

Northwestern College Beacon

Artists paint hope for spring

by Tyler Lehmann



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

NW alumni Zach Maxon and Mark Alsum are painting a mural on the side of Dove Christian Book Store in downtown Orange City.

In case Orange City's Dutch heritage isn't already abundantly clear, a new mural being painted downtown by two Northwestern graduates ought to do the trick.

Once completed, the 100-by-22-foot mural on the north wall of Dove Christian Book Store will feature large, brightly-colored tulips with a windmill in the background.

"If tulips were the size of people, and people were the size

of tulips, this is what it would look like," said Mark Alsum, who is painting the mural with Zach Maxon.

Alsum, husband of Steggy resident director, Rebecca Alsum, and Maxon both graduated from NW in 2009 with degrees in art. They were roommates their senior year.

See "Tulips" on Page 12

Newly remodeled RSC four-court area to re-open

BY JOLEEN WILHELM

Northwestern students will soon be able to both practice and play indoors.

The newly refurbished four-court area in the RSC is scheduled to open Sept. 30.

The project, launched in May 2011, involved putting in new flooring, lighting, curtains, fresh paint and an improved heating system.

"It will be nice to have

traffic flow through the building again," said RSC Director Dale Thompson. "More than likely there is going to be some outside work which will have to be done after Homecoming, but we have our fingers crossed that the four-court area will be completed by then."

This is the first time the space is being refurbished since its original

construction 30 years ago, and students are excited to see the improvements.

"The new track looks awesome," said junior Tyler Vermeer. "Before, you just looked at it, and it gave you shin splints."

Jacey Hoegh, a junior, is excited for the new floors and air conditioning.

"In the old space the floors were cement and

really hard," Hoegh said. "Now, hopefully we'll get to play in there, and it'll be a better environment."

The replacement of the 30-year-old nets which divided the courts is another aspect of the upgraded area.

"It will be nicer for the people who want to work out and for the people who want to use the space for running," said senior Teresa Kerkvliet.

Sculptor displays show of connections

BY BRITTANY LEIKVOLL

How do you keep close to a moment that has passed? How do you capture something that is invisible?

Ann Chuchvara, a Michigan sculptor, asks these questions, along with others, through her creations. Her show, titled "what remains," is an installation of mixed media that will be open in the Te Paske Gallery from Sept. 19 - Oct. 14.

"My work addresses the delicate connections that bind us to what is no longer tangible and the elements that exist in the periphery of our daily lives," Chuchvara said during the opening reception of her show.

Her collection is full of delicate, subtle works suspended

See "Flowers" on Page 4



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Northwestern faculty and students view Ann Chuchvara's art exhibit that is now showing in Te Paske Gallery.



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

After the 2011 graduation, construction started for remodeling the mini-gym and four-court area of the RSC, including a new track, netting, heating and cooling system, lighting and a fresh paint job.



PHOTO BY LINDEN FIGGIE

Katy Perry struts the stage in a candy-coated dress.

Katy Perry's concert is a dream

BY LINDEN FIGGIE

Katy Perry opened her "California Dreams Tour" in her usual, unique fashion with a spinning peppermint dress and a Candyland-themed set.

Her Omaha show in the Qwest Center last Friday was a night of creativity and imagination as the pop artist held nothing back. Complete with a flying cloud, fireworks, balloons and water sprinklers, she pulled out all the stops, coming just short of a Dr. Seuss wonderland.

Perry is no stranger to eccentric outfits and eye-popping hairdos. Her costumes ranged from an over-large rainbow boa draped atop a trailing flamenco dress to life-size peacock feathers and an electric blue wig.

Many think of bright, bold and bikinis when they hear "Katy Perry," but the playful artist brought a sinister edge to her performance. With a dream theme, Perry began with a nightmare in a butcher shop, to which she sang underneath large inflatable steaks and yards of sausage links. She darkened her style in a black cat body suit, slitted in the arms and legs.

Perry continued her theatrical journey into a candy land where she was lured by enticing brownies that blurred her vision and discretion. She proceeded with "I Kissed a Girl" and other songs that many find questionable, stemming from her crazed state of mind.

Like a Fourth of July finale, Perry ended her concert with a brilliant explosion. With at least ten quick costume changes in "Hot N Cold," high-flying fireworks and sparklers accompanied her sequined body suit and wig for "Firework" and a Hershey kiss bikini top over daisy dukes for "California Girls" amid water guns and beach balls, Katy Perry had it all.

Fully in love with Wilco's 'The Whole Love'

BY KATI HENG
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

With 16 years of albums filled with everything from soft country spiked with bits of catchy pop flare, to heavily experimental guitar and synthesizer solo, there was little way of knowing what to expect from Wilco's newest album.

Thanks to full-length previews released by the band, the suspense is over.

"The Whole Love" brings back the experimental rock sound, complete with long solos that sound almost like an impromptu jam session from a group of guys that know each other's style well.

Yet, there's a delightful variety in the album's lineup—songs range from bright, poppy and summer-esque to slow reflective pieces that seem to carry so much of weight of the world on their shoulders.

The contrast, rather than being an off-putting mix of ups-and-downs, seems to reflect the reality of life: not every day can be a catchy pop tune. There are mournful ballad days as well.

It was a wise choice—amid today's trend of stripped-down folk and countless, indistinguishable indie-rock groups, their album stands out. It's a refreshing breakaway from the typical refrain-oriented and sing-or play-along songs we've been getting lately.

"The Whole Love"

opens with the lengthy, yet captivating song "Art of Almost." It works like an overture for the rest of the album, warning that they're going to throw in some unexpected hooks, change it up just when you think you can start humming along, and keep you in eager anticipation of what's coming next.

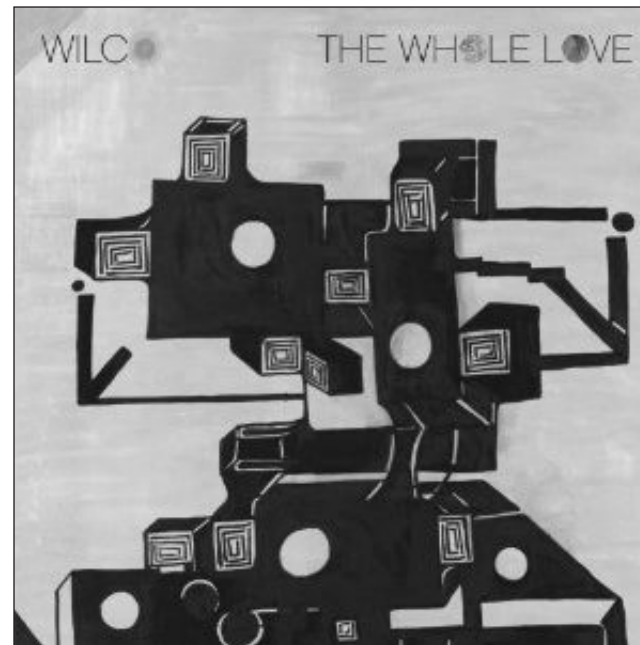
After their opening anthem, Wilco moves into one of the album's many feel-good pop songs. If there is one thing "The Whole Love" does well, it's these upbeat little ditties.

"IMight" features a guitar riff that you'll be humming for days afterwards, while "Capitol City" brings to mind some good old Randy Newman (composer of Toy Story's "You've Got a Friend in Me").

The boys actually break into a whistle in the optimistic "Dawn on Me." "Born Alone," despite its dreary lyrics ("I was born to die alone"), will have you tapping your toes and nodding your head like a fool.

The album has its share of stripped down, somber songs as well. "Sunloathe," although featuring bubbly piano and percussion patterns, leaves you with a haunting, saddened feel at the end.

"Rising Red Lung," a light and laidback number, works effectively by featuring only the lovely voice of lead singer Jeff Tweedy and soft back-up music, and feels lighter and



more raw than the rest of the album, as if Tweedy is taking a few minutes off away from the band to think to himself.

The title track, "Whole Love," is a great mixture of all the album's strengths: opening like a sweet country tune, switching quickly into catchy guitar and xylophones for a while and ending with a soft electronic fade out. It's an up-beat answer to "Art of Almost," but it's close to the end of the album, by which time you'll be ready to appreciate its complexities.

"One Sunday Morning (Song for Jane Smiley's Boyfriend)" closes out the album with some of Wilco's most mournful lyrics to date. Spanning more than 12 minutes, the song ends the upbeat album with a state of reflection on the past.

"The Whole Love," although a beautiful and intricate album, may not please every Wilco fan.

Some fans will surely long for the band's countrified sound found in 2006's "Sky Blue Sky," while others are sure to miss the strength their lyrics have carried in previous albums.

Nonetheless, "The Whole Love" proves Wilco's strong musicianship and ability to adapt to the times. Small snapshots of Wilco's previous sounds and phases are hidden within their newer, cheerier pop sound, but if listened to closely, will be easy and pleasing to pick out.

