Persevering with power

BY BRIAN BRANDAU & TANYA WOODWARD

Junior Emily Molko (a nursing student from Gering, Neb. and a resident assistant on 2nd North Fern) noticed some stiffness in her shoulder earlier this semester.

Molko tried physical therapy to relieve the stiffness, but when it failed to show any improvement, she decided to go in for a second opinion.

Two weeks ago, she went to Sioux Falls, S.D., for an MRI. The image showed that it was a tumor.

Doctors suspected that Molko had Ewing sarcoma, a type of bone cancer most commonly diagnosed in youths, aged 5 to 25. It is found in one in 30,000 people.

Molko then went to Kansas City, Mo., to have a biopsy performed. Once doctors confirmed Molko’s tumor was Ewing sarcoma, they put forth a treatment plan.

On Wednesday, Molko received the final pathology report which would allow doctors to choose the right drugs for her chemotherapy.

At present, the doctors have told Molko that she will receive chemotherapy treatment for one year.

“After one year of chemo, the doctors are confident that I will be cured,” Molko said. “Although, I may have to have some additional surgery on my arm, where the Ewing’s originated.”

In the meantime, Molko will be living in the Kansas City area with her mother. She began treatment on Thursday and will be making trips to the University of Kansas Medical Center every two and a half weeks for another round of chemotherapy.

Molko is not letting her cancer get in the way of her education, however. Her professors on campus have agreed to work with her to finish her classes by arrangement, and she intends to take online classes next semester as well.

“I’m so thankful that my professors this semester are so understanding and are helping me to finish out this semester,” Molko said.

In the midst of her trials, Molko has not lost her faith in God’s goodness.

“I know that God is mighty and He has a huge plan for me this year,” Molko said. “He is always faithful and always good. I have been so blessed to have friends and family who constantly remind me of that. They encourage me and lift me up and remind me how much I am loved and prayed for.”

Molko is especially appreciative of prayer.

“I love it when people say they are praying for me because of two reasons,” Molko said. “I believe in the power of prayer, and I love that people—no matter the reason—are taking their worries and fears and requests to our God who loves to hear them.”

A benefit concert will be held on Friday in support of Molko. The benefit will start at 9 p.m. in the Hub and all drinks are $1 off. The event’s sponsors ask that students bring a dollar or two as a free will donation.

Several students will play at the benefit, including sophomore Alex Herrington, juniors Nate Johnston and Adam Vander Stoep and seniors Devon Cadwell and Lisa Walters.

Fine arts ensembles set to perform this weekend

BY EMILY BROUWER

Get ready for a weekend full of music at Northwestern College—three of the school’s musical groups are set to perform after working on their pieces this semester.

A concert by the Symphonic Band will take place on Friday, Nov. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in Christ Chapel.

The Symphonic Band, directed by Dr. Timothy McGarvey, will be performing a wide variety of songs, including “Colorado Peaks” by Dana Wilson, “Earl of Oxford’s March” by Gordon Jacob and a piece that explores the spiritual connection between farmers and their land entitled “The Promise of Living” by Aaron Copland.

One of the more unusual and challenging pieces the band will perform is “Circus Polka” by Igor Stravinsky. The piece that was originally written for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus.

“This piece calls for an organ sound, like one you would hear at a circus,” said sophomore percussionist Aaron DeBoer. “Really be listening for that sound. It’s a different color sound than what a normal symphonic band is used to and really gives the feel that we are at the circus watching elephants and high-wire acts.”

The band will also be performing a series of folk songs by Percy Grainger entitled “Lincolnshire Posy,” which has six movements that are based on folk tunes Grainger gathered as he traveled through the Lincolnshire area. Each movement holds a different story and style, unique to the original singer.

With perhaps more recognizable tunes, Leonard Bernstein’s “Four Dances from West Side Story” is also included in the Symphonic Band’s selections.

The next night, the Jazz Band and Heritage Singers will take the stage.

The Jazz Band, also directed by McGarvey, will include pieces containing a variety of jazz styles such as calypso, blues and swing.

More than half of the jazz band members will play solos during the concert.

The songs on the program include Dave Brubeck’s “Blue Rondo à la Turk,” “Softly, As in a Morning Sunrise” from the operetta The New Moon by Sigmund Romberg and Oscar Hammerstien II and “Tuxedo Junction” by Erskine Hawkins, Bill Johnson and Julian Dash.

“Sanctified Blues” by Alva Nelson is sophomore Sarah
Matthew Ward and Zooey Deschanel of She & Him are celebrating Christmas tunes early this year.

Give She & Him some Christmas cheer

BY KATI HENG

Let’s hope Santa fills She & Him’s stockings with cheer this Christmas—from the sounds of this album, they sure need some.

One would expect a band that releases a Christmas album before most people have finished putting up their Halloween decorations would have a certain fondness for the holiday and celebrate with a certain amount of cheer.

Yet, “A Very She & Him Christmas” is the band’s dreariest and most mournful sounding album to date.

Granted, Zooey Deschanel (the “She” of the band) is known for being the somber girl. It’s the character she plays in almost every film she stars—from the tough Summer who doesn’t believe in love in “500 Days of Summer” to the tough Jovie who discredits the loneliness of her voice in “Elf.” Her fans love it about her acting, but carrying that bleak attitude over to a Christmas album may be asking too much even from dedicated followers.

Consisting of 12 tunes, from the traditional “Silver Bells” and “The Christmas Song,” to others made famous by Elvis and The Beach Boys, She & Him offer no new songs for the season or even new renditions of hymns celebrating Christ. They do give a new perspective to these classics—though some takes are more successful than others.

Songs like “Silver Bells” and “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” suit Deschanel’s somber style exceptionally well. The natural lightness and hint of jazz in her voice bring a sweet touch to these already leisurely songs.

“A Very She & Him Christmas” is about the struggle to find a job after spending all that money on an education. That’s become so popular?

The poetry collection “Broetry” is 127 pages of pure poetic absurdity. The author, Brian McGackin, describes his “Broetry” as “poetry for dudes. It’s poetry for people who don’t like poetry.”

