy, and dress comfortably.
- Plan the stores you want to visit and map a route.
- Be sure to re-check ads for time-specific discounts.
- Research unfamiliar products to avoid becoming

deal hungry and ending up with a poor product.

- Compare prices and see what is included or excluded from the deal. You don't want to end up having to buy parts later.
- Don't forget to get a gift receipt.
- Steer clear of any mobs forming and be aware of your surroundings.
- Store any bags in the trunk of your vehicle and out of sight.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash, and be sure to keep purse/bag zipped.



"Oh, the things I do to earn my paycheck..."
Professor Donald Wacome
 after biting a table to prove a point about reality.

There's no place like home for the holidays But students say college isn't a bad alternative

BY JOCELYN VAN DYKE

Thanksgiving welcomes the smell and taste of good foods—turkey, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie—as well as time spent with family and friends. Usually, students make the journey home for Thanksgiving break, but for some, Thanksgiving will be spent on campus.

"I am planning on staying on campus to get more hours working at Hy-Vee in Sioux Center," said junior Krystal Baker. "Andy, my boyfriend, and I are trying to save money up for an engagement ring that we have our eye on."

Whatever the reason for staying on campus over break, those staying plan on making good use of their time.

Jason Katsma, a sophomore resident assistant in the North Suites, is on duty during the Thanksgiving Break.

"I'm going to do some homework and do some

shenanigans," Katsma said. "I'm friends with all the RAs, so we'll find something to do."

Senior Robi Bogdanffy will be on campus for most of break but has plans to go to a host family's house for Thanksgiving Day. Every year he has multiple families ask him over for a meal, so he usually splits his time, going to one house for lunch and another house for supper. Bogdanffy has a unique outlook on his experience at each of the houses he visits.

"Because I'm a political science major, we learned about the division of red and blue, Republicans and Democrats," Bogdanffy said. "I go to a family that is predominantly Republican and one that is predominantly Democrat. The contrast is astonishing. They're all good friends of mine, and it just goes to show how beautiful diversity can be."

Bogdanffy says that

what he's seen in spending Thanksgiving with different families has reinforced the stereotypes he's learned about in his time here.

"The family from the conservative, Republican background has a huge family. The son, father, everyone, drove their Ford F-150 to get there," Bogdanffy said. "The other family is usually a select few, more stylish and multicultural. It's a mix of urban and rural culture, all in Orange City."

Unlike Bogdanffy, junior Meg White will be having her Thanksgiving meal on campus this year.

"A friend of mine is coming from Minnesota," White said. "We'll be making dinner together and hanging out. We'll probably watch a couple movies and take a walk if it's nice."

A resident of Steggy, White also shared about the Thanksgiving tradition the dorm is having.

"It's Secret Turkey Week. Basically, it's like Secret Santa," White said. "You get the name of a girl and a list of a few of her favorite things, like her favorite color and her favorite candy. On Thursday, we'll have an all-hall dinner in the Cafe. We'll play some games, and usually we play Thanksgiving trivia to figure out our Secret Turkey."

While junior Laura Tellinghuisen just plans to spend Thanksgiving with family friends this year, she has some exciting stories about previous Thanksgiving breaks spent on campus.

"My freshman year, I went to Thanksgiving dinner at one of my professor's houses, which was nice to have a home cooked meal," Tellinghuisen said. "Last year, my friend and I made a slip n' slide in a hallway of Hospers. We also got to know a lot of people really well because not that many people stuck around."

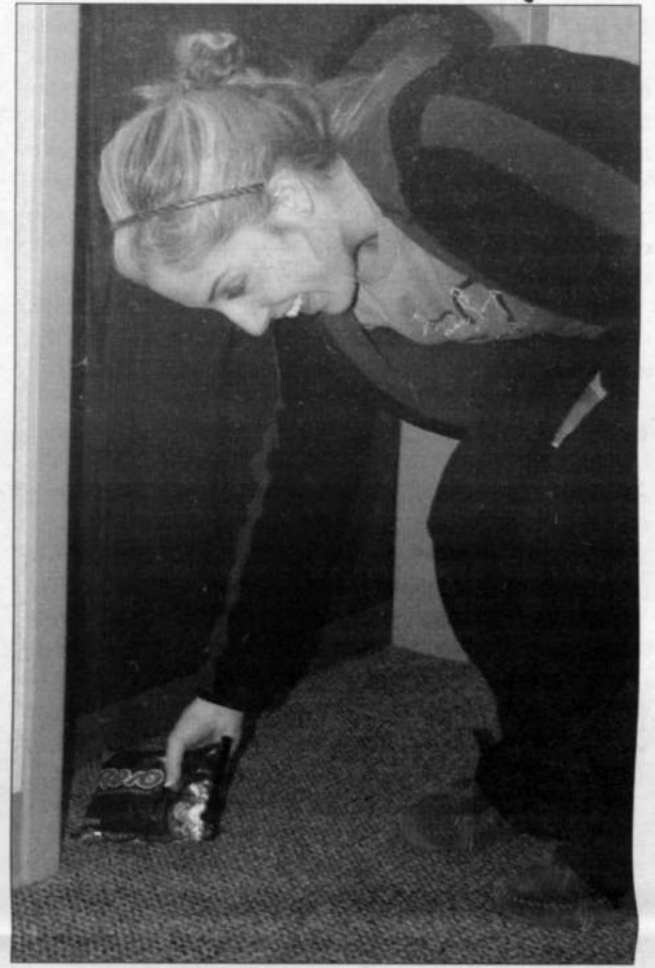


PHOTO BY KATI HENG

Junior Meg White places candy outside the door of her Secret Turkey. Secret Turkey is one way that students enjoy Thanksgiving. Some students, like White, will be on campus for the entire break.

Korean-Filipino finds home in American Midwest

FROM PAGE 1

with host families, Sun said. "I have lost contact with them since then though."

Sun has been largely independent of his parents since coming to college.

"They come once a year for a conference, but it is very expensive to come here or to go there," Sun said.

Sun has not been back to the Philippines since he came to the United States. He

does, however, have a sister that lives in California and he has gone to visit her over Christmas break.

Sun said the brother and sister have a friendly rivalry between them.