Whether you're a fan of the classic Wilco sound, or a new listener, "The Whole Love" will leave you pleasantly surprised, if given the chance.

Professor Playlist

Feat: Robert Winn

Favorite songs submitted by favorite professors.

Discotheque by U2

The first time I heard it, I thought of Augustine's *Confessions*, and the first several songs capture this text.

Mysterious Ways by U2

Every song on this album (*Achtung Baby*, 1991) is great. In my opinion, it's a tie for U2's best album with *POP*.

Where the Streets Have No Name by U2

Always a highlight when U2 performs it live, which they do at every concert. Thirty Seconds to Mars has a great cover of this song.

Sunday Bloody Sunday by U2

Song about the troubles in Ireland, but U2 has re-contextualized it several times over the past 27 years.

City of Blinding Lights by U2

When I saw this live, Bono pulled a boy from the audience, ran the ellipse with him, and sang the song to him on stage. Fun song.

Dance the Night Away by Van Halen

More cow bell, please!

Jon McLaughlin brings the concert to the iPods

BY EMILY BROUWER

"Forever If Ever" is one of those albums you can put on repeat on your iPod for hours on end, without ever skipping a song.

Featuring 12 songs about love and heartbreak, including upbeat tracks like "What I Want" and "Without You Now," and emotional ballads such as "I'll Follow You" and "Maybe It's Over," (featuring Xenia from "The Voice"), Jon McLaughlin is back.

With a wide variety of tracks, McLaughlin shows off his exceptional songwriting skills once again.

"Forever If Ever" is McLaughlin's third record, but his other two albums don't even begin to compare to this latest release in terms of musicianship. McLaughlin himself even has said that this record is the one of which he is the most proud.

After two years of writing songs for his new record and struggling to find a label, McLaughlin decided to do it all himself. He used his own band, recorded the songs he wanted and played them how he wanted them to be played. The album was all Jon.

The end result is absolutely fantastic—his style and soulful voice shine through undeniably.

One of Jon's main goals in the album was to bridge the gap between what McLaughlin's fans heard on his CDs compared to what they heard at his concerts. By imagining the effect of a certain song on the concert mood, and how the audience would react, he accomplished this goal.

This album sounds more authentic than past albums, lacking the feel of an overproduced record.

It can easily and honestly be said



that this recording demonstrates a true vocalist at his finest.

Fans of vocalists such as Kris Allen, Gavin DeGraw, Elliot Yamin, Brandon Heath, Lee DeWyze or David Archuleta, the pop, indie, or piano-rock style music should make sure to check out McLaughlin "Forever If Ever."

Fear of Contagion

BY KAMERON TOEWS

We've all heard the saying that looks can kill, but what about a handshake?

A newly mutated disease runs rampant across the globe, killing millions, in director Steven Soderbergh's newest thriller, "Contagion."

Once the disease infects its first human host, it takes only a few days for the disease to spread internationally from surface to surface. One victim quickly becomes four victims, which turns into 16, then 64 and then 256.

Within hours, it's out of control and infecting every continent. The government, private organizations and even a freelance journalist are busy hunting for a cure.

Amid the chaos, the mass graves dug under skyscrapers' shadows and around football stadiums filled with dying people, problems begin to surface from the depths of human selfishness and questions about morality are raised.

There are just too many characters for the audience to make a real connection to any of them. It's hard to follow Mitch Emhoff (Matt Damon) deal with the death of his wife,

Beth (Gwyneth Paltrow), while Dr. Cheever (Laurence Fishburne) leads the government's investigation, Alan Krumwiede (Jude Law), an anti-government blogger, fights to tell his audience his version of the truth, Dr. Mears (Kate Winslet) struggles to gather data on the disease, and Dr. Orantes (Marion Cotillard) straps on the lab coat to relentlessly hunt for a cure—all in the same 106 minute film.

Perhaps that was the filmmakers' goal—there is never one central character, one hero, as in most real-world stories. Yet, movie-going audiences will miss having a central protagonist.

"Contagion" brings little new to the big screen. The same story of a rapidly spreading and deadly disease has already been told. Halfway through the flick, I got bored.

If there is one thing "Contagion" did well, it clearly portrayed the idea that people touch a lot of things. I became overly conscious of what I touched.

Winslet's character, Dr. Mears, warns, "The average person touches their face

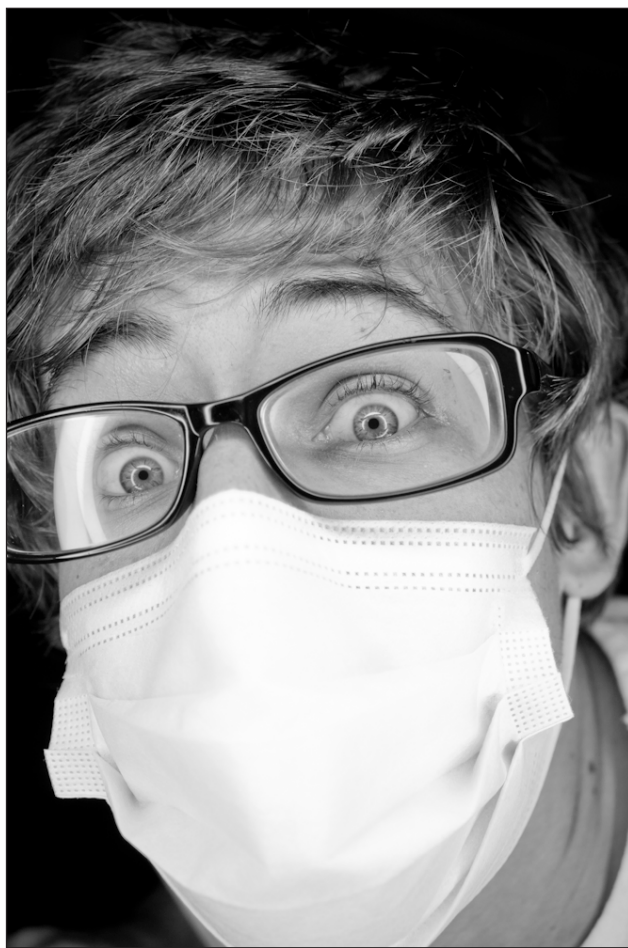


PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Kameron Toews became more conscious of everything he touched after seeing "Contagion."

three to five times every waking minute. In between that, we're touching door knobs, water fountains and each other."

During the movie, I realized I touched my face. I touched my popcorn. I touched the door handle on

my way out.

If offering nothing else, the movie should open up the realization that humanity is so closely connected. It can weave through every continent in days.

Physical distance no longer separates humanity.

My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic

BY MICHAEL GUTSCHE

"My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic" is the latest iteration of the many-times rebooted and reinvented "My Little Pony" television series and toy lines.

An American-made cartoon that premiered in 2010, the show has received praise from critics for its impressive writing and humor, as well as its positive moral outlook.

The show follows a young unicorn named Twilight Sparkle. Twilight is bookish and rational, valuing the pursuit of knowledge and spending more time studying than making friends.

After being instructed by her mentor, Princess Celestia, to study friendship in a small town called Ponyville, Twilight eventually becomes part of a small group that is the world's only chance to stop a magical curse of endless night.

Something that very few

people saw coming, however, was the show's popularity with people outside its target demographic of young girls.

Of all the shows available to the college audience, young adults are watching ponies learning lessons about friendship—for what reason?

The "My Little Pony" series' previous television iterations have always been soaked with a saccharine happy-laughter-color aesthetic. While appealing to its target demographic, it rarely had much in the way of character development or strong storytelling.

This reincarnation of "My Little Pony" is deeper.

"It's more than just clever—it's well-written," said junior Skylar Tiaht. "It's not the sort of humor you'd find in 'Family Guy' or something. It's a more brilliant, subtle absurdity."

Freshman Corinne Vanden Bosch agreed with Tiaht.

"'Friendship is Magic' is

kind of refreshing—it's a non-cliché kids' show," she said. "There's a little bit of sarcasm in the writing."

"[The show is] a great example of a children's show that doesn't just have to be for children," said junior Toben Archer. "There's a lot in there that an 8-year-old wouldn't pick up on."

However, not everyone who is exposed to the show likes it.

"It's like Nazi propaganda," said senior Justin Karmann. "It's full of promises and colors, but it's all lies."

Whether you like it or not, with the impressively varied and broad fanbase, as well as the commercial success of the show, dents in the perception of "My Little Pony" have been made.

Maybe these brightly colored little ponies, rainbows and lessons on friendship are not only for 5-year-old girls, after all.

Fall television premiere wrap-up

THE OFFICE

Season 8 has begun, and despite the departure of a favorite boss, the first episode was impressive. It's true; Michael Scott's awkward moments will be missed. However, it's great to see Andy get a win considering his troubles with Erin last year.