While most poetry has a purpose, explaining the complicated world with a few beautiful words or the simple world with 15 long pages, “Broetry” attempts to stay as far away from that type of meaning as it can.

The main topics of the book include women, breakups, alcohol, pop stars and video games. It’s interesting, but not surprising, that such a book has been written.

Directed at dudes, there is an underlying idea that many people do not, or cannot, appreciate classical poetry.

In the book’s introduction, McGackin writes “Regular poetry is all about birds and death, birch trees and fancy words…Broetry speaks to every man, woman, and dude-child who understands that reading shouldn’t have to be a chore.”

Reading classical poetry can be a chore, but reading “Broetry” was not much easier.

Reading the same shallow garbage over and over again was grueling and tiresome.

In one poem, McGackin uses only the titles of movies to take the reader through the complicated stages of a romantic relationship, from first falling for the girl, to asking, “Why Do Fools Fall in Love?”

McGackin hits upon many pop culture subjects with poems like an “Ode to Taylor Swift” and “Now I Assume Everyone Named Harry Is a Wizard.”

MATTHEW WARD

“Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” may be asking too much even from dedicated followers. However, the band often goes overboard with trying to imprint familiar tunes with their own style.

“Blue Christmas,” made famous by Elvis, is just painfully covered by the group. With country-twang strings and Deschanel crooning notes clearly too low for her vocal range, it makes the listener feel more uncomfortable than blue.

“Little Saint Nick” and “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” are both overdone. Each opening with a chorus of Deschanel voice recorded to form their chords, the songs get even cheesier from there.

Unable to capture the fun and life of The Beach Boys, She & Him throws a ukulele into the background of “Little Saint Nick” to get the point across. In “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree,” Deschanel decides that rather than make her voice more upbeat, she’ll just staccato. It ends up sounding like hicups.

“Baby, It’s Cold Outside” might be the most disappointing song on the album. Anyone who has seen “Elf” will remember how lovely Deschanel’s voice first sounded in that famous locker room scene, but unfortunately, the charm is missing in her duet with Him. In a role-reversal (which, admittedly, was clever on the band’s part), she becomes the one trying to convince him to stay a little longer. Letting Matthew Ward (the lesser-known “Him” of the band) sing the lead is sure to leave fans feeling somewhat denied.

“A Very She & Him Christmas,” although containing a few solid tracks, reveals some deeper issues the band needs to work out before moving forward. Should Deschanel stick to the jazzy sound she has already mastered, or keep working on cleaning up the folkly twang that’s become so popular?

And just how much will listeners allow Ward to sing lead before skipping to the next track?

Maybe the album is coming at a good time—with a new year, perhaps we’ll hear a new “She & Him”—one that knows the answers to these questions.
Pedestrians walking through the streets of downtown Kansas City could tell that it was not the typical Sunday afternoon. Rather than taxis and buses, the streets were lined with sugared-up children with glow sticks who all seemed to be pulling their parents’ hands frantically toward Music Hall, where all of their wildest dreams were about to come true at “Yo Gabba Gabba Live: It’s Time to Dance.”

The live show was produced as a sort of “best-of” compilation of songs and dances from the Nick Jr. show, “Yo Gabba Gabba.”

The show began with a giant spray of confetti and flashing lights as the host of the show, DJ Lance Rock, sprung forth from a massive screen, coming to life in front of hundreds of fans. After that, his five best friends, an odd bunch that vary from the talking robot Plex, to some sort of pink flower/marshmallow hybrid named Foofa, took the stage to join him for the performance.

Their goal was clear—teach the children to spend their time dancing, singing and practicing good manners, and they will be able to succeed at anything. The true magic behind the show lies in that it is extremely pleasing to not only children, but to their parents and even to college students using their precious little spending money, just to see the Yo Gabba Gabba performance.

Most of the reason older audiences can enjoy the show, even without bringing kids along, lies in the guests the show brings in for “The Super Music Friends Show,” which have previously included many prominent alternative bands including The Killers, Weezer, Of Montreal and many more.

Sunday’s performance came to a climax when the “Whip rapper Biz Markie pulled several nervous toddlers to the stage to help him perform simple beat-boxes for “Biz’s Beat of the Day.”

As the show came to a close and the characters sang “The Goodbye Song,” the 2-year-old in the seat next to me collapsed into her mother’s lap in tears.

While the college-student reaction may have not been as extreme, the performers stoked the hearts and gave an afternoon of elaborate and upbeat musical entertainment.

College kids go crazy for Yo Gabba Gabba

BY MICHAEL GUTSCHE

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Communicating or cussing? 
Looking into the rhetoric of swear words

BY BRITTANY LEIKVOLL

On a campus like Northwestern, swearing is seen in a different light—\textit{is it something that Christians should engage in?} Many would argue the reason against swearing is simply that foul language is a sin. However, many students on campus feel that it is the motivation behind this decision that we should be focusing on, not simply the language itself.

Senior Megan Herlyn recalls witnessing her CEO swearing only in situations of frustration and feeling that it caused her a reaction of intimidation and authority. “Isn’t there other words that could be used?” Herlyn asked. “It’s so hard to tell if something like [swearing] is conscious or not. I know that substitutes are pretty much the same thing, but when you’re so used to hearing it around you, sometimes it just slips out. The people around you have such a big influence on you. And vice versa.”

In fields such as sports that have such a variety of emotions, including both anger and joy, it’s not uncommon to hear swearing. “Swearing does happen on the field, just as any other place,” said senior Jayme Rozeboom. “Football is such a place, just as any other place.”

Stofer’s favorite song. Sarah plays the bass and says she likes the song because she gets to play as loudly as possible. “In this song, the audience should try to listen for all of the parts,” she said. “The main tune is catchy and easy to hear, but it sounds better if you listen to all the parts at the same time.” They will also perform the song “Cuban Overture” by George Gershwin, which was written after a trip he took to Havana and incorporates what the types of music he heard on the Cuban streets. Also in concert on Saturday are the Heritage Singers, directed by Dr. Thomas Holm and accompanied by Yukiko Higashino and Dr. Juyeon Kang. The 28 members were chosen by audition from the A cappella Choir and practice every Friday for about two hours.