"She graduated from Dordt," Sun said.

Many students may not believe that very much happens in Orange City, but Sun has had his share of mishaps.

"First semester last year, I was playing in the Alumni soccer game and I got tackled," Sun said. "The athletic trainer told me I had sprained my ankle and to just walk it off. When I told her I couldn't, she took another look at it and told me that it was broken. Second semester of last year I burned myself by sitting on hot Ramen [noodles]."

During his time at NW, Sun has participated in Unrated, Concert Choir and is the current president of the I-Club. But Sun says that the tight-knit student community is the reason he loves NW so much.

"There are more activities to do in the Philippines," Sun said. "I did track, soccer and rugby

[there]. Here, the thing to do is community."

As a resident of the Heemstra wings of the Colenbrander Hall, Sun recalled having many enjoyable experiences with his wingmates. Sun has eaten a fruit bat, swum with jelly fish and run around in cornfields at night.

Earlier this year, Sun played a practical joke on his friends by convincing many of them that he was severely injured.

"He had bandages all over and ketchup on his head," said sophomore Josh Hollinger. "He was also on crutches and at first I thought it was real, but then I looked closer."

Sun's intended career path has also had some interesting ups and downs. His parents have been missionaries in the Philippines for 21 years but told Sun to get a career that pays well.

"I was struggling with what do with my life," Sun

said. "My dad said to go for a career that makes money."

Nevertheless, after graduating from college, Sun would like to work for an organization doing music ministry and traveling.

Currently, he is a team leader for NW and played on junior Andrea Hallberg's traveling worship team last year.

"It was really cool to see him become a team leader after I was his leader last year," Hallberg said.

Hollinger is on Sun's worship team this year.

"He is pretty free flowing and it is less structured which makes it fun," Hollinger said.

Sun isn't just interested in doing music ministry as a campus work study job.

"This is what I am going to be doing for the rest of my life," Sun said. "I chose music ministry because I like it, and that is what I used to do at home for my church in the Philippines."



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Sophomore Tec Sun is an ethnic Korean from the Philippines who has traveled the world. Even so, he says the American Midwest is his favorite place to be. Sun wants to travel and do music ministry after graduation, something he is practicing by leading a traveling worship team leader this year.

Students in mission field for the long haul

BY EMILY BROUWER

Northwestern offers many opportunities for students to serve across the nation and around the world. Many students, however, have chosen to serve through organizations not associated with NW.

Two of these students are senior Bryan Langfitt and junior Matt Dowie.

Bryan Langfitt

Langfitt worked with a program called Master's Commission (now called The Movement) in the streets of Los Angeles.

Langfitt was motivated to go on a full-time mission trip during his sophomore year of high school when he went to the Dream Center for a short-term mission trip.

During that trip, Langfitt found out about the program they were offering for high school graduates that involved hands-on ministry training.

After graduating from high school, Langfitt went directly back to Los Angeles, where he stayed for the next two years. Langfitt remembers having doubts going into it.

"I was a six-foot-seven-inch white guy from the small town of Sheldon, Iowa, living in the middle of Los Angeles where I stuck out like a sore thumb," Langfitt said.

Even though he was worried at first, Langfitt believed that God was sovereign over his experience and watched over him while he was there.

Master's Commission is a discipleship-training program that's part of a larger ministry organization called the Dream Center. Langfitt described the program as an alternative to Bible college, where students from all over the world dedicate a year of their lives solely to God.

Langfitt took Bible courses, memorized Scripture passages and went out in the "trenches" to do hands-on ministry work. For the first year, Langfitt served in Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles.

"In Skid Row, there is an estimated 1,000 homeless people within a mile radius," Langfitt said. "A lot of what I did there was come three times a week consistently and build relationships with the homeless. We also brought food and clothes with us, as well as gave them an opportunity to join a program to get their lives back on track."

After working in Skid Row, Langfitt returned for a second year and served at a different site called Nickerson Gardens, located in the Watts district of Los Angeles.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Senior Bryan Langfitt holds Chris, a child from the Watts District of Los Angeles. Langfitt worked for two years with a ministry organization called Master's Commission in two different neighborhoods.

Two years after the experience began, Langfitt came to the conclusion that he could serve Christ wholeheartedly no matter what path in life he chose. He now believes everyone has a role in ministry.

"You don't have to work for the church to be a servant of the Lord," Langfitt said. "It doesn't matter if you're

working at a church or a CEO of a business. God calls us to use our gifts and talents to further His kingdom. Service missions start in your backyard, and it doesn't take an elaborate plan."

Unlike many students who do their service missions in affiliation with the college, Langfitt did not have any affiliation with the college for his service.

He encourages students to take advantage of the opportunities the college offers them.

"Try to do some type of mission work during your time at NW, whether it is an SSP, SOS or internship with a church or organization," Langfitt said. "The chances of this happening after college are less likely, so get involved now."

Matt Dowie

Dowie will be going on a service mission of his own this spring in Baja, Mexico.

Dowie will work in an orphanage called Door of Faith for six months.

Dowie has gone to Haiti for the past two summers for about a week and a half each. After the second trip,

he thought that a week and a half was a waste of time.

"I didn't truly help anyone there," Dowie said. "I was just really unsatisfied, and I wanted to go somewhere longer where I could truly help the people."

Dowie then began the process of finding a place where he could serve for a longer amount of time. When he found the Door of Faith orphanage, Dowie knew that's where he needed to be.

"This orphanage was just placed on my heart," Dowie said. "While I'm there, I'll be a helper at the orphanage doing whatever is needed. I will mostly be doing things like getting the place ready for new groups coming and helping those groups throughout the week."

Like Langfitt, Dowie is doing this project on his own. His service will have no affiliation with the college.

"I truly didn't even think about going somewhere through NW," Dowie said. "An SSP or SOS wasn't going to be long enough for me."

After returning to the

United States, Dowie plans on coming back to NW to finish school. One thing he said he feels called to do after college is full-time mission work, but he hopes that this trip will help him decide on what mission work to do.

"I don't know if I should start my own orphanage or do something different," Dowie said. "So hopefully this trip will answer some questions on that. I also hope to grow spiritually closer to God and touch the life of at least one person. If I touch one person's life, then I will be happy."