Pam's pregnancy leads to some great character opportunities for her. Her emotional reactions throughout the episode were hilarious.

A new energy has returned to the show and it's already off to a good start. —By Ashlee Eiseland

GLEE

In case you couldn't make it to the "Glee" viewing party in the Fern lounge or missed watching it with other "Glee" fanatics, here's a quick rundown.

The music, the drama, as well as the humor was still there, although many fans missed their favorite characters from previous seasons. Despite a season premiere that didn't live up to many fans' expectations, you can be sure "Gleeks" will continue to tune in to see what's happening at McKinley High. —By Amber McNeill

NEW GIRL

In "New Girl," FOX's latest comedy, Zooey Deschanel plays yet another quirky and confident girl, this time named Jess Day. Jess finds herself rooming with three guys after a horrible breakup.

After exchanging some superficial dating advice and the guys spend some time checking out Jess's best friend, the model, their relationships mature, and they end up becoming a central part of one another's lives, as with any sitcom's characters. —By Brittany Leikvoll

UP ALL NIGHT

"Up All Night" has some good things going—it stars Christina Applegate ("Anchorman") as Reagan, a new mother returning to work, Will Arnett ("Arrested Development") as Chris, her stay-at-home husband and Maya Rudolph ("Saturday Night Live") as Ava, her boss.

The problem is, although fans have grown to love these stars in other shows, they're not likeable in their roles on this sitcom. Reagan and Chris regret having to make sacrifices to things they used to love, such as drinking and swearing, and Ava acts like a cheap and sleazy Oprah wanna-be. —By Kati Heng

2 BROKE GIRLS

While hard-hearted Brooklyn waitress, Max, trains new co-worker, a former millionaire's daughter, Caroline, the two form an unlikely friendship in CBS's "2 Broke Girls."

While the sitcom sets itself up as a shallow, light-hearted and, at times, crude piece of entertainment, the dynamic relationship between an inner-city skeptic and a mansion-dwelling elite may have the potential to keep audiences coming back for another order. —By Kameron Toews

HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER

The upcoming season of "How I Met Your Mother" is going to be a Legend, and like the show's star, Barney Stinson, might say, with a side of dary.

The seventh season of "How I Met Your Mother" kicked off Monday, Sept. 19. The premiere followed suit with the past six hilarious and brilliantly written seasons as a great source for laughs and puns like the one above.

—By Lisa Walters

Top 5

Reality shows of the season

1. The X-Factor

(submitted by Emily Brouwer) Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul star as judges, but we promise it's not "American Idol."

2. The Sing-Off

(submitted by Amber McNeill) It's like a concert in your home every week.

3. The Biggest Loser

(submitted by Kenzie Larin) Anna Kournikova is the season's newest trainer.

4. The Amazing Race

(submitted by Corinne Vanden Bosch) Contestants race around the globe, and it is amazing.

5. Dancing with the Stars

(submitted by Amber McNeill) Ricki Lake and David Arquette are among the contestants.

Next week's Top 5:

Fashion Week Highlights

submit your favorite photos to beacon@nwciowa.edu

Flowers in the windows; papers floating in the air

FROM PAGE 1

in the air, sited on the floor and effortlessly mounted, all of which cast slight shadows that give the gallery an ethereal quality.

Chuchvara's pieces contain handmade objects constructed from everyday materials, or as she likes to call them, "behind-the-scene" or "insignificant" materials.

Her work is full of detailed patterns and intricate replications that study the same figure or design over and over, pointing out that the process of the creation is just as much of what gives the work its credit as the finished product.

"Combining repetition and pattern with inconspicuous materials," Chuchvara said, "I attempt to glimpse what is fleeting and to examine the mind's perseverance of holding onto a memory, giving credit to what is often overlooked or forced into the margins."

Chuchvara often gives her pieces one-word titles in order to convey a visual response to a sensation or feeling.

Her inspiration can be anything from that pattern on the couch at every grandparents' house to plaid pants.

For a while, Chuchvara was influenced by wallpapers and the idea of creating repeating patterns from unique materials to almost clothe the walls of her show's galleries.

"I don't want to try to tell a story with my work," Chuchvara said. "I want my work to be more like a poem—people take away what they feel."

Chuchvara included a small number of pieces in the show intentionally so that each piece could have distance and be isolated from the others.

"Through II" is a work specifically made for Northwestern's Te Paske Gallery. Made of tracing paper and silver leaf, Chuchvara designed patterns for the gallery's windows



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Chuchvara's piece "Float" (pictured above) is taken apart and reassembled in a different shape at every gallery it is shown in, including the Te Paske Gallery.

based upon dimensions NW art professor Arnold Carlson sent to her before she arrived on campus.

Chuchvara's other works featured in the exhibit include "Float," a mixed-media creation of tracing paper and wire and "Nest/Net" made from grease pencil on glass.

Junior Michael Gutsche was impressed by Chuchvara's work after viewing the pieces Chuchvara had featured in the gallery.

"I like the way she treated the process of creating her work as important as the end product," Gutsche said.

Freshman Lyric Morris, a graphic design major, found Chuchvara's work fascinating.

"Every part of her work," Morris said, "from materials to installation, was so intentional and meaningful."

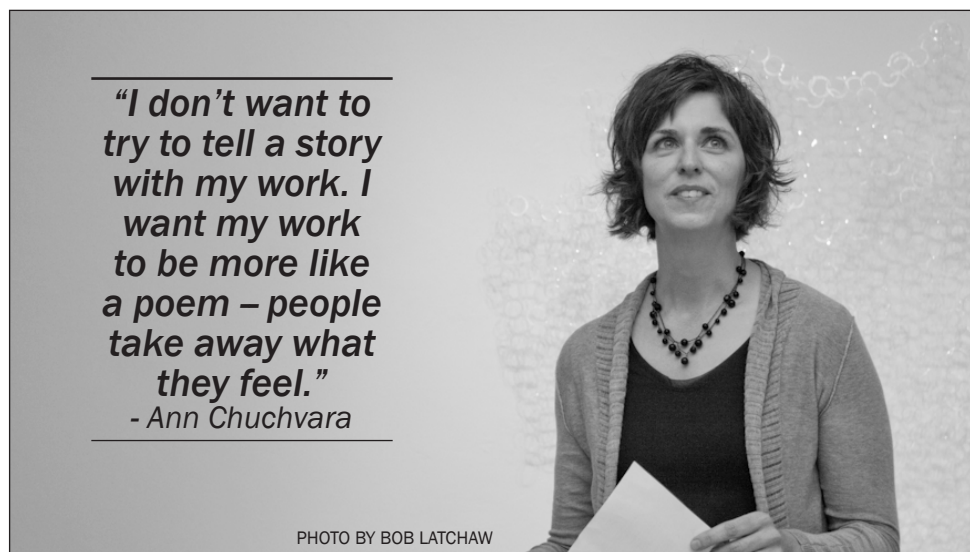


PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

"I don't want to try to tell a story with my work. I want my work to be more like a poem – people take away what they feel."
- Ann Chuchvara

New books is a 1,400 pound love story

BY AMBER MCNEILL

Malcolm Ede had always been strange, according to his younger brother.

"Bed," by David Whitehouse, is the story of Mal, his family and their incredible love for him.

As a kid, Mal didn't like to conform to society. For example, he refused to wear clothes—even in public places. Mal took up all of his parents' attention. Even when he grows up, gets a job and has a girlfriend who loves him unconditionally, he doesn't like the idea of

living a normal, or what he sees as mediocre, life.

At the age of 25, Mal gets into bed and decides that he isn't going to get out. He abandons his girlfriend and, in essence, traps his family inside their house.

The novel's chapters flashes between the time before Mal made his decision to confine himself to his bed, and how his family's lives have been affected his decision.

As the story continues, Mal's mother waits on him hand and foot, almost finding

her self-worth through caring for her son. Because of her constant cooking, Mal becomes the fattest man on earth, weighing in at 1,400 pounds. Mal's giant form becomes the media's spotlight.

The story lacked enough content to be a novel. Perhaps it would work as a short story, but it took too long to fully develop.

The theme was an interesting idea, but it could have been developed it better so that it held the reader's attention.



Ultimately, if you are looking for a book that you will want to read over and over again, I would suggest trying a different novel.

" Campus Quotes "

"We share 76 percent of our DNA with bananas. That's why we like them so much—we're cousins!"

Professor Laird Edman on evolution.

"No shirt, no shoes, no salvation."

Sophomore Gillian Anderson on the dress code.

"Honestly, he's probably really good with kids. He's good with juvenile delinquents."

Senior Jill Bird on whether or not Brian Brandau would make a good nanny.