The ensemble will perform “Zigeunerlieder (Gypsy Songs), op. 103” by Johannes Brahms. This piece was made up of 11 untitled songs, which have a Gypsy and Hungarian feel to them and are all about love, rejection, passion, joy and broken hearts. The Heritage Singers will also perform two sets of “Animal Crackers” by Eric Whitacre. If the audience listens to the words, they will find that the songs are all about certain animals and insects and are absolutely hilarious. The first set of “Animal Crackers” includes “The Panther,” “The Cow” and “The Firefly.” The second set has “The Canary,” “The Eel” and “The Kangaroo.”

The six Eric Whitacre pieces are about 30 seconds long each and are based on the poems written by American humorous composer, Ogden Nash,” Holm said. “The first song, called ‘The Panther’, goes something like this, ‘the panther is like a leopard, except it hasn’t been peppered. If you behold a panther crouched, be prepared to say ouch. Better yet, if called “The Panther,” goes something like this, ‘the panther is like a leopard, except it hasn’t been peppered. If you behold a panther crouched, be prepared to say ouch. Better yet, if called by a panther, don’t anther.’ We have to do all we can to not start laughing up on stage while we’re singing it.”

The Jazz Band and Heritage Singers will perform on Saturday, Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Christ Chapel. Admission is free for all three concerts.

Add some music to your weekend
FROM PAGE 1

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“People, being from different places, are going to talk differently,” Cadwell said. “You can’t just ask them to change that. Can you imagine if everyone talked the same way and were synonymous? We can’t avoid one another or point fingers because that’s not how we grew up, or have the ‘my way is right’ mentality and not even listen. If we judged a person by the way they talk, we could miss out on a much deeper connection.”

He pointed out that not everyone finds swearing offensive, and not everyone who swears is trying to be offensive with their words. “I wouldn’t swear around children—there is a time and place,” Cadwell said. “I would also respect if someone saw [swearing] as their vice and were tempted by being around it. But if people think that it’s offensive, I’d like to know why—especially if they tell me not to talk that way. What right do people have to tell someone else how to talk?”

NW’s campus seems to be focusing less on the language itself and more on the approach and motivation that prompts the words choices we use to describe situations and with each other.

“Ultimately what it comes down to is communication, and it’s the attitude that matters,” Cadwell said. In the end, each person has to decide if their use of language is appropriate in the situation and if their words are being used to show love or hate.

Submit your own campus quotes, with context, to beacon@nwciowa.edu
Somewhere Jacob Fisher presents this fusion of breakfast and dessert. Mix in your favorite kind of cereal and add caramel syrup for an interesting crunch to make your ice cream more interesting.

Love Oreos? Senior Amber Maloney does. Add in chocolate syrup, peanut butter (from the toast station) and chocolate sprinkles for a new twist on the favorite we learned to love after watching “The Parent Trap.”

Senior Devon Cadwell loves his coffee. For an extra jolt in your ice cream, add cappuccino to some chocolate syrup, nuts and Reese’s Pieces. Blend together for a sweet, caffeinated delight.

If you feel torn between getting a soda or ice cream, just mix the two together, as junior Jacob Van Der Linden does here. Combine root beer and ice cream for a perfectly blended float.

Junior Erica Bauserman shows that shakes don’t always have to be pure sugar. Take advantage of the fresh fruit by adding bananas, or other fruits such as strawberries or raspberries when available.

Senior Robi Bogdanffy shows how students can make their own version of the classic Rocky Road ice cream. Combine marshmallows, chocolate syrup and nuts for a twist on this traditional favorite.

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The new ice cream shake machine in the cafe has been a stunning success since its first appearance a few weeks ago. However, as the new shine begins to slowly dim, students have begun to look elsewhere for creative dining. To remind students how much fun creating your own ice cream shake can be, this week’s edition of Cafe Creations features inventive combinations to try when just a single scoop of ice cream won’t do.

By Kammeron Toews

A Beacon excerpt from the ‘40s on one of the tables in the Hub which many students have taken note of claims that women should confine themselves to domestic professions.

The year is 2011, however, and most students now acknowledge that both genders should have equal opportunity in employment.

Nevertheless, many fields of study at Northwestern tend to be dominated by one gender or the other. There are no gender-discriminating academic programs, but sometimes that’s not always clear from the breakdown in classes from specific disciplines.

On NW’s campus, students sometimes find that their interests do not seem to fit with most other members of their gender. Take for example Missy Yorchak, the only female in the computer science department.

Yorchak found a passion for computer science because of her family. Her father programs applications for iPhones and iPads. She did not know that pursuing this interest would lead her to be the only female in the classroom.

“I wish there were other girls,” Yorchack said. “I do not know why it is so dominated by men.”

Computer science is at the edge of modern technology, and Yorchak said she does not fully understand why more females are not jumping at the chance to be a part of it.

“It is such a new and up-and-coming field,” Yorchak said. “There are a lot of job opportunities, and it has one of the highest salaries.”

Yorchak acknowledged that she notices she is often the only woman in her computer science courses. Even so, she does not feel left out among the men.

“None of my fellow students or professors make me feel disconnected,” Yorchak said.

Despite the challenges that come with being the only woman in her major, Yorchak is excited that she can bring a feminine perspective to a department that has typically been dominated by males.

Nick Bray, a senior nursing major, also knows what it feels like to be in a department dominated by the opposite gender.

As the only male in this year’s graduating nursing class, Bray often felt out of the loop among his female classmates in the beginning of his nursing education. He has since come to find a great respect and love for his classmates and enjoys the opportunity to befriend so many people.

Junior Zachary Borchardt is a Spanish major with a teaching endorsement, one of the very few males in NW’s Spanish department.