Dowie thought that there are no excuses to not go on a service mission. He also thinks it would be best for students to go while they are still in college and have the time to do it.

"If you are even thinking about going, there should be no question about it," Dowie said. "Just go. Even if it is just a short term mission trip, you will gain so much knowledge on life, and you wouldn't regret it. Money isn't an excuse not to go. If you are supposed to go, God will always provide you with it."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Junior Matt Dowie operates a new well in Haiti where he has worked for the past two years. Dowie was unsatisfied with short-term mission opportunities like those offered at NW and will be taking a break from school for six months to work at an orphanage in Mexico.

PostSecret gives students an outlet

BY BRIAN BRANDAU
FEATURES EDITOR

A new collage has joined those on the tables in the Hub.

While these table collages depict the upbeat news of yesteryear, this new collage on the wall in the back is darker, reflecting the face of campus today and offers a glimpse into the most hidden aspects of student lives at Northwestern College.

The display is senior psychology major Morgan Weis's attempt to bring the community mail project known as PostSecret to NW.

"PostSecret was started back in 2004 by Frank Warren," Weis said. "PostSecret has been a passion of mine since 2006."

The PostSecret website is Warren's effort to create an outlet for those suffering from repressed secrets and mental disorders. Weis said the project is intended to help people come to terms with their secrets as part of their identity.

"Frank wanted people to know that even though it's your secret, you're not alone in it," Weis said.

Weis has followed the website, which updates with new posts every Sunday, closely since 2006. This year, she decided to conduct an

Honors Program Senior Thesis and chose to bring the PostSecret concept to the NW student body.

"Instead of surveys, which most everybody does in the psychology department," Weis said, "I thought it'd be cool to see if people on this campus were cool with sharing their secrets."

In order to protect the anonymity of her participants, Weis distributed the postcards to all students she thought would be interested and then made a drop-off envelope on the third floor of Van Peurse Hall where students could drop off their finished postcards.

"People could decorate their postcards in the privacy of their own room," Weis said. "And then drop them off in VPH. No one ever gets to see what their secret is unless they share it."

Weis had 44 submissions, all of which are now on display in a webbed framework until next Tuesday, though Weis is hoping to keep it up for a little longer yet. Weis admits that even in clinical settings, people are not often honest about what has happened to them and

what they're feeling.

Even so, she believes people do need to share and feel compelled to do so. PostSecret, in her opinion, allows people to share the parts of themselves that otherwise would be pushed deep down inside without feeling instantly judged.

"One of the secrets was 'I feel Christians are the most judgmental religious group,'" Weis said. "That's a problem for our campus."

Weis is hoping that her project can help to rectify that perception. She hopes that by putting secrets out in public anonymously, she'll be able to break down some of the barriers to conversation on campus about serious issues.

"First and foremost, I want to raise awareness of PostSecret and what it's doing," Weis said. "Mental health is so stigmatized. I just want to start conversations. ... I think it's important that people are open and vulnerable with each other."

This project is more than just an anonymous group therapy session, however. As a part of her honors research project, Weis is doing empirical psychological study of the



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

For her Honors Senior Thesis, senior Morgan Weis collected and compiled 44 secrets from Northwestern students. Weis is using the popular PostSecret model to study the potential beneficial effects that sharing secrets can have on a person's mood and self-esteem.

effect that sharing secrets can have on participants.

Before they submitted postcards, participants were asked to fill out two measures—one based on self-esteem and one on mood. Weis is conducting the same two measures now that the secrets have been submitted to see if there is any therapeutic effect of sharing secrets.

Four people have also volunteered to take part

in an interview process alongside these measures. One of these students was junior Beverly Rubel, who said she felt relieved once she was able to share her secret.

"I was interested to see how it would feel to share my secret," Rubel said. "[I feel] resolved, like I don't have to share it anymore."

Rubel encouraged other students to share if they had the opportunity.

"Definitely do it," Rubel

said. "It helps, knowing that people know it, but don't know it at the same time."

Weis is hopeful that the principle of PostSecret can be applied in the field of psychotherapy broadly.

"Even in therapy sessions, people aren't always honest," Weis said. "If a person isn't willing to open themselves up, they can admit through a postcard. If they need an escape, this might be a way."

What are you looking forward to about winter at NW?

(Or, at the very least, what makes it bearable?) COMPILED BY BRIAN BRANDAU

"Campus-wide snowball fights at midnight."

-Sophomore Mike Mabee

"I have lots of weddings to go to."

-Senior Donna Keith

"I like it when it's 15 degrees outside, and I can wear shorts because it feels warm by comparison."

-Senior Jacob Vander Ploeg

"I'm looking forward to taking homemade sleds down the giant snow piles."

-Freshman Brittany Vollmer

"Christmas lights."

-Senior Becky Buseman

"Snow only means one thing... basketball. Oh...wait..."

-Sophomore Jerry Lansink

"Seeing all the snow. I think it's good symbolism that says God will make our sins white as snow."

-Sophomore Nathan Broek

"Curling up under a blanket and watching a movie with friends."

-Senior Stephanie Williams

"The West Hall Living Room."

-Junior James Wilhelm

"Stomping spitefully through newly fallen snow."

-Senior Eddie Pantzlaff

"I like drifting and sliding on the ice on the way to church."

-Sophomore Sam Santos

"One of the best parts of winter is bundling up in layers so people can't tell if you're gaining weight."

-Junior Nate Johnston

"The guys in the hall and having people to be stuck inside with."

-West RD Corey Kundert

"Being in Mexico."

-Senior Nicole Hulstein

"I've never experienced winter at NW, so I'm nervous."

-Freshman Mollie Ferguson

Raiders' season ends with win against Dordt

Team out of playoffs, 19 players earn GPAC honors

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

The Northwestern football team ended the regular season against Dordt. NW pulled away in the second quarter and cruised to the finish, winning 45-28.

The Raiders pushed their record to 7-2 in the GPAC, 9-2 overall, while the Defenders went winless in conference play on the season, dropping to 0-9 in the GPAC.