Send your original quotes, with context, to beacon@nwciowa.edu



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Students leaving chapel on Friday morning are serenaded by the musical stylings of h* Radio, dictated by playlists compiled by Bob Latchaw, Matt Latchaw and Michael Gutsche.

h* Radio tradition continues to serenade

BY GRAHAM KINSINGER

Each Friday after chapel, campus is filled from the apartments to the art building by music blaring from the third floor of Colenbrander Hall.

Although Heemstra Hall was torn down over a year ago, the community it housed lives on in the two Heemstra wings, 3rd West and 3rd North, on the third floor of Colenbrander Hall.

These wings have carried over many of the traditions from their predecessor across the Green.

Every Friday after chapel through most of the morning and afternoon, a large stereo blasts an eclectic mix of songs across campus.

Northwestern students can enjoy a wide array of styles and genres, ranging from Disney musical

numbers to hip-hop to the latest pop songs.

Freshman Rachele Cole spoke for many students when she said, "I think it's fun and enjoyable. It adds more excitement to Fridays."

The legend of this particular Heemstra tradition is shrouded in mystery. Cloudy details make it difficult to tell a flawless tale about the origins of h* Radio.

Although the identities of the men involved are unknown, one rendition of the radio's genesis starts one winter, when a few former Heemstrites blasted beach music from their dorm room. In the midst of the boppy songs, they announced the current weather in Hawaii.

Another legend is that a group of guys in Heemstra merely played music out

their window to drown out the Christmas music which students can expect every Yuletide season from Zwemer Hall.

"This could have happened as many as 12 years ago," said Tyler "Meerkat" McKenney. "All I know is that the h* Radio has been around as long as I've been at Northwestern."

Whether the radio originated during that frigid day at the beach or over frustration at Christmas carols, h* Radio has continued to evolve.

"Back in Heemstra Hall, room 315 was held responsible for h* Radio," said Justin "Gooch" Karmann. "It was a three-man room."

In the old Heemstra building, a large whiteboard hung outside of room 315 where people could write requests for that week. The members of 315 would then compile a playlist to leave on throughout the day.

"We tend to play good music that we enjoy," said Bryant "Scrappy" Slagter with a smile, "but in all honesty, we love it when people make requests."

In order to make it onto the playlist, you will need to go to the new custodians of h* Radio.

Michael "Rip Van Winkle" Gutsche, and brothers, Bob "Rajah" and Matthew "Gadget" Latchaw live in 3rd West Coly, room 301. These three have inherited the task of managing h* Radio.

"We've been alternating between the three of us, so usually one guy is in charge

of the playlist per week," Rajah said. "It would be a lot harder to come up with a list of songs without requests."

Rajah wants students to know that they can submit nearly any song they like.

"We aren't restricted to themes," he said, "but last week I made it easier on myself by putting together a 60-song Disney playlist."

The three expressed that they also act as gatekeepers of a sort. They filter out any swearing, vulgar themes or Rebecca Black.

Ever since the YouTube video of Black's song "Friday" went viral last year, pranksters have tried to get the anthem played on h* Radio.

Although the saboteurs have been successful from time to time, it has never been included in the original playlist.

Most other songs are fair game. Students who are interested in getting their favorite songs played all over campus can help Gutsche and the Latchaw brothers compile the weekly playlist by visiting their Facebook page at facebook.com/hstarradio and posting their request.

This unplanned tradition has continued to broadcast, even as its prime central location was demolished last year. Students can expect h* Radio broadcasts for some time to come.

"h* Radio is just like a hot dog," said cafe worker Ethan "Cockpit" Kleinwolterink. "You're not really sure what's inside, but you just know it's going to be good."

Cafe Creations

BY BEKAH WICKS

The cafe provides hot meals for students on Northwestern's campus, but many students complain about a lack of variety. In order to help students expand their palate and escape the drudgery of pizza or burgers for every meal, the Beacon is proud to bring you a new series: Cafe Creations.

We will be bringing you the methods that students, faculty and staff have used to make mealtime at the cafe a more varied experience. For our first installment in this series, Chef BJ has offered some of his favorite concoctions.

1. During the Mongolian Grill on Friday, Chef BJ likes to take beef, celery, onions and broccoli, mix them together and grill them in the peanut sauce. Give it a try this Friday during lunch!



PHOTO BY BRIAN BRANDAU

2. "Big Blooper": On hot cookie Wednesdays, Chef BJ's favorite treat is putting soft serve ice cream between two cookies to form a tasty sandwich. Senior Laura Stralow enjoys her ice cream between peanut butter cookies while senior Amber Maloney prefers chocolate chip cookies.



PHOTO BY BRIAN BRANDAU

3. The "Elvis Style" sandwich: This sweet sandwich is a variation of the unconventional favorite of the late King of Rock and Roll. Consisting of peanut butter, chocolate and marshmallow crème (with raspberries, when available). Junior Tiemen Godwaldt shows his enthusiasm for this treat.



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Every Friday after chapel, music blares from this speaker in Room 301 3rd West, Colenbrander Hall.



Laura Bane, Jessica White, Danielle Wieberdink, Rachel Krause, Hannah Olson, Alena Schuessler, Amanda Silva, Aerin Neely and Tamara Reese enjoy late-night discussion and a meal at one of the two Perkins locations in Sioux City.

PHOTO BY DANIELLE WIEBERDINK

Going the distance

BY BEKAH WICKS

Three o'clock on a Sunday morning is an unusual hour for nine Northwestern men to be seated around a table at a White Castle restaurant location in Minnesota.

Even stranger than the unearthly time is the fact that just four and a half hours before, the same West Hall residents left NW after spending several hours sitting in the grandstands cheering on the Red Raiders.

These West men departed Orange City with the singular goal of obtaining a tower of those grease-covered pieces of mystery meat placed delicately between two buns.

Brandon Ogren, Bradley Smith, Tyler Gleason, Jeffrey Hubers, Aaron Galloway, Philip Hilla, Zachary Hankel, Scott Van Ravaansway and Jordan Starckenburg traveled over 230 miles to the burger joint in Minneapolis, Minn.

While in Minneapolis,

the men consumed over fifty of White Castle's signature sliders, a feat they considered worth the mileage.

"No offense to White Castle, but it's pretty disgusting," said Hubers. "It was all about the journey. We traveled for eight hours and were there for probably 15 minutes."

Originally, they had planned to make the trip last year but were delayed due to a raging blizzard the week they intended to go.

The group got back to West Hall at 7:30 on Sunday morning, crashing from the caffeine pills and energy drinks they had bought earlier that night.

"At the time, you think, 'This is pretty stupid,'" Hubers said of the experience. "But you look back on it and say, 'That was brilliant!' We'll go just about anywhere as long as we're together and fueled by

caffeine and a love for God, life and each other."

However, gas tanks have been stretched and energy drink consumption increased even further in the search for venues even farther away to stimulate the taste buds.

In the past, trips have been made to Stroud's Chicken Place in Wichita, Kan., Hard Rock Café in Chicago, Ill., and the food courts of the Mall of America in Minneapolis.

Senior Nathan Kuik remembers going all the way to Gus's World Famous Fried Chicken in Memphis, Tenn., his freshman year. Kuik went along with then-freshman Aaron Appel, as well as several West Hall seniors.

He recalled reaching Memphis at 9 in the morning and wandering around the city until the restaurant opened at 11 a.m.

"It was great spending so much quality time with upperclassmen," said Kuik.

"We ate there twice in one day, which was bad for the body but good for the soul."

Significantly closer to home, Sioux City is one of the most frequented road trip destinations by students on campus who want a taste of the world outside the area.

Popular eateries include HuHot, Olive Garden and Famous Dave's Barbecue.

Perkins is one of the most popular late-night destinations for NW students. Most weeks, at least one group of students makes a pilgrimage to one of two locations in Sioux City.

Sophomore Hannah Olson is one student who has enjoyed these long-distance outings with her wing.

"It's something crazy you can do when you're young and able," said Olson. "It's a good chance to get out of town, free from school and free from distractions."

Olson fondly remembers a recent "Perkins run" where the waiter gave her and each of her friends a straw color-coordinated to the drink they had ordered.

"Our waiter was a hoot. They're way more funny at night," Olson said.

La Juanita is another favorite destination of senior Matthew Bodensteiner and junior Ryan Rydberg.

"You don't go to La Juanita's for the food; you go for the atmosphere, but the atmosphere's not that great anyway," said Rydberg. "Orange City gets a little dry and where are you supposed to go eat? What aren't you going to see in a Mexican restaurant in Sioux City at 2 a.m.?"

A feather in the cap: New fashion trend comes to Northwestern

BY LISA WALTERS

Would you ever think that Steven Tyler could start a fashion trend?

Believe it or not, Tyler, the rock star of Aerosmith notoriety, is credited as one of the founders of the new hair feather craze. It is unknown what caused Tyler to place the first feather in his hair, but since then, the fashion fad has been spreading like wildfire.