“It’s not difficult, but different, because I am the only guy,” Borchardt said.

Borchardt said that the Spanish professors sometimes give him a hard time, but all in good fun.

“They are very professional when they need to be,” Borchardt said.

A quick survey of any student will show that nurses and elementary school teachers are predominantly female.

Borchardt believes that men are not teaching in elementary schools because of traditional economic gender roles.

“Since the male in our culture is seen as the breadwinner, males are pushed more towards careers such as medicine, law or higher paid positions,” Borchardt said.

Bray said that history has a lot to tell us today about why the nursing profession has come to be dominated by women. He said that in the World War I era, one of the few ways in which women were allowed to help with the war effort was by becoming nurses or teachers. From that point onward, nursing jobs have continued to remain female-dominated.

Bray also believes that other factors may have had something to do with the continued prevalence of women in the nursing profession.

“Nursing has always been a more caring art, a feminine characteristic,” Bray said. “You are an advocate for the patient. You have to think ‘patient first.’ Everything is patient-oriented.”

Bray is optimistic, however, that in the future, people may realize that men can be nurses too.

“Maybe it will even out someday,” Bray said. “But at this point, a lot more women desire to be nurses.”
Chivalry is not dead yet

BY LINDSEY GEELS

Chivalry is not dead yet. Facebook has a rationale for his door-holding habits. McCleary, a native of Ankeny, said he started holding doors for people his senior year of high school.

“It started in high school when I had been learning a lot about what it means to be a Christian servant and how Jesus tells us we’re supposed to be the servants of all,” McCleary said.

Overall, he feels that NW’s response to his habit has been positive. He said that most people are thankful, and some people are surprised that somebody is willing to stand there to open a door. He believes that opening a door can let people know they are valued and cared for.

However, the reaction on campus has not been entirely receptive. A few students have told McCleary that they can get their own door.

“I recognize that … this really isn’t helping anyone,” McCleary said. “I mean people could easily get the doors for themselves. I just do it as an act of kindness.”

For those who know him, kindness is a trait he emulates. Good manners were something that his parents always emphasized when they raised him. However, McCleary associates the majority of his kindness to his faith.

“As I grow in my faith, I felt convicted that I should treat others better than myself,” McCleary said.

McCleary attended a youth group with a few good friends, and their Christian maturity rubbed off on him. McCleary’s youth leader was an alumnus of NW, and his stories and memories influenced McCleary’s college decision.

At NW, McCleary is majoring in sociology with hopes of becoming a police officer in a big city someday. Because police officers can often retire at early ages—between 50 and 55—McCleary also believes that he may be able to do mission work after a tenure in civil service. For McCleary, the issues of social and criminal justice are two things that invoke him.

McCleary plans on holding doors for students as long as he is able to, but admitted that he wouldn’t be able to continue his service as diligently if circumstances change.

“When I get a job I won’t be able to do it for as long,” McCleary said.

Until then, opening doors is a part of his testimony.

BY KAMERON TOEWS

Facebook is saturated our generation. It has changed the way most of us interact with friends and family. The primary medium of long-distance communication has passed from writing letters with ink and parchment to phone calls, to emails, to text messages and now to Facebook posts. While it might seem like everyone has an account, there are a few students at Northwestern who have held out against the cultural trend.

Freshman Andrew Fick does not have a Facebook account and never has. When Fick heard of Facebook for the first time, he simply did not care about the idea. “Facebook at the very beginning really didn’t mean anything to me,” he said.

Fick continues to be turned off by the Facebook trend. “If you want to talk to me, you can talk to me in person or on the phone,” Fick said. “I have my very close friends on Skype, or they have my phone number.”

Fick does not see himself as the sort of person who needs to have a large friend base, which Facebook provides, but he instead keeps a smaller group of close friends.

While Fick has only minimal experience with the website, he does see some benefits of having an account.

“It can help people keep connected together,” Fick said. “I would be fine with having it, I just don’t see myself using it.”

Haven never had a Facebook account is quite a rarity on NW’s campus. More commonly, students deactivate profiles for a variety of reasons, the main ones being a desire to reduce the amount of time spent on the website or annoyance with it.

“Social networking takes a lot of time out of your day,” said junior Nick Stover. Stover recently returned to Facebook after taking a 13-month break.

Ultimately you decide how much time you want to spend on Facebook,” Stover said. “But it is easy to spend more time on it than you initially planned.”

Sophomore Meghan Green deactivated her Facebook account about two months ago. Last year, Green only checked her account on Fridays and Saturdays to keep herself from the distractions of the social network. Even so, she felt that she found herself on Facebook too much.

Junior Joel Hegeman also regularly deactivates his account, often during finals week. Besides the fact that he saves time, Hegeman said, “I get tired of all the posting.”

Posts about haircuts and where people were spending two dollars iritated him. He also found it annoying when his friends posted inappropriate content or shared an excessive number of photos.

Hegeman found there were social benefits of deactivating his account.

“I get more personal time with people here, and I am not constantly perusing Facebook to see how many people want to be my friend,” Hegeman said.

Since many people use Facebook to communicate important information or humorous witticisms to friends and family, deactivating an account can become difficult.

“It’s really hard to keep in communication with some of my friends back home,” Green said. “But friends here I can usually see.”

To get around this barrier, Green relies on her cell phone. “Most of my friends have my number,” she said. “If they really need to contact me, they can text me.”

Stover thinks that Facebook isn’t necessary for short-distance relationships, but sees some utility in having an account.

“Facebook is nice to have for communicating with friends who don’t go here,” Stover said. “The reason I signed up again is because I missed talking to my friends from junior college and high school.”

Many students have found the social network too addicting and time consuming, while others see it as a useful tool for social interaction. When a balance can’t be struck, many students have opted to do away with it altogether.

As Hegeman said, “Facebook can be used and it can be abused.”