The NW offense clicked throughout the game. Sophomore quarterback Davis Bloemendaal was 18-25 throwing the football, including three touchdowns, and he ran another score in himself. Junior running back Brandon Smith rushed his way to 216 yards and two touchdowns in the Raider win, ending the season with 15 rushing scores.

"As far as having 200 yards, I really had no idea I was up there that high," Smith said. "When Coach told me after the game, I was surprised. Our line wore them down, and we kept getting chunks of yards as the game went on."

NW scored first, but struggled early, allowing Dordt to take a 14-10 lead. In the second quarter, however, the Raiders broke the game open, scoring 28 unanswered points.

"We came out flat, and they came out really ready

to play," said head coach Kyle Achterhoff.

"Dordt/Northwestern is their Super Bowl," Smith said. "There is no one they would rather beat. We try to come out with the same intensity every game and not worry about who we're playing. I never had any doubt we would win the game, despite the score. We just didn't execute as well as we have been."

Dordt scored twice in the second half, but they never really threatened again. Overall, the Raiders offense moved 509 yards. The defense allowed 327 yards to Dordt, but NW grabbed four interceptions and three sacks.

NW finished the season ranked 17th in the nation, just

"Dordt/NW is their Super Bowl" - junior running back Brandon Smith

outside the playoff picture, so Saturday's matchup was the final game of the season for the Raiders.

"Obviously, next season we will miss seniors like Ben Aguilera, Travis Hofmeyer, and Paul Lundgren," Achterhoff said. "But we will also miss players who people don't see as much in games, like Jeremy Sheppard who does a great job on special teams."

But Smith believes

the Raiders will be better prepared next year.

"We came together really well after Doane," Smith said. "It would have been easy to give up, but we got better and better every week. We beat a lot of good teams, and we beat them convincingly, [which] makes those early two losses hurt even more. We'll learn from it and know we can't take any games off next year."

Playoff System

For the second consecutive year, NW's football team finished the season unsure where they would rank. And for the second consecutive season, they were disappointed to find themselves just outside the playoff picture.

The top 16 teams in the nation make the playoffs. However, if a team wins the conference championship and they are ranked outside of the top 16, they take the place of the 16th-ranked team. That happened this season when co-conference champion of the Mid States Football Association (MSFA) Grand View, ranked 18th in the country, replaced William Penn, who was ranked 16th.

So after an eight-game winning streak, during which no opponent finished closer than 17 points, how did the Raiders get left out? Conference voters felt they



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW
Junior Tyler Walker makes a cut into the open field against Hastings on Nov. 5. Walker earned honorable GPAC all-conference honors after a career best 539 yards and five touchdowns.

had to take care of teams in their conferences.

The GPAC gets two votes for the top 25. A bigger conference, such as the MSFA, gets four. Not so coincidentally, five teams from the MSFA (three of whom have records worse than NW) are going to the playoffs, while only conference champion Morningside represents the GPAC.

"Honestly, it's a flawed system," Achterhoff said. "I hope they fix it, not just for our sake, but for other teams who might be in the same situation as us."

GPAC Honors

Three juniors earned first-team all-conference awards. Smith, a first-team pick last year, left guard Nathan Nieuwendorp and defensive lineman Jordan Carlson.

Junior wide receiver Eli Groenendyk, senior center and captain Travis Hofmeyer, junior Aaron Jansen and sophomore defensive back Jerel Kyles were all elected to the second-team.

Twelve Raiders received honorable mention recognition. Sophomore quarterback Davis Bloemendaal, sophomore running back Theo Bartman,

junior guard Wil Van't Hof, sophomore tackle Marcus Van Voorst and junior receiver Tyler Walker were the offensive selections. Four of NW's five starting linemen were recognized.

Sophomore punter Alex Herrington was a special teams pick.

On defense, junior defensive end Ethan Lensch, sophomore linebacker Isaiah Twitty, senior linebacker and team captain Ben Aguilera, sophomore linebacker Nate Van Ginkel, junior defensive end Stanley Fleming and senior Paul Lundgren were selected.

Wrestling team picks up wins in season opening duals

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
SPORTS EDITOR

The Northwestern wrestling squad traveled to Wayne, Neb., last weekend to compete in their first matches of the year. They came home with two wins over York, Neb., 29-18, and NCAA-Div. II Wayne State 38-12.

In the 133-lbs match, freshman Richard Ortiz got the Raiders on the board with his 7-2 victory. Senior Matt Dowell started out his final season with a victory.

The 165-lbs, 184-lbs and 197-lbs weight classes were victories by forfeit for the Raiders.

Junior Nic Leither wrapped up the team's victory in heavyweight with a technical fall win in 4:40. A tech fall is classified as a victory by 15 points.

Against the host, Wayne State, the Raiders dominated on the mat and

recorded four pins. The only points WSU was able to muster came from a forfeit at 174, and freshman 197-pounder Forrest Marx wrestling out of his normal weight class in the 285-lbs match, in which he was pinned.

Freshman Daniel Arceo started out with one of those pins in 3:48 in the 125-lbs battle. Freshman Nathan Manfall, a 133 pounder, won his match 13-8. In the 141-lbs duel, freshman Roger Fender piled up 18 points for a victory.

Freshman Brett Gudeman dominated at 149-lbs, and won 14-2, while freshman Kenneth Whittle's contest as 157-pounder was closer, but he still grappled for an 8-7 win.

Freshman Isaac Anthony Ruiz earned a pin at 165-lbs, putting his opponent on his back in 4:19. Gudeman commented on the freshmen-heavy lineup's adjustment to the new

experience of collegiate wrestling.

"They responded very well," Gudeman said. "We came out with a lot of intensity and really executed what has been worked on in the room the past few weeks."

Senior David Carter and Leither provided the upperclassmen leadership, and put WSU to bed with their pins in 1:25 and 3:46, respectively.

The great start to the season has not hidden the fact that everyone on the squad has things to improve on.

"There was a few things we all could work on," Gudeman said. "But overall, Coach Dahl was impressed with how everyone really battled every match. As a team we need to improve on wrestling at the edge of the mat and not giving up pins in dual meets."

The Raiders next meet will be Saturday at the Augsburg Open.