The feather craze has roots in the fly-fishing industry, which is where most of the feathers come from. Stylists have been flocking to bait and fly shops to stock up on all of their feather supplies, causing lots of tension among serious fishermen.

A Colorado rooster farm recently told the Seattle Times that they kill "more than 1,500 roosters each week and still can't keep up with salon demand."

Popular entertainers Selena Gomez, Kesha, Hilary Duff and Miley Cyrus have all been seen sporting the feathers in their hair.

Now that the trend has hit northwest Iowa, it has left some students wondering what is going on with all the feathers.

"I got my feathers when I came back from India this summer," said Jenni Kahanic, a junior at Northwestern, who currently sports a hair feather. "I didn't really realize it was a fashion thing until I came here and everyone and their five-year-old had one."

Heather Craven, a senior at NW, is another student who wears one, but was a bit ahead of the trend—Craven got her hair feather at the end of last year.

"I don't really care that it is a fad. I saw it, and I liked it," said Craven.

Even NW's student body president, Ross Fernstrum, had something to say about hair feathers.

"As a male, with male patterned baldness," Fernstrum said. "I think feathers in hair are good because it detracts from the receding hairline."



PHOTO BY JORDAN STARKENBURG

Tyler Gleason, Jordan Starckenburg, Jeffrey Hubers, Zachary Hankel, Philip Hilla, Brandon Ogren, Scott Van Ravenswaay, Bradley Smith and Aaron Galloway pose in front the White Castle sign in Minneapolis, Minn. after a late-night, long-distance drive in search of something to whet their appetites.



PHOTO BY TEC SUN

Junior Jenni Kahanic wears a feather in her hair, an increasingly popular fashion statement on Northwestern's campus.

Finding a place: Life after the 'Bubble'

BY STEVE MAHR

From 2005-2008, Northwestern's graduates were placed in jobs or graduate school at rates between 95 and 98 percent. These days the figure looks more like 90 percent.

Despite dropping placement numbers, Bill Minnick, director of career development at NW said, "Things are progressively getting better."

However, he stressed that the students who have an easier time finding jobs are the ones who are preparing all through college.

"Freshmen and sophomores should come in and meet with Kirsten (Brue)," Minnick said, "Talk about your major and see what you can do with these jobs that are available."

Students can look to the experiences of those who have graduated before them as they attempt to navigate a slow job market and often uncertain personal circumstances.

Jared White graduated in December of 2010. While

completing his degree, he learned the craft of brewing beer off campus. On a trip to Duluth, Minn., White had the opportunity to sit down with Dale, the brewmaster of Lake Superior Brewing Company.

Dale encouraged White to send in a résumé. After getting married to Breeann Rosenboom ('11) this past summer, the two moved up to Duluth to pursue White's dream of becoming a full-time brewer.

Whitesaidthatit'sstressful trying to pay the bills but he finds contentment in brewing and spending his time with his wife, whom he considers his best friend.

"No social life" is how Matt Leither ('09) described the difference between NW and his new endeavor—medical school. Before becoming a full-fledged doctor, Leither has four years of school and three to four years of residency after that.

Although quitting is a constant temptation, Leither finds motivation to continue in unlikely places.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER CARLSON

This past summer, Senior Jennifer Carlson worked with a ministry in Denver called Dry Bones. Dry Bones is committed to serving homeless youth and young adults in the Denver area. Here she is standing with Cheeto, a homeless young adult she worked with this summer.

"Riding the bus every day, I am reminded (why I do this)," Leither said.

However, it isn't just the prospect of his own mode of transportation or the big bucks that compels Leither

to become a doctor.

"Every day I see the people that need help and can't afford it," Leither said. "In order for me to help anyone, I need to finish."

Likewise, 2009 graduate Amy Borchers was inspired to help. After a stressful time trying to have a career in video production, Borchers joined the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) program.

At YWAM, Borchers had the opportunity to do focused evangelism in either China, India or Cambodia. She ended up in Cambodia, her third choice, and specifically in the village of Bakong.

"Our base is surrounded by lots of sex-trafficking and prostitution," Borchers said. "I learned compassion to the max."

Her three-month experience there motivated her to stay longer and pursue long-term mission work in Southeast Asia. After Thanksgiving and Christmas at home, Borchers will be going back again in January.

In the meantime, she is experimenting with hydroponics—a method of growing plants in mineral-rich nutrient solutions without soil—in hopes of bringing back some sustainable ideas for development in the village

that she fell in love with.

Senior Wincy Ho is hoping to take a few years off before she jumps into having a full-time career.

Ho feels she needs more maturity and more education before attempting a career. She is from Hong Kong but said that she likes the American lifestyle.

"It's more laid back," Ho said. "Hong Kong is 7.5 million people and it gets very competitive."

In the meantime, she hopes to do some musical composition and perhaps work as an intern in clinics doing music therapy.

"In a city of 7.5 million people there are only 35 music therapists," Ho said, confident that her specialty will be in high demand.

Like Ho, senior Jennifer Carlson is hoping to gain some valuable life experiences before settling down into adult life.

Last summer, Carlson worked in Denver, Colo., at Dry Bones, a mission organization which works with homeless teens and young adults on the streets. She plans to work with the organization again this summer but this time by raising her own support.

"I might work at a coffee shop, live in van and get

a membership to 24-Hour Fitness," Carlson said.

Carlson eventually hopes that living simply will allow her to save up enough money to travel.

Senior Bobby James is a Christian education major with a focus on youth ministry. The experiences he has had at NW and in internship opportunities have helped shape his goals for post-graduation. Right now he's unsure if he'll go somewhere else after NW or stay in Orange City.

"I feel too young for church politics. I need some maturity, some life knowledge," James said about his choice to wait before finding a job specific to his major.

However, James said his dream job would be "teaching youth about leadership by using the wilderness as a classroom."

Even though James and his fiancée Natalia Mueller have not made solid plans for post-graduation, he isn't worried about the future.

"We know lots of people we can talk to," James said.

This is how Minnick sees students succeeding after college.

According to Minnick, "Networking is very important."

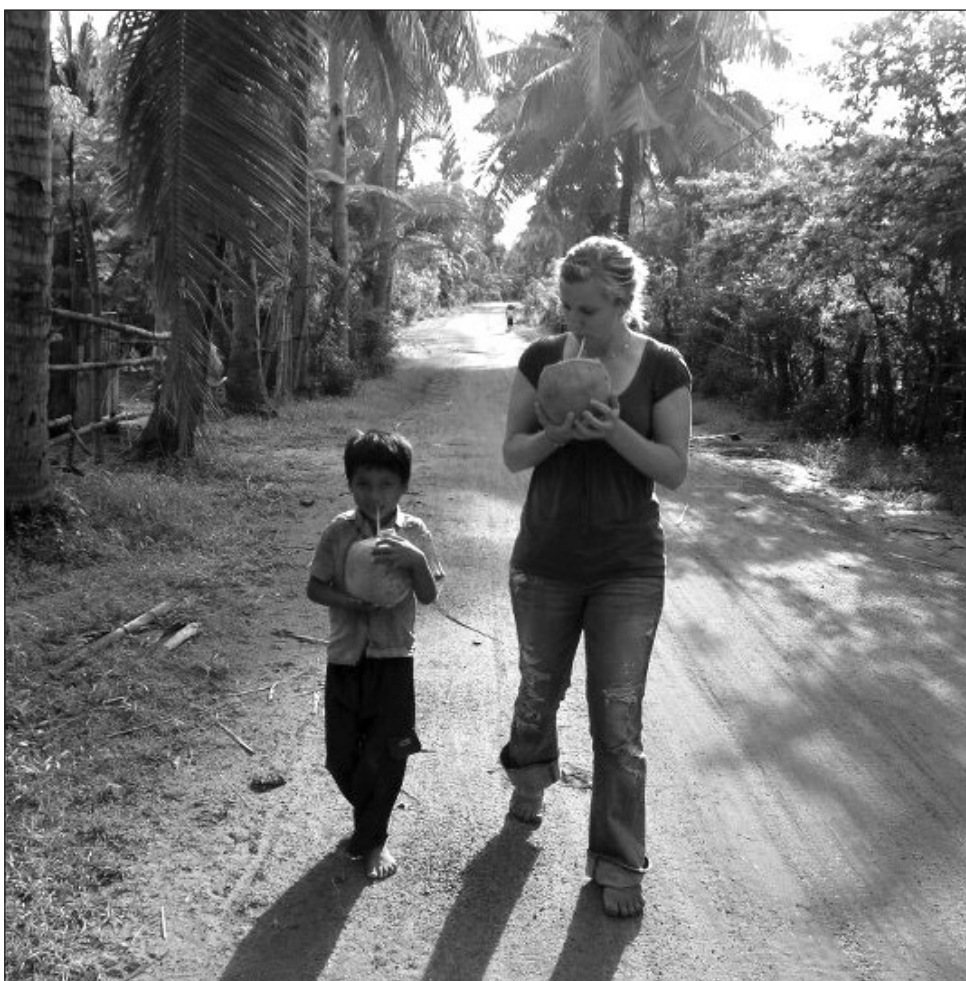


PHOTO BY AMY BORCHERS

2009 graduate Amy Borchers walks and enjoys a coconut with a child in a small Cambodian village called Bakong. Borchers has been doing mission work in Cambodia through the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) program.