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Freshman Paul McCleary has become a familiar sight for people entering and leaving the Cafe and chapel. The West freshmen believes holding doors models the Christian ideal of servanthood.
Crushing the crush

BY JOCELYN VAN DYKE

Every Wednesday, lyrics like these can be heard in the corridors of Stegenga Hall: “Crush Free Wednesday is here again. Who needs boys when you’ve got friends? We’re all single. It’s okay. We’ll be there to catch the bouquet.”

Sophomore Alyssa Currier and junior Megan Rustad have been serenading Steggy residents since spring break of last year. That was when they started a weekly tradition called Crush Free Wednesdays, where they celebrate being contentedly single.

“We make a song on Megan’s banjo and my guitar,” Currier said. “Then we go from wing to wing singing to people who don’t have crushes.”

The duet makes every effort to keep their serenades fresh and original. “[Each week we have] new lyrics and chords,” Rustad said. “We ask people, ‘Are you crush free?’ If they have a crush or a boyfriend, they aren’t allowed to hear the song and have to plug their ears.”

The residents of Steggy have had many different reactions to the Currier’s and Rustad’s Crush Free Wednesday performances. “People never seem to see what ‘crush free’ means since crush is kind of a middle school word,” Rustad said. “A lot of the time, they think [our song] is pretty entertaining though. We’ve had people say that it’s been the highlight of their day.”

“We’ve also had girls say they’ll break up with their boyfriends just so they can hear our song,” Currier said.

A popular Northwestern stereotype holds that men on campus are friends with girls from Hospers, date girls from Steggy and marry girls from Fern. Currier and Rustad started Crush Free Wednesday as an attempt to break the stereotype.

Crush Free Wednesdays also serve as an inspiration for all those on campus who are currently crush free.

“One campus there’s such an atmosphere of dating and there’s lots of emphasis on relationships,” Currier said. “We want to celebrate people who aren’t in that stage of their life at this point.”

Rustad has some advice for those who are without a crush.

“Just enjoy your time as a single person because who knows how long it’s going to last?” Rustad said.

Currier and Rustad have high hopes that Crush Free Wednesday will move beyond the confines of Steggy. One day, Currier and Rustad aspire to make a debut in the Hub.

“We hope to improve every week,” Rustad said. The two are currently taking instrument lessons and have even created a band name. They call themselves “Megford & Lyss.”

For now, they’ve chosen to confine their performances to Steggy, but both girls felt that their message was one they needed to continue to share.

“Be happy either way,” Currier said. “Girls get so excited about someone having a boyfriend, but it’s fun to be excited about being single, too.”

Combining ‘Jewishness’ and ‘Jesusness’

BY JORDAN VERMEER

For the past couple of weeks, there has been a small booth outside of West Hall.

The booth came down this past week, but not until it had been used to celebrate a long-observed Jewish holiday.

Sukkot, also known as the Festival of Booths, is a holiday as old as Israel itself. The basis of the festival is Leviticus 23:40-43, which commanded the ancient Israelites to “Live in booths for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in booths so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in booths when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

The festival honors the 40 years of wandering in the desert, and also serves as a harvest festival. West Hall has participated in the Festival of the Booths for the past two years, thanks to the efforts of junior Resident Assistant Abraham Klafter.

Klafter, a Messianic Jew, built the Sukkah, or booth, as a nod to his Jewish heritage.

Sophomore Sarah Shapiro is another NW student who has embraced her Jewish heritage. In both Klafter’s and Shapiro’s cases, their heritage originates from their fathers.

In Jewish culture, inclusion in the cultural community is usually offered to those with Jewish mothers. Because both Klafter and Shapiro have Jewish fathers, they are not typically considered for inclusion in the Jewish community, but this hasn’t stopped them from embracing their heritage.

Despite this exclusion, both Klafter’s and Shapiro’s heritage has given him a special purpose.

Both Shapiro and Klafter remember celebrating Jewish holidays as they were growing up. The Festival of Booths was one of the most memorable for the two of them.

“We got some weird looks from our neighbors when we set up a Sukkah for the first time,” Klafter said. He recalled how a city official came and asked them to pick up their yard.

For Klafter and Shapiro, trying to tie together their Jewish ancestry and Christian identity is important.

“Our Jewishness is not as important as our Jesusness,” Shapiro said, repeating words she heard from a friend of hers.

Coming from a Messianic Jewish background has profoundly affected the lens through which Shapiro and Klafter perceive their Christian faith.

“You can see Jesus well in Passover,” Shapiro said. Shapiro also recalled a time when she went to a synagogue on Yom Kippur.

“The language stressed that they had to pay the price for their sins,” Shapiro said.

“I could just see how much they need Jesus.”

Klafter agreed that the Jews have a unique relationship with God.

“God’s heart is yearning for the Jewish people,” Klafter said.

Both Klafter and Shapiro believe that the rich traditional heritage of this festival continues nevertheless.

Shapiro said that her favorite holiday is Sukkot.

“It’s fun to return to Sukkot every year, to remember that a year has passed and things have changed,” Shapiro said.

“But the fall and holiday stay the same.”
Second half spark earns decisive Red Raider home victory

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

The Northwestern football team handled Hastings on Saturday, taking down the Broncos 35-6 on Senior/Parent day at Korver Field.

Led by sophomore quarterback Davis Bloemendaal’s three touchdown passes in the second half, the Raiders improved to 8-2 overall, 6-2 in the conference and extended their winning streak to seven games.

NW struggled early, trailing 6-0 late in the first half. The tide turned with an interception by sophomore linebacker Nate Van Ginkel, which led to a short touchdown run by sophomore running back Theo Bartman.

The Raiders never looked back. In the second half, Bloemendaal connected with junior receiver Eli Groenendyk for two of his touchdown, as well as a 10-yard pass to Bartman for another score.

“We definitely came out a little flat,” said head coach Kyle Achterhoff. “Honestly, I said first half, we didn’t play very well, and we were ahead 7-6. Let’s play like we are capable of playing, and we’ll be fine.”