Fall all-GPAC athletes

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Second-team: sophomore Allie Dunkelberger

Honorable mention: freshman Tyler Farr

MEN'S SOCCER

Second-team: junior Mario Garcia

Second-team: sophomore Nick Hengst

Honorable mention: sophomore Justin Lehman

Honorable mention: sophomore Matt Dowie

Honorable mention: freshman Luis Hernandez

VOLLEYBALL

First-team: sophomore Megan Huston

First-team: junior Jennie Jansen

First-team: junior Jaci Moret

Second-team: freshman Kaitlin Floerchinger

Second-team: senior Kate Boersma

Honorable mention: senior Rylee Hulstein

Sports 19

Basketball squad impressive in conference opener

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

The Northwestern men's basketball team began their conference schedule Wednesday night against Briar Cliff and submitted a dominant performance, defeating the Chargers 99-69 in a battle of undefeated teams. The Raiders improved to 6-0 on the season and 1-0 in the GPAC while Briar Cliff fell to 5-1 and 0-1 in the GPAC.

The Raiders were led in scoring by junior post Stu Goslinga, who dropped 20 points on 8-11 shooting. Senior guard Ben Miller added 18 points, and Jon Kramer handed out 8 assists in the Raider win.

"The star of our team is the team," said head coach Kris Korver. "We have some outstanding individual talent, but we need everybody. When no one cares who gets the credit, you have a real foundation for future success."

The game remained close until half time, as the Raiders entered the locker room only leading by eight. But they quickly ran that lead up to 15 when play resumed, and ended up outscoring Briar Cliff 56-34 in the second half. After going 0-5 from beyond the arc in the first half, the Raiders shot 71 percent in the second, going 5-7.

NW also dominated Briar Cliff on the glass, outrebounding the Chargers 50-28. The Raiders were led by Ben Miller, who grabbed 12 rebounds himself.

On Saturday, the Raiders faced a resilient, athletic Dickinson State squad in the Pizza Ranch Classic. After jumping out to a 23-2 lead early, NW appeared poised for a blowout. But Dickinson State hung around, and in the second half cut the lead all the way down to 49-42 before the Raiders pulled away again to win 76-60.

"[Dickinson State is] a good team," Korver said. "They didn't lay down and die. But our guys were able to sustain throughout the game. They have three really outstanding players. We made things difficult for those three."

Sophomore Zack Leeper led the Raiders with 18 points,

while Goslinga added 12 points and pulled down 13 rebounds. Miller also added 12 points in the win.

"Our guys really prepared well," Korver said. "They knew a few things Dickinson wanted to do, and we made it difficult for them to do that. When you force someone to do what they don't love to do, the game becomes less fun, and that makes you not play as well."

On Friday, NW defeated Grace College 98-84. The Raiders completely dominated Grace inside, dropping 60 points in the paint, and grabbing 23 offensive rebounds. Junior post Daniel Van Kalsbeek scored 20 points, shooting a very efficient 9-13 from the field, while Goslinga added 14 points and nine rebounds.

The Raiders next game is against Midland on Saturday.



PHOTO BY KATI HENG

Sophomore Zack Leeper passes to freshman Karic Wiertzema on the wing Wednesday night against Briar Cliff. The No. 7 Raiders opened up GPAC play with a bang and sent the Chargers home bruised after a 99-69 beatdown.

Women drop two straight to ranked foes

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
SPORTS EDITOR

The No. 1 Northwestern women's basketball team dropped two straight contests for the first time since 2006, and suffered the first defeat in the Bultman Center since 2008.

The women followed a 75-53 win last Friday with a 64-56 loss to No. 25 Mount Mercy on the road before suffering a 76-69 defeat at home to No. 5 Briar Cliff. Their record on the season is 3-3, 0-1 in the conference.

Wednesday nights matchup against Briar Cliff was a run-and-gun affair where 30 turnovers doomed NW. The Raiders managed to be down by only three (36-33) going into the locker room for halftime.

Shooting only 29 percent from the floor in the second half dropped the Raiders behind by as much as 18.

NW did not roll over and die despite the deficit, and came within four points with 30 seconds left, but BCU calmly made 4-5 free throws

to hold on for the victory.

Poor shooting plagued the team for the majority of the game, going 33 percent from the floor and 21 percent from three-point range. NW hammered the boards, winning the margin 50-33, with 21 rebounds coming at the offensive end.

Senior Val Kleinjan went 6-16 from behind the arc to lead the Raiders with 18 points. Junior Kendra DeJong recorded a double-double, scoring 16 points and ripping down 14 rebounds.

Senior Kami Kuhlmann scored 14 points despite a tough night shooting, and also added seven assists and five steals. Freshman Sam Kleinsasser scored 10 points from the post position.

"It's still really early in the year," Kuhlmann said. "So we still have lots of time to work on those things that we struggle with. Learning from our mistakes helps us get better."

Against Mount Mercy last Saturday, the Raiders fell in a game filled with

multiple runs by both squads. NW was down 31-30 at the intermission, but shot 52 percent from the field in the first half.

The Mustangs came out of the locker room with determination, going on a 10-0 run. The Raiders responded with a 14-3 scamper of their own to regain the lead 51-50. Mount Mercy took the lead with seven minutes remaining in the contest and held off numerous pushes by NW.

Kuhlmann and sophomore Alli Dunkelberger dropped 13 points each. Kleinsasser was also in double digits with 10 points. As a team, the Raiders were doomed by the three-pointer, shooting 12.5 percent from downtown.

Last Friday against Clarke, the women struggled to find a way to get their shots to fall in the first half, but recovered for a strong second half.

"At halftime we just talked about how our shots in the first half might have been wide open shots but weren't necessarily good

shots," Kuhlmann said. "We talked about getting good ball swings and making good cuts so that we could get some easy shots and some layups."

DeJong led the offensive attack with 20 points and six boards. Kuhlmann contributed 17 of her own, and Kleinjan drained four of six three-pointers in her 14 points.

NW cleaned the glass for 50 rebounds in the win, compared to 38 for Clarke. Kuhlmann, Kleinsasser and junior Mel Babcock all hauled in seven rebounds.

The team knows the losses held some positives, and they are far from playing their best basketball of the year.