Football drops second GPAC contest

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

The Raider football team's tough loss to Morningside last weekend was difficult to swallow, and it wasn't made any easier after Northwestern clashed with upset-minded Doane, who defeated the Raiders 20-8 in Saturday's game on the road.

The Raider offense went stagnant, especially on third down, where they only converted 3 of 14 chances.

NW gained 96 yards of total offense throughout. Sophomore Theo Bartman led the running attack with 28 yards on six carries, while junior Brandon Smith managed just 26 yards on 13 carries. It was an expected theme that NW will continue to see all season.

"Teams are smart; they are going to do everything to take [Brandon] out of the game early," said coach Kyle Achterhoff. "If you don't have a counter move that will

free things up for him, they are going to keep doing the same thing. Obviously, that's something we are going to be looking at."

Doane kept a stranglehold on the ball, as the Raiders only had possession for 23 minutes throughout the entire game.

"We have to give Doane credit. They are a passing team, but when they jumped out to an early lead and saw our offense struggling, they took the air out of the ball completely," Achterhoff said.

A few key mistakes hurt the Raiders. In the first half, trailing 15-8, NW botched a punt and recovered it in the endzone, only to be tackled for their second safety of the afternoon. The Raiders final drive ended with an interception in the endzone.

While the loss to Morningside may have been a bit of an issue, there were bigger mental issues at work.

"I think there's been overconfidence. This team hasn't earned anything yet," Achterhoff said. "They can't rely on what happened a year ago, on preseason press clippings. It needs to be this team doing their thing, not relying on the past."

Despite all this, both Achterhoff and junior linebacker Aaron Jansen, who led the defense with 11.5 tackles, saw some good things to take away from the defensive end.

"Doane came in averaging 300 passing yards per game. [NW held them to 94]. We had a good game plan about how we were going to cover their talented receivers and get into good coverage," Jansen said.

Both players and coaches strongly emphasized the importance of moving past the losses.

"We have to get back to the basics—better job of blocking,

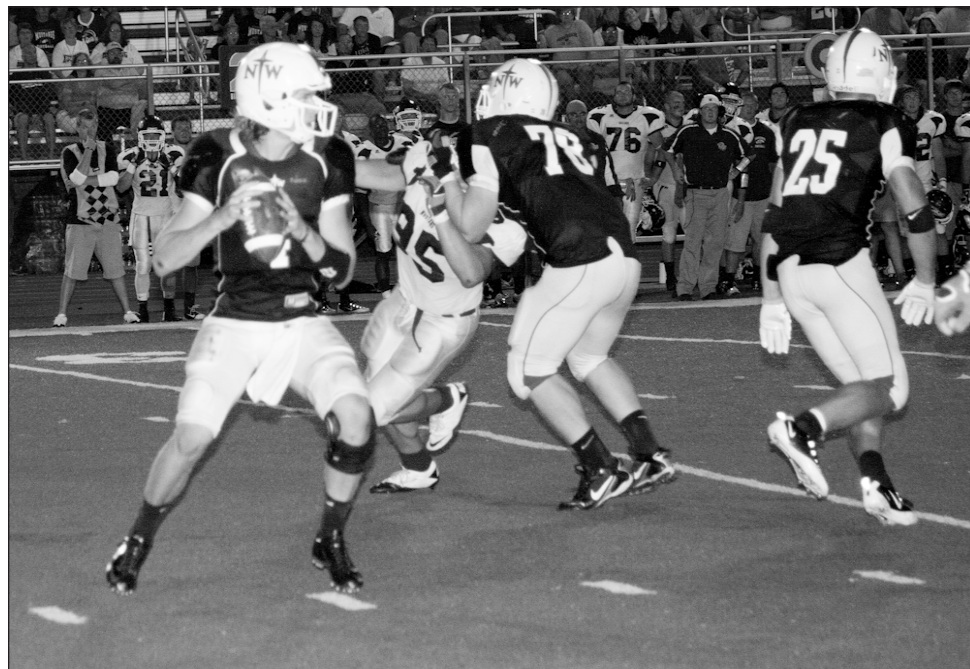


PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Junior quarterback Jayme Rozeboom stands in the pocket against Morningside on Sept. 10. Junior Tyler Klyn and sophomore Theo Bartman provide protection. The Raiders failed to get any offensive rhythm going last Saturday against Doane. Rozeboom went 13-25 with two interceptions in last week's game.

catching the football. It really is going back to what we are all about: playing fast, physical football, just playing the game the way it's meant to be played," Achterhoff said.

And while it might be

tempting for a team with playoff aspirations to look ahead at the implications of the early season losses, Jansen says the team can't get caught looking at the conference standings.

"We need to focus on

ourselves each and every week from this point forward," Jansen said. "We can only control what we can control."

The Raiders look to bounce back against Dakota State this Saturday.

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Arizona @ Seattle

Atlanta @ Tampa Bay

Green Bay @ Chicago

Pittsburgh @ Indianapolis

Washington @ Dallas

Tiebreaker: Washington @ Dallas - Score

Volleyball gets back on track with home win

BY ALEX HERRINGTON

The Northwestern volleyball team pleased a vibrant and packed student section by defeating Briar Cliff Wednesday night in four sets.

After falling in the first set 22-25, NW turned it around and won three straight (25-21, 25-10, 26-24).

"The crowd tonight [Wednesday] helped a ton," said freshman Kaitlin Floerchinger. "The energy they brought to the gym made the energy on the court skyrocket."

NW hit .253 and was led by junior Jennie Jansen, who tallied 13 kills hitting .303. That tied her career high for a match. Senior Rylee Hulstein added 12 kills and 23 digs. Senior Kate Boersma added 10 kills of her own.

Kaitlin Floerchinger had 43 assists, 12 digs and six kills from the setter position.

"The passion to win was evident," Kaitlin Floerchinger said.

Last weekend the team traveled to Olathe, Kan., to compete at the MidAmerica Nazarene Invite.

"This past weekend gave our team the opportunity to improve in many areas," said junior libero Jaci Moret.

The Raiders finished 2-2 on the weekend. NW defeated Oklahoma City in five games (25-16, 21-25, 19-25, 25-22, 15-9). NW then lost the Friday nightcap in five sets to Evangel (24-26, 25-23, 26-24, 23-25, 10-15).

"Those two five-game matches were so competitive," Moret said, "which only makes our team better."

On Saturday NW lost to Baker (20-25, 22-25, 20-25), but finished well with a sweep (25-20, 25-16, 25-14) of Benedictine in the final game.

"The last match was the most fun I've ever had in a game. [Junior Danie Floerchinger] was wired and it wasn't long until everyone else shared in her enthusiasm. This team definitely knows how to have a good time," Moret said.

NW hit .194 for the weekend. Boersma hit an impressive .329 in the four matches. Hulstein led the team in hitting with 2.9 kills per set.

Sophomore middle hitter Megan Hutson averaged 2 blocks per set and totaled 33 on the weekend. She also added 1.7 kills per set. Kaitlin Floerchinger lofted up eight assists, two digs



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Senior Rylee Hulstein slams down a kill Wednesday night against Briar Cliff. Hulstein totaled 12 kills on the night and added 23 digs.

and over one block per set on the weekend.

"We're coming together better. It's a process, and we are making good progress for sure," Kaitlin

Floerchinger said.

The Raiders will have a chance to push their conference record over .500 against Hastings tomorrow in the Bultman Center at 3 p.m.

Sports 19

Lady Raiders fall late

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
SPORTS EDITOR

The Lady Raiders (2-3-2) fell to Central College in regulation on Tuesday night by a tally of 2-1.

Northwestern came out firing to start the game, and sophomore Alyssa Duren and sophomore Ann Calsbeek put two shots off the post in the first five minutes.

The Raiders luck changed when Duren knocked in her third goal of the season with an assist from sophomore forward Alli Dunkelberger in the 14th minute.

It was obvious NW's game plan was to regulate the tempo as soon as the whistle blew.

"We were trying to possess the ball and control the game from the start," Dunkelberger said.

Central came out

with an aggressive and physical style that the Lady Raiders responded well to throughout the contest.

That tenacious didn't let them stay down for long, and the Dutch came back with a score of their own in the 17th minute to knot the game up 1-1.

"They liked to play the ball in the air, and were pretty direct," Dunkelberger said. "They looked for their target player to start their attack a lot."