“Momentum is huge in the game of football,” Groenendyk said. “We couldn’t get anything rolling in the first half, but a couple big plays by our defense and then by our offense sparked our team for the rest of the game. Hastings has a tough defense, and they had us on our heels in the first half. We didn’t let our slow start plague us the entire game.”

Hastings was ultimately doomed by their mistakes. The Broncos passing game was an abysmal 5-22, with three interceptions to go along with a fumble.

“When we force teams to throw the ball, we are getting a lot of pressure on the quarterback,” Achterhoff said. “It’s not always getting the sacks, but we are knocking them down a lot.”

The Raiders moved up two spots in the rankings to No. 18 after yet another dominating performance.

“Honestly, that’s still disappointing,” Achterhoff said. “I think we are the best two-loss team in the country, but there are some ahead of us. We can’t affect the voters I guess.”

Groenendyk took a more optimistic view.

“Our team is on fire right now,” Groenendyk said. “We will continue to practice hard and prepare to crush Dordt like we know we can.”

NW knocked out of playoffs

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

The Northwestern men’s soccer team’s season came to a close Saturday in Hastings, Neb., as the squad fell 3-0 to the Broncos, the top team in the GPAC and defending national champs in NAIA.

Hastings won the opening toss and elected to start with the powerful wind at their backs and capitalized, scoring twice in the 14th and 17th minute to lead 2-0 at the break. The deficit was not discouraging to the squad, as the talk in the locker room remained positive.

“I’m not sure if mentally that was too much for the guys to overcome,” said head coach Dan Swier. “It seemed like they were up for the challenge in the second half.”

The Raiders pressed much harder in the second half with some help from the wind and got some pressure on the Hastings goal. Despite the increase in Raider shots, the Broncos added another goal, which put the Raiders away.

NW left with a healthy respect for Hastings, the defending national champions.

“Hastings is always good at soccer,” said junior Nathan Mastbergen. “They are a team that is on a different level than other teams on our schedule. I don’t think that I, or the rest of the defense, had a bad game by any means; however, when you play a team of Hastings’ caliber, even the smallest mistakes will be exposed, and that’s what happened to us in the first half.”

Sophomore left back Justin Lehman agreed.

“We knew going in that Hastings is good at stringing multiple passes together in order to get into dangerous areas of the field,” Lehman said. “They are strong defensively and offensively making them really tough to break down.”

Despite the end to their season, NW is positive and looking forward to next year.

“No one enjoys losing, especially when it brings an end to the season,” Mastbergen said. “[But] when I look back on our season, I realize that we were able to accomplish a lot. Winning more games this year than my first two seasons combined was a welcome change and showed me that we have moved past the rebuilding process.”

Freshman goalkeeper Luis Hernandez was more straightforward with his prediction.

“Great season,” Hernandez said. “We’re not graduating anybody, so next year we’re going to light up the conference.”

Cross country closes out year

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK

The Raider cross country squads finished up their season on Saturday in Lincoln, Neb., at the GPAC championship meet.

Northwestern’s women placed fifth out of a very competitive 11 teams, and the men finished eighth out of 10 teams.

The hilly course provided some challenges, but the conditions were to the runners’ liking.

“It was really perfect weather,” said freshman Logan Hovland. “It was about 50 degrees out and the trees blocked most of the wind.”

Senior Teresa Kerkvliet was behind Wittenberg) in our top four who didn’t even really get to run this year.” Hovland said.

The amount of youth on both rosters is also cause for higher expectations.

“Seven of the 14 runners at conference were freshmen,” Sandbulte said. “We have a lot of younger runners, and we are right there and close to being really good.”

The season ends for both squads with the women’s side earning votes in the latest NAIA polls.
Raiders fall in GPAC semifinal

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

On Thursday night, the volleyball team dropped their GPAC tournament semifinal match against No. 1 seed Morningside 3-0 (25-15, 25-21, 25-23) in Sioux City.

The Raiders swept Dordt, winning 25-20, 25-22 and 25-14. It was the second time in less than a week that NW defeated the Defenders, avenging an early season loss.

Junior outside hitter Jaci Moret led the Raiders with nine kills, while senior outside hitter Rylee Hulstein and senior middle hitter Kate Boersma added eight kills apiece. Freshman setter Kailltin Floerchinger put up 30 sets on the stat sheet as well.

NW survived their only real scare of the night in the second game. Trailing 23-22, the Raiders rallied back, taking the last three points to win the game and take a commanding 2-0 lead in the match. They never looked back, running away with the third game 25-14.

“[Serving] is a defensive skill that forces opposing teams to take a defensive mindset as Dowell. His best match last year, he said, was actually a loss.

“I lost one of my matches at the tournament,” Dowell said. “It was a really painful match to lose, and I’ve been training so I don’t feel that way again.”

The Raiders open their season this weekend against both York and NCAA Div. II Wayne State.

Senior leadership will be necessary

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

Matt Dowell is a senior on the Northwestern wrestling team that is currently ranked 14th in NAIA. He is coming off a successful season in which he qualified for nationals and was selected as an NAIA Scholar Athlete.

This year, he is a team captain, and is partially in charge of helping a young team get acclimated to college level wrestling. Dowell has liked almost everything he has seen from the freshmen so far.

“Besides needing some dance lessons, they have been doing really well. They are eager,” Dowell said.

Apart from an apparent lack of skills on the dance floor, the Raiders have a lot to look forward to this season. NW has several senior grapplers ranked to begin the season. Dowell (141 lbs-7th), Josiah Simburger (141 lbs-11th), David Carter (184 lbs-10th), and two-time All-American Nic Leither (197 lbs-4th) will look to be big point winners for NW. Leither returns after missing last season.

Last year, the Raiders sent five wrestlers to the national tournament. One of the biggest goals for the team is to expand upon that mindset as Dowell. His best match last year, he said, was

Winning the GPAC will not be an easy task this season, as No. 6 Midland, No. 10 Morningside and No. 17 Concordia will prove tough tests for NW.

“Words do not describe how much I would love to beat Midland,” Dowell said.