"Another positive," Kuhlmann said, "is that there are definitely glimpses within that game where we do things awesome. We run the floor, we get rebounds. We are extremely capable to do all these things and to be a stellar team. We just need to work on consistency, which will come the more we play with each other."

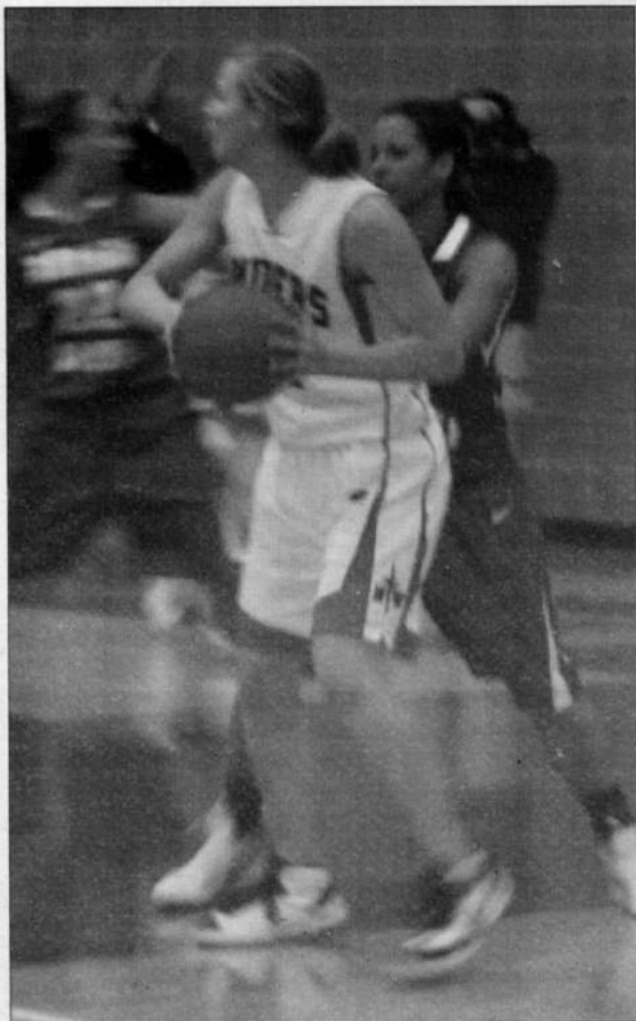


PHOTO BY KATI HENG

Junior post Mel Babcock looks to dish the ball out of the block on Wednesday night. The Raiders committed 30 turnovers on the night and fell to the No. 5 Chargers 76-69.

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Avoiding meat could save lives and help the environment

BY NATHAN KUIK

I am a vegetarian. About one year ago, I made the personal decision to not consume meat from any animal.

Several different factors influenced my decision, but some reasons are more important than others. The top two reasons I cite for being a vegetarian are these: Workers' rights and the environmental toll of meat production.

The factory conditions for workers in slaughterhouses have always been poor. Upton Sinclair wrote about the awful conditions of slaughterhouses, now called "meat-packing plants," at the beginning of the 20th Century in "The Jungle," a novel chronicling the lives of 12 Lithuanian immigrants living in Chicago.

Because we know time is money for industries producing a product, the conditions in the slaughterhouses have not drastically improved since then; the animal must still be "disassembled" as quickly as possible, making work strenuous, stressful and repetitive.

In an interview with PBS, Bill Haw, the former CEO of National Farms, which used to be one of the largest livestock feeders in the country, said this about slaughterhouses: "Animals come there to die, to be eviscerated, to be decapitated, to be de-hided—and all of those are violent, bloody and difficult things to watch. So your first and foremost impression of at least the initial stages of the packing

house are a very violent, very dehumanizing sort of thing."

Moreover, a 2005 study by the United States Government Accountability Office found that slaughterhouse workers continue to face hazardous conditions and have some of the highest injury rates of any industry.

Slaughterhouses also hire high percentages of low-skilled workers, and these individuals are often at greater risks for being taken advantage of and not being aware of the rights they possess.

In addition to the slaughterhouse working conditions, I am a vegetarian because of the exorbitant amount of energy and resources it takes to produce meat.

A recent British Broadcasting Corporation article concerning the possibility of growing meat in laboratories mentioned some staggering statistics about meat production.

First, approximately 18 percent of man-made greenhouse gas emissions are produced by livestock farming. In addition, about 10 percent of the entire world's freshwater supply goes to producing meat.

David Pimentel, a professor of ecology at Cornell, estimated that the grain fed to cows in the United States could feed 800 million people if it was consumed directly by humans.

Furthermore, it takes 16 times as much gasoline to produce six ounces of beef steak than it takes to produce one cup of broccoli, one cup of eggplant, four ounces of

cauliflower and eight ounces of rice.

By the year 2050, the United Nations estimates the world's meat demand will double; unless our food producing technology drastically improves in this time, the production of meat will only take more energy and resources, which could be used for producing more food for the burgeoning population.

I admit my decision to not eat meat may seem too simplistic. It raises a few questions. What about the jobs created by meat-packing plants? What about farmers and their families? How much can one person's decision not to eat something actually do? Being a vegetarian does not answer these questions. I am not willing, however, to give up the little power that I have as a consumer.

"I am not willing, however, to give up the little power that I have as a consumer."

Some people ask me why I don't take action to actually make a difference. I reject this all-or-nothing mentality.

I believe my daily decision to reject meat is a way for me to remain consistent in my choice to think about the lives of meat-packing plant workers and to do my best to pass on a livable world to those coming after me.

Take responsibility for breaking rules

BY LAUREN VAN'T HOF

All around campus there are complaints about the regulations being enforced at Northwestern, whether they are closed dorm hours, hangers in the doors, required chapel credits or not coming back to campus intoxicated.