The Raiders ran into adversity in the 37th minute when a dispute arose after a NW shot appeared to cross the end line for a goal, but the call did not favor the away side.

Coming out of the locker room, the Raiders cleaned up meaningless fouls and began to attack more consistently.

The contest remained

deadlocked until Central created a one-on-one situation with sophomore goalkeeper Ariel Watts, found the back of the net with two minutes left in regulation to snatch up the late win.

As a team, NW knows there are things to be improved on.

"For the most part we played a good possession game," said sophomore Gretchen Sutherland, "and we had some opportunities to finish and it would have been great if they had gone in. We also had some miscommunication issues on defense."

Dunkelberger led the team with six shots, and Duren was close behind with four of her own. Sophomore Jessica Vanderbaan fired off three shots from the midfield.



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Sophomore Johannah Jensen chases down a loose ball against Buena Vista on Sept 14. Sophomore Alyssa Duren looks on. Duren scored the goal for Northwestern in their contest with Central on Tuesday, but it wasn't enough as the Raiders fell, 2-1.

Senior Wendy Hofmeyer got the start in goal, and Watts played the second half. Both keepers recorded three saves and a goal against.

The Raiders outshot the Dutch 21-14, and each squad

put seven on frame. Central held a slight advantage in corners, 6-3.

The Lady Raiders will travel to Nebraska Wesleyan next Saturday to open their GPAC schedule, and are

feeling confident starting the meaningful part of the year.

"We feel good as a team going into conference play," Sutherland said, "We're excited to start the [conference] season."

Women golfers in strong position after first round at qualifier

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

The Northwestern women's golf team is currently sitting four shots behind GPAC leader Morningside, thanks in part to some big contributions from a youthful source.

Freshman Emma Wynja posted a 10-over 81 for a tie of second place, trailing the leader by three strokes after the first GPAC Qualifier meet at the Ridge in Sioux Center last Friday, Sept. 16. Sophomore Taylor Kline finished in a four-way tie for sixth, while freshman

Jess Locker tied for 13th place overall after posting an 87.

Senior Andria Hinz carded an 89 to tied for 15th. Freshman Betsy Wallin rounded out the scorecard by shooting a 97.

Coach Harold Hoftzyer was pleased with his team's all around effort and strongly emphasized how well and how hard the team performed. He also saw a ceiling for them that wasn't quite reached.

"It's tough as we analyze our day,

[because] we had the opportunity to be in the lead after the first event." Hoftzyer said. "We took a couple mistakes around the greens, and we had a couple of holes where we had to say 'Wow, this is really difficult' because of the cold, because of the wind, and because of the course. The greens seemed like concrete."

Team leader Wynja agreed.

"It was very cold and very windy, which makes it a little harder, but it's hard for all

of us because we see all the little things we could have done and easily been right up there in first," Wynja said.

When asked if she felt any pressure from being a freshman so high on the leaderboard, she responded with optimism.

"Obviously, I don't want to let the team down." Wynja said, "But it's kind of nice because people don't really expect a lot [from a freshman], so it's just sort of do your best and see what happens."

Men pick up win in GPAC opener

BY ALEX HERRINGTON

With candy canes in their hands and hot cocoa in their cups, the Christmas-themed Northwestern fans watched their team come away with a 1-0 victory over Nebraska Wesleyan.

The win advanced NW's record to 5-2-1, tying last season's win total. The victory also put the Raiders at 1-0 in the GPAC.

In the 19th minute, sophomore defender Justin Lehman connected on a free kick from nearly 60 yards out for the lone goal of the match.

"It was a gift from Santa Claus," said junior defender Bryan Duffey.

The contest became noticeably more physical as the game continued. Both squads were the recipients of hard tackles as the game progressed, in typical GPAC

fashion, there were cards shown to both sides.

NW managed to play above the chippy nature of the game and hold off the Prairie Wolves' late scoring attacks.

Despite the victory, NW wasn't content with their level of play. They were outshot 7-5 in the match and were out-possessed by Nebraska Wesleyan.

"We've played much better soccer this season, and we're not satisfied with how we played," Lehman said, "but we came away with the win."

Last Saturday, the squad traveled to Simpson and brought home an impressive 3-0 victory over the Storm.

NW dominated all aspects of the game. They outshot the Storm 24-10 and maintained possession for the majority of the match. All three Raider

goals were in the second half.

In the 59th minute junior Taylor Biggs one-timed junior Mario Garcia's cross into the backside of the net for the first goal of the match.

In the 78th minute, freshman Leo Sanchez scored into an empty net off a goalie deflection.

With three minutes remaining, junior Brandon Hammock blasted a shot that ricocheted off the left post into the net. Hammock was assisted by Garcia.

"It was a model of execution that the team can look to build off of going into conference play," said sophomore midfielder Jason Tessman.

NW will travel to Sioux Center next Tuesday to face rival Dordt, who has put together an impressive 7-0 record to this point.



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Junior Brandon Hammock starts an attack with a dribble in the midfield, while junior Mario Garcia makes a run off the ball. Hammock, Garcia and junior Taylor Biggs tied for the lead in shots on the game, each recording three, but it was a free kick from sophomore Justin Lehman that gave the Raiders the goal they needed for the 1-0 victory.

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Opinion | 11

Let's be real with the first amendment

BY TAYLOR HOEKSTRA

This past summer, Soulja Boy, a rapper who is most famous for his song titled "Crank That," came out with a song that blatantly offended many people, none more than the United States Army.



In the song he labeled "Let's Be Real," he says "F*** the FBI and F*** all the army troops." This raises the question, does the First Amendment give him the right to say that without any legal or social repercussions?

Freedom of speech is extremely fundamental to democracy and everything the United States stands for. I am a huge advocate for this crucial amendment.

I write for the opinion section of a newspaper—that is freedom of the press to its core. While in support of this very freedom, I was upset with the lyrics that Soulja Boy decided to include in this song.

The dating game

BY ISAAC HENDRICKS

I walked away from Wednesday's Campus Conversation feeling that three strong points were made. The campus needs to:

1. Get real
2. Lighten up
3. Stop talking about other people's love lives.

Get real. You don't have to get married right out of college. If you get married, it will not be perfect. It will not be easy.

You're a person, you have flaws, and thinking that another person can complete you in a Jerry McGuire kind of way is foolish. Dating is a relationship between two persons who have flaws;

there will be challenges.

Lighten up means that you can go on a date with someone and not get married to them. It means that a girl can talk to a guy without having to worry about what their wing mates are going to say when they get back.

Stop talking about other people's relationships. That's it. That will help everyone out a lot.

I don't hate dating. Really. It's necessary and important. But it doesn't have to sit on a pedestal, and it doesn't have to be thought of the way it has been.

Dating culture on Northwestern's campus does not have to be scary.

Avoiding the need for a ring by spring

BY SHANNON GIER

One of the most well-known concepts on Northwestern's campus is "Ring By Spring." This is what I expected to hear about when I attended Campus Conversation on Sept. 21.

I contemplated skipping this particular event, but I was pleasantly surprised when all my expectations were dashed. Laird and Sally Edman, Andrea Donahoe and Corey Kundert presented a few solid points about the dating scene.

Laird and Sally Edman pointed out that while many people try to follow the guidelines of "Christian dating," the Bible does not specify how we should go about it.

Dating is, in fact, a newer concept. They also emphasized the idea that although many people wait for "The one," the truth is, there are probably numerous people in the world that one certain person could have a successful marriage with.

The panel also answered a few questions about God's will for dating, offered their opinions on getting out of the "friend zone," and gave some advice on getting up the nerve to talk to that special someone.

I found the conversation interesting and fun, and it was enjoyed by all who attended.

Soulja Boy is a public figure. He has established himself as a rapper, and he has cast himself into the much-coveted spotlight. Because he is in this spotlight, he should have to hold himself to a higher standard.

If those who are in the spotlight cannot effectively serve this higher standard, then they do not deserve to be in the public eye either.

"If those who are in the spotlight cannot serve this higher standard, then they do not deserve to be in the public eye either."

There is room for mistakes and room for everyone to speak their mind and opinion, but there is no room for anyone, let alone a public figure, to greatly offend and deliberately hurt others, especially those who are saving our lives every day.

When that spotlight is cast on someone, they must realize what damage they can do and that everything they say can,

and will, be used against them in the court of other people's public opinion.

Soulja Boy's words were legal. However, his words were not right, ethical or appropriate. Soulja Boy could have sung this song about a lot of other things and probably would not have been faulted for it, but the fact of the matter is that he sang about a respected group of people.

This is why there was uproar from the people, the Army and the media. What he did was legal, but it was wrong and needed a public apology.

We need to hold ourselves to a higher standard by not letting that kind of garbage get into our society.

Let's be real.

The United States Army is out there to protect the very essence of Soulja Boy's words, along with every other freedom we enjoy from day to day. They risk their lives so that we can enjoy ours.