The Raiders should be able to accomplish this and more if all the wrestlers enter the season with the same mindset as Dowell. His best match last year, he said, was actually a loss.

“I lost one of my matches at the tournament,” Dowell said. “It was a really painful match to lose, and I’ve been training so I don’t feel that way again.”

The Raiders open their season this weekend against both York and NCAA Div. II Wayne State.

Raiders replacing not just a legend as head coach, but also his mentor

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK

SPORTS EDITOR

Chris Yaw is beyond thankful for the situation that he has inherited as the head women’s basketball coach. After seven years as an assistant to NAIA Hall of Famer Earl Woudstra, Yaw was given control of the program this past spring when Woudstra decided to hang up the whistle after winning his fourth championship.

“The timing and the place felt absolutely right,” Yaw said, “and I felt like being with Coach Woudstra had prepared me well over the years.”

While Yaw was not deemed a coach-in-waiting, (seen in college football with Jimbo Fischer at Florida State or Dana Holgorsen at West Virginia), Yaw’s commitment to the program showed that he deserved to be considered when the position opened up.

“Coach Woudstra and I had discussed what my dreams and aspirations were as a coach,” Yaw said. “But there certainly was never a ‘Hey when I’m done, you’re in.’ I think the decision was bigger than that.”

His résumé didn’t hurt either. The defensive play of the last string of championship squads can be traced back to Woudstra delegating the responsibilities on defense to Yaw.

“The last four or five years Coach Woudstra had me run the defense. I was a defensive coordinator type, but with basketball instead of football.”

Over the years, Yaw found that he agreed with many of the things being done in the program, which is why he will not drastically change the style of play that fans have seen in recent years.

“The mentorship of Coach Woudstra really solidified where I was as a coach philosophically, so there really aren’t any things I’m intentionally trying to change,” Yaw said. “Part of the reason we made such a good coaching team was we agreed on so many philosophical things.”

Yaw envisions continuing a style of basketball that forces opposing teams to take low percentage shots because of the Raider’s hard work defensively. Pressure is applied with sound principles. When the bad shot is forced, NW is looking to “be the best rebounding team on the floor that night,” which sets up an offense that relentlessly pushes the tempo, “not recklessly, but fast and efficiently.”

Yaw visibly has confidence in what the team is capable of this season, but without the sense of entitlement that might entrap a normal coach walking into such a prepared situation. While Woudstra’s footprint on the program is still felt, there won’t be a shadow weighing down on the new coach.

Chris Yaw can’t imagine it; he’s simply too thankful towards his mentor.
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“Christian Leadership Development with Professor Smallbones really challenged me to think about how people interact in groups.”
-Jeremy Bork, junior

“Business Ethics with Professor Gibler taught me a process of thought for making ethical decisions in business and everyday life.”
-Tyler Zeutenhorst, junior

“I would recommend any Spanish class with Professor Clark. He does a great job of tying his faith into his teaching.”
-Kaitlyn Anticoumi, junior

“I would recommend Grammar in the Classroom with Professor Van Es for students who want to teach English. It raises good questions about teaching grammar.”
-Melissa Hassman, junior

“I really enjoyed General Psychology with Professor Edman. He’s a great professor and I actually learned a lot.”
-Meghan Schuster, junior

“Social Psychology with Professor Donahoe showed me how our brains are created to be in community with others.”
-Erin Van Hal, sophomore

“Photography with Professor Scorza helped me appreciate the complex art of photography and express my creativity.”
-Lizzie Thompson, senior

“Helping Skills with Professor Edman helped me learn active listening skills. It was like going to a group therapy session every week.”
-Joel Hegeman, junior

This language is a double negative. Not only is it offensive, it shows stupidity. Smart people rarely swear to describe ideas or state their feelings and opinions. Swearing is simply not used to intelligently explain something, no matter how you look at it.

This is not to say that those who swear are unintelligent, rather it is to say that when we do swear, there is probably a more intellectual way of saying the statement.

Crude language is inappropriate and unnecessary. Nowhere in the Bible does it say, “you can curse something when...” or “only cuss during...” The letter to the Ephesians tells us not to use any unwholesome talk or anything that is not used for building each other up. What a great world we would be living in, if the only words that came out of our mouths were words to strengthen and support fellow human beings.

If the Holy Spirit is dwelling within our souls, there is no room for cursing and unwholesome, offensive talk. Swearing is just another sign of the illness we were infected with after the fall of the earth.

As sinful humans, we will swear. Someone before us did; most of us do now, at least sometimes. We need to recognize sin, realize the problem and recover in the arms of God, the only one who can forgive.

Building roads and declaring war

BY TAMARA SMITH

There is one thing that influences our lives every day, but we fail to realize its importance. No matter how hard we try to ignore its presence or underestimate its significance, there it sits looking down on us. Politics.

Whether we acknowledge the looming presence of the political reality or not, laws, regulations and bills are being processed everyday by those whom we elect into office. Senators, presidents, and other positions in our government are filled by individuals who we have elected into office in order to make these decisions.

Small things, such as driving a car, and big things, such as nuclear warfare, are all determined by those individuals we have elected into office. The roads we drive on are maintained and built using the funding provided by the wonderous citizens of the great United States, and how much we are taxed and what we are taxed on is determined by those who represent the people.

Our president, senators, representatives and the others we have elected into office decide whether or not we go to war, an event that will influence our economics, international relations, military and other things necessary for properly running a country.

Some may ask, “Is one vote really going to make a difference?” Maybe yes. Maybe no. Why not exercise your right and voice as a United States citizen?

During the Campus Conversation “Faith and Politics,” one question asked was “How do we get people to care?” Professor Jeff VanderWerf had difficulty answering this question.

The first goal is to make people aware of the big role politics and government play in our society and in our everyday lives. The second goal is to make people realize that they can make a difference.

There are more than 1,800 political offices that make up the U.S. government, including mayors, governors and senators. The entire U.S. population consist of 312,577,353 individuals with only 13 percent foreign born.

After looking at these numbers, we may realize that we have more power and pull then we could ever imagine.