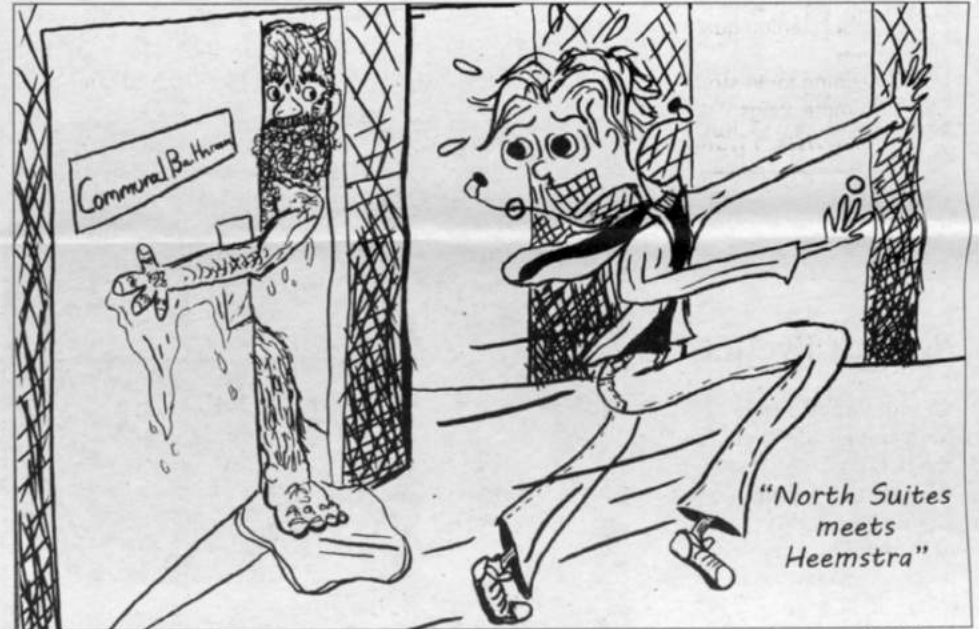
I realize there are a lot of rules at this college, and I'm not saying that I agree or disagree with any of them. The point I'm trying to get across is that by agreeing to come to this college, one has agreed to comply with the rules. Therefore, if those rules are broken one must deal with the associated consequences. Whether you agree with them or not is irrelevant.

Throughout life we are faced with this issue every day. The fact that drivers don't like the speed limit doesn't mean they won't get a ticket if they speed. Of course, a driver caught speeding will often blame the police officer for being completely inconsiderate and biased even though the driver clearly got herself into the situation.

Stop blaming the "police officer." Stop blaming NW. We need to learn to take responsibility for our own actions.

It's important for us all to consider that wherever life takes us, there are going to be rules that we don't necessarily agree with.

As long as they aren't violating personal rights, it is important to learn to follow them, however absurd and inconvenient they might be.



Kylie Johnson

Deeming swear words sinful is a far too simplistic approach

BY BRIAN BRANDAU

FEATURES EDITOR

Last week Taylor Hoekstra tried to make the case that use of certain terms is both sinful and indicative of intellectual shortcomings. I disagree.

Those who know me know that I'm not trying to rationalize my own behavior. I swear so infrequently by any standard of linguistic vulgarity that I might be able to legitimately claim that I "never" swear.

There are words that I simply cannot recall ever using, but I recognize that my restraint in this respect stems from a cultural preference, not a conviction about the moral character of such utterances.

Language is an incredible phenomenon. Sounds have meaning only because they are recognized as referring to concepts and objects, which they would have no connection with whatsoever if it weren't generally agreed by the speakers of a language that they have been thus associated. Because of its entirely arbitrary nature, there is nothing inherently sinful or unintelligent about sounds.

Because of the abundance of languages and the fact that most profane words are simple and monosyllabic, it's inevitable that most babies in their infantile gibberish spout sounds that

are offensive in one language or another from time to time.

We do not claim that they are sinning, and for good reason. In fact, most of us think it's pretty funny. With no understanding of their meaning, they are merely sounds.

This is not to say that words don't have power. As I've already said, we imbue words with meaning and most languages have developed words which carry the weight of profanity in certain situations. To use certain four-letter words in certain situations communicates disrespect or apathy.

Like many languages which differentiate between formal and informal manners of address, English has come to label certain words appropriate for given circumstances and certain words inappropriate. The nuances of these circumstances are fairly evident to most of us who have grown up speaking the language.

But those circumstances differ from culture to culture. I grew up in the military and spent my high school years in a farming community. Especially in the military, but also in farming communities, profanity is not nearly as forceful as we at Northwestern tend to think.

Hoekstra rightly warns that we should not curse people, but only a tiny fraction of "cuss words" in these contexts are spoken with malevolent intent. For most people, profanity is simply the vernacular they're accustomed to.

Furthermore, the limited use of profanity in professional contexts reflects the formality of the situation, not the intelligence of the speakers.

"but only a tiny fraction of cuss words in these contexts are spoken with malevolent intent."

Clearly, there are reasons we should restrain our use of language. You have every right not to use words you don't like. There are a lot of words I don't use because of personal preference. Furthermore, the use of words to intentionally communicate disdain, or in an attempt to make uncomfortable those who don't like profanity, is clearly unbiblical.

But to simply label certain sounds "moral" and certain sounds "immoral" is a callous oversimplification of a complicated issue. As Christians, we should never be quick to condemn the behavior of others just because we don't want to take time to recognize the complex subtleties of a fallen world or because we want to reaffirm our own life choices.

There are many activities which are sinful and which we must hold our brothers and sisters accountable for. Swearing is not one of them.



Around Campus

Club @ N-Dub

The Club @ N-Dub dance will be held at 9:18 p.m., Friday, Nov. 18, in the Hub. Admission is \$1.

Talley's Folly

The last two shows of NW's production of Talley's Folly will be at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 18, and Saturday, Nov. 19, in the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center.

Coffee House

The International Coffee House will feature ethnic performances by I-Club members. It will be held at 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Hub.

Submit Events

Submit your campus happenings and events to the Beacon for inclusion in this column. Submissions should be roughly 50 words or less and be e-mailed to beacon@nwciova.edu.

Chapel

Monday

• Chaplain Harlan VanOort

Tuesday

• Thanksgiving chapel

Wednesday

• No chapel

Friday

• No chapel

Cooking with ketchup

BY JOLEEN WILHELM

The common clothes iron is the college student's secret weapon for cooking on campus.

Chef BJ Whitmore shared this tip and many others with students on Monday, Nov. 14, during the "Beyond Ramen and Pizza Rolls" cooking class.