Don’t hijack science

BY GABE HARDER

As we gear up for the next presidential election, hopeful candidates are turning to science for political ammunition.

Michelle Bachmann claims that “there is a controversy among scientists about evolution” and supports “putting all science on the table and then letting students decide.” In a debate, Rick Perry said that climate change is not proven, “[just] because you have a group of scientists that have stood up and said here is the fact, Galileo got outvoted for a spell.”

Maybe I should have said candidates are turning against science for political ammunition. The fact of the matter is many politicians are attempting to bolster their credibility by ostensibly connecting their political stance to scientific support or by denying the validity of inconvenient research. They are attempting to “scientificize” their political position.

While this move may give a political edge to a candidate in the short run, science is the ultimate casualty. Science is far too important to be hijacked and politicized, but that is precisely what is happening.

The scientific method does not work like politics. Perhaps that has contributed to its success. Scientific hypothesis and theories are subjected to intense scrutiny through a process of peer review. Bill Nye can’t make unsubstantiated claims and get away with it. Research must always be repeatable and falsifiable.

While Ms. Bachmann and Mr. Perry want us to think they are making scientific assertions about the unifying theory of biology and climate change, they really have no data to back up their claims. They effectively elevate their opinion to the same status as a tested hypothesis—without evidence. This is not science; in fact, it is quite the opposite.

Sorry, Ms. Bachmann, but claiming that a controversy exists does not make it so. The Dover vs. Kitzmiller case made that abundantly clear.

In regard to Mr. Perry’s comment, physicist and skeptic Richard Muller, whose research was funded by the Charles Koch Foundation, recently verified the findings of past climate research. The Earth is warming. And I don’t mean to be nitpicky, but Galileo was outvoted by the Roman Catholic Church, not active scientists.

I understand that evolution and climate change might be unpopular among some voters, and candidates are free to appeal to the sensitivities of those voters. But claiming to have support from the scientific community when little or none exists is a good old fashioned lie and has the potential to harm future research efforts.

If our country wants to remain competitive in the 21st century, we would do well to encourage excellent science education and rigorous scientific research. Politicians with little understanding of science should not make a mockery of such an important field by parading their ignorance around for political gain.

Four-letter words tear others down

BY TAYLOR HOEKSTRA

Swearing, cursing, cussing, bad mouthing, unwholesome talk and foul language; these are the things that got soap in your mouth when you were younger.

Your parents were shocked when they heard a four-letter word come out of such an innocent little mouth. They scolded, yet they felt responsible for the words that came out of your mouth. Why? Because more than likely, you learned it from them. Most people will swear at some point in their lives, but that does not make it right.

Swearing is used in a number of different ways. Swearing is used to increase pain tolerance, especially for those who often do not swear in the first place. Swearing is used to fill sentences when people pause or think. People use swearing to be funny. Some pump themselves up with their cuss words.

Movies, books, songs, poems, you name it—it probably swears in some way or another. This may be why there is so much foul language coming out of people’s mouths; it is everywhere around us.
Learning sports and medieval magic

BY JOLEEN WILHELM

Northwestern is offering many new courses for the spring 2012 semester including special topics and four new activity courses.

The newly available activity courses are volleyball, basketball, ultimate Frisbee and soccer.

Freshmen Megan Knutson and Jenny Niemeyer are looking forward to taking the basketball and volleyball activity courses.

“I’m excited to experience a new sport,” Knutson said. “It will also be a nice break from the books.”

Niemeyer is a soccer player and is eager to learn how to use her hands instead of her feet.

“I personally think it’s great that we receive one credit for the course,” Niemeyer said. “It’s like a gym class, bringing back fun childhood memories. I know volleyball is going to end my day on a positive note.”

Not all students view activities courses with the same positive enthusiasm.

“The heard that sometimes students really don’t feel like going to their activities classes because it’s just another class to take and add stress to their day,” said freshman Skyeler Tenopir.

Learning about diversity

BY TYLER LEHMANN

In an effort to explore the diversity among campus groups, and promote unity, next semester’s Day of Learning in Community will be presented entirely by members of Northwestern.

“There are lots of different groups on campus — Cafe tables, dorms, wings, majors — and everyone’s got something to say,” said Dr. Kevin McMahen, associate dean for intercultural affairs, who is involved in planning the event.

Students are invited to propose topics for DLC sessions they believe show how NW is “Different Together,” the event’s theme. Students who submit proposals that are selected may choose to lead the sessions.

McMahen encourages students to brainstorm creative topic ideas that share about themselves. Sessions could include showcasing a work of art, performing a dance, teaching a sport or playing a game. They can be in the form of a presentation, a panel discussion, a debate, a simulation or something entirely different.

“Students, staff, faculty, male, female, different cultures; that’s the idea — getting many voices from many backgrounds,” McMahen said.

Besides student-led sessions, the upcoming DLC will reveal the findings of a survey concerning campus communities that will be given to NW students at the beginning of next semester. The survey will be designed later this semester with the help of Dr. Chris Hausmann’s social research class. Students will put the survey together as part of an exam.

Andrew Schneider, a junior sociology major who is in Hausmann’s class, is interested in the effects groups have on individuals.

“We look for people who are similar to us to make life easier. Groups can be a way to feel secure, but they can also restrict you,” Schneider said.

Schneider believes that isolated groups have the potential to be harmful to individuals, and McMahen agrees.

“One question within our groups is, do we experience the freedom to be known, or are we just fitting in?” McMahen said.

Students who have an idea for a DLC session topic can submit their proposals online at www.nwciowa.edu/dlc/students by Wednesday, Nov. 30. DLC will be held Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012.

If you have an idea for a DLC session topic submit your proposal online www.nwciowa.edu/dlc/students

Format ideas

- Show a video.
- Share a work of art.
- Conduct a simulation.
- Interview someone different.
- Read poetry or a short story.
- Stage a play or dramatic reading.
- Perform or teach music or dance.
- Organize a debate or panel discussion.
- Honor someone.