Whitmore taught students that grilled cheese sandwiches can be made in a matter of minutes by turning an iron to the cotton or linen setting, wrapping the bread in heavy duty aluminum foil and then pressing the iron to the foil.

Freshman Kara Nonnemacher was impressed with the idea of cooking with an iron.

"The iron trick was phenomenal," Nonnemacher said. "We learned a lot of useful tips for dorm room

cooking; nothing fancy, but basic skills that will enable anyone to be a chef."

Other tips from the cooking class included penny pinching at the grocery store, proper cutting technique and cooking a variety of foods using common dorm room appliances.

"Chef gave me some new ideas to steal as a fellow chef," said freshman Joseph Gray.

Microwave chicken teriyaki, spicy slow cooker black bean soup and no-bake peanut butter bars were a few of the recipes Whitmore gave students.

"I liked how the cooking was simple," said junior Mario Garcia. "You don't need to use complex ingredients to make a good meal."

Freshman Jose Martinez also liked the idea of using



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Freshman Jose Martinez, junior Mario Garcia, junior Amie Davis, junior David Bruxvoort, junior Jen Angus, freshman Kara Nonnemacher, freshman Joseph Gray, freshman Genna Valvick, sophomore Jake Gilleland and freshman Joleen Wilhelm learned cooking tips at Chef BJ's "Beyond the Ramen and Pizza Rolls" class.

ingredients that are easily accessible to cook.

"I think it is amazing how you can use little ketchup packets and sugar packets to make the sauce for chicken

teriyaki," Martinez said.

Chef BJ hopes to offer more cooking classes for students in the spring.

"I always say one of the benefits of working at the

Cafe is you learn how to make more than Ramen before you leave," Whitmore said. "Why limit it to just the people who work at the Cafe?"

Bella Ruse to play at Old Factory

FROM PAGE 1

Bella Ruse has performed many times in Barker's hometown of Orange City. He is the son of Northwestern theatre professors Karen and Jeff Barker.

According to Barker, one of the band's biggest accomplishments was playing a show at the Lilith Fair Music Festival in Massachusetts.

"Kay got to go on stage with Sarah McLachlan and the Wilson sisters from the band 'Heart' to sing the final number," Barker

said. "That was definitely a highlight."

Bella Ruse is creating a music video to accompany a brand new song to be released in December. They are working on some French standard original songs on vinyl records and an album covering songs by admired Minneapolis artists such as Dessa and POS.

"We've been brainstorming with a good friend of ours who's a theatre director about doing a concept album in combination with a multimedia show

combining puppets, video, projections and animation, sometime in the future," Barker said. "We're also getting married next year, so we're deep into planning that."

Barker and Gillette are most proud of the niche they have carved for themselves as what Barker called a "little indie band."

"We do all of our recording, booking, promotion and design ourselves," Barker said. "It's incredibly rewarding to see our ideas become reality."



PHOTO COURTESY OF I-CLUB

Seniors Christline Roy and Jennifer Carlson and junior Kate Wallin demonstrated traditional Indian dancing at last year's International Coffee House.

Clubbing, coffee and more

BY TYLER LEHMANN

A variety of campus events will be held before Thanksgiving break begins.

The Club @ N-Dub, hosted by the Student Activities Council, will transform The Hub into a dance club for one night only, complete with lights, neon décor, bouncers and a VIP room. It will be held at 9:18 p.m., Friday, Nov. 18. Admission is \$1.

"It's all-out, all night, so come ready to jump and sweat in community," said junior Keely Wright, a member of SAC. "Leave your to-do list at the door."

The International Coffee House will feature ethnic music and performances by I-Club members. It will be held at 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 19, in The Hub. Admission is free, and a \$1 discount will be given on drinks.

"Since we don't really get much diversity here in northwest Iowa, it might be the first time some people get in touch with other cultures," said junior Hansol Park, a member of I-Club.

Thanksgiving chapel will give students the opportunity to share with the rest of the NW community what they are thankful for. It will be held at 11:05 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 22, in Christ Chapel.

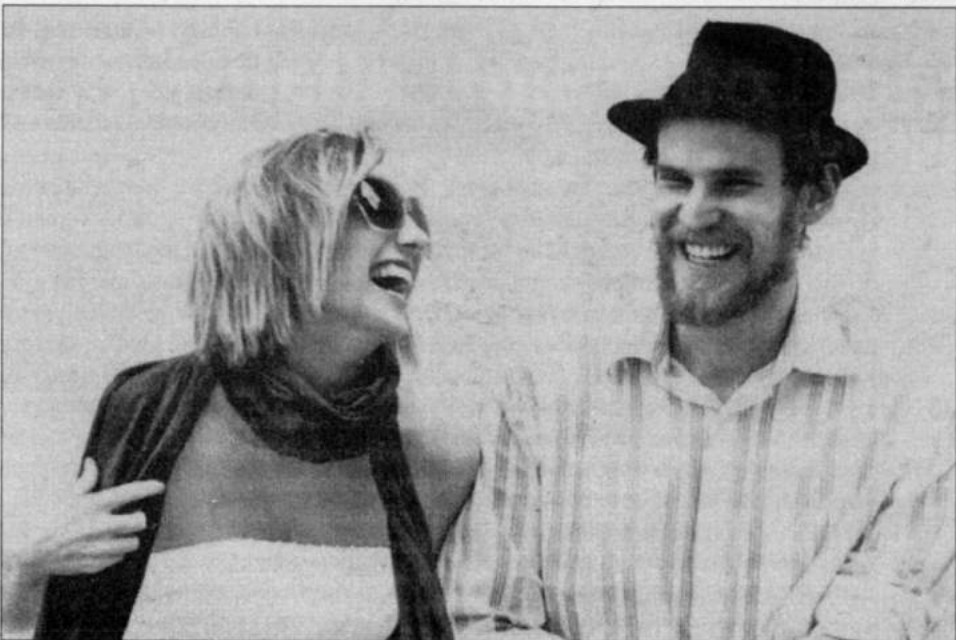


PHOTO COURTESY OF BELLA RUSE

Orange City native Joseph Barker, and his fiancée, Kay Gillette, make up the band Bella Ruse. They will perform at 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Old Factory.