The least we can do is to use this freedom to show them the respect that they greatly deserve.

Letter to the Editor:

Nate Johnston and I agree very strongly on one thing: Lil Jon's lyrics are garbage. Crunk music has been played out for six years. Just let it die.

I don't believe that we should outright avoid music with a "terrible message."

The best popular rappers of today are brilliant, sarcastic and cocky. They would also be considered, if the listener took their words at face value, overwhelmingly negative. They rap about dealing drugs, violence and murder, and the glorification of selling prostitutes. It's not a pretty picture.

A more discerning listener, however, hears much more than booming 808 beats and lyrics about selling cocaine.

This listener can hear Kanye West plaintively laying out a confusing world, where a young black man who grew up with nothing is suddenly presented with everything his heart could desire and begins to feel his soul dying.

This listener can hear Lil Wayne, a genius of the English language who dances with words like a clever boxer throwing punches—jabbing, ducking, and weaving; stringing on his opponent before he throws an impossibly thunderous punch.

He could hear Tyler "The Creator" whose albums are intended to offend. Upon closer listen, however, it can be heard that he uses his low, growling voice and extremely self-aware lyrics to paint a bleak, disturbing and incredibly honest portrait of depression and mental illness taken from the heart of a teenager who never knew his father.

A person who doesn't listen to these artists simply because he is offended by the message is ignoring a key part of this sentence: these men are artists. They are trying to show you something through a medium.

Dan Haseltine, vocalist of Jars of Clay, wrote a thoughtful article about offensive content in art for RELEVANT magazine, in which he said, "We relegate our art to the way we wish the world should be and not how the world actually is. The only thing that should offend us is art that lies."

Lil Jon is not an artist. He uses his canvas to draw offensive stick figures—simplistic, sexual, gratuitous and ugly. But Kanye, Wayne and Tyler "The Creator" use theirs to thoughtfully create a window into their worlds; one that the listener can use to appreciate, sympathize and better understand a part of the world with which they aren't familiar.

And I, for one, feel that this art is worthy of my appreciation.

-Tom Westerholm

Contribute to the Beacon

The Beacon is a newspaper for students by students. Here are just a few of the ways you can get involved.

- Visit us on Monday nights at 7 p.m. in the basement of Granberg

- Write in to comment on any articles or to voice your opinion on another topic

- Write us with suggestions for stories

For next week, write in and let us know what you'd like Northwestern to offer for students on Homecoming weekend.

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Around Campus

Afrizo Concert

The Afrizo musical group from Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya, will be sharing traditional African music in a performance at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 23 in Christ Chapel. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

RUSH Presents

The preview of NW's spring production, RUSH, will be held at 8 p.m. Sept. 23-24 in the Proscenium Theater. Admission is free on a first come, first serve basis. Come to watch and enjoy student-choreographed dance performances.

Medallion Hunt

Join the search for the Homecoming Medallion beginning Monday, Sept. 26. The winner will receive \$250. Clues will be available on the SAC Facebook and Twitter pages, as well as in the cafe.

Submit Events

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

Chapel

Monday

♦ Titus Baraka, Uganda

Tuesday

♦ Chapel Music Team

Wednesday

♦ The Rev. Doug Van Aartsen, Ireton
♦ Spanish chapel

Friday

♦ Charlie Contreras, Class of '83



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW
NW grads Mark Alsum and Zach Maxon use their artistic talent to paint a tulip mural in celebration of Dutch heritage in downtown Orange City.

Tulips look larger than life

FROM PAGE 1

"That's when we fell in love," Maxon said with a playful smirk.

The two lanky artists with paint smears encrusted in their clothes occupy much of their time at the wall amusing each other.

"The question is, how many hours have we spent here versus how many have we actually worked?" Alsum said.

The mural is Alsum and Maxon's first artistic collaboration, and the project has come with its fair share of challenges.

"Early on, before we started painting, it was all problem-solving," Alsum said. "It's not like a small painting where you can just go with the flow."

"It's so big, you can't even see what you're doing until you stop painting and back up 40 feet," Maxon said.

Alsum estimated the mural is three to four times larger than any painting he has done before. To guide their paint strokes, Alsum and Maxon drew a grid on the wall that corresponds to a grid on their design.

"Right now, it's kind of like a big paint-by-number," Alsum said. "Once we get to the refining stage, then it will be more like real painting."

Alsum estimated the mural is approximately 60 percent complete. He expects to finish it in mid-October.

So far, the mural has received almost completely

positive feedback.

"All but one comment has been positive," Alsum said, "and that one was from a guy driving by who said, 'Not more tulips.'"

Orange City's Community Betterment Board, the group overseeing of the project, required the mural's subject to reflect Dutch heritage.

"I have to balance what the city wants with what I would like to do as an artist and find some way to meld the two," Alsum said.

To express both Dutch heritage and his own artistic style, Alsum combined tulips with a bold-colored, high-contrast design. He submitted his proposal to the Betterment Board in early June.

"Like any public work, it's meant for the public to enjoy," Alsum said. "When it's February and 20 below, people can see tulips and have hope for spring."

An artist since childhood, Alsum credits his liberal arts education at NW for much of his artistic growth.

"What I loved about NW was that I took classes in art as well as other subjects, and I saw the connection," Alsum said. "Had I only studied art, I still would have gotten a good education, but I wouldn't have seen the connection art has with the rest of the world."

According to Alsum, the planning and problem-solving skills that art involves are applicable to many disciplines.

'Westanza' confuses campus

BY GILLIAN ANDERSON

Not every resident of West Hall was born on Sept. 19, but it certainly seemed like it on Tuesday.

A birthday party was held for everyone living in West in honor of the dorm's 30th anniversary.

West resident director Cory Kundert, explained his reasoning behind "Westanza," as the celebration came to be called.

"We decided to have a 24-hour party instead of celebrating birthdays every month," Kundert said.

The event caused confusion around campus as residents of West were constantly wishing each other "Happy birthday." Some even decided to change their birthdays on Facebook.

"It took me a minute, but I figured out it wasn't everybody's birthday," said sophomore Mackenzie Larin.

The first birthday event occurred at midnight when West residents went outside to yell "happy birthday!" However, most students paid little attention.

"I have stopped being surprised by the things I see on campus," said junior Hannah Biernacki.

"I just thought they were pulling a prank on someone by yelling really loud to wake them up," Larin said.

Throughout the day, a 36-inch candle was passed between residents of West.

"They had to take it everywhere with them: To class, to chapel and even to

the restroom," Kundert said.

Every time a West resident saw someone else from West he yelled "Happy birthday" and passed the candle on. However, there were rules when it came to passing the candle in chapel.

"We could not go around passing it through chapel every time we saw another guy from West," said sophomore Sheric Hull.

Other activities celebrating Westanza included games, a meal in the cafe, a candy-filled piñata and a petting zoo for the whole campus to enjoy, complete with llamas, goats and a calf.

"The petting zoo was a surprise that only the RD knew about," said sophomore Aaron Liker.

To top off the celebration, Kundert baked cakes for the first time in his life. West residents had their choice of bacon-chocolate cake or Fruit Roll-Up cake.

"I thought the bacon cake was awesome," said junior Zachary Hankel.

Celebrating everyone's birthday on the same day worked out well for West.

According to junior Jacob VanDerLinden "How can I not think it was great to celebrate with all my brothers?"



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW
Sophomores Jordan Starkenburg and Eric VanDerLinden and junior Zach Hankel pet goats at the petting zoo brought to campus to celebrate West Hall's birthday party.

RUSH Presents showcases student choreographers

BY MEGAN RUSTAD

Since school began, students have been anticipating and working to put together RUSH Presents, a preview version of Northwestern's larger-scale spring dance production.

After weeks of preparation, RUSH Presents will take place at 8 p.m. Sept. 23-24 in the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center's Proscenium Theater.

Admission is free on a first come, first serve basis. Seats are expected to fill up quickly. More than 100 students have worked in the weeks since school began to showcase nine dances. There are 74 dancers and four choreographers, all of whom have put many long hours into this production.

The student-led production is headed by junior Morgan Stahl, sophomore Amalia Vasquez, sophomore Jackson Nickolay and senior Dan Sikkema. RUSH Presents gives new students a chance to see what RUSH is like.

Senior choreographers Christine Roy, Amber Maloney and Lynda and Heather Piatt have been given the opportunity to "exhibit more dance styles and ideas" through RUSH Presents.

Unlike RUSH, there were no auditions for RUSH Presents. Instead, dancers for this fall performance were specifically asked to dance by the choreographers.

RUSH is unique in that it is open to people at all levels of dancing. Beginners and veterans alike learn the same dances together.

"I would recommend RUSH and RUSH Presents to anyone," said sophomore Kippen Larson-Gulsvig, who is dancing in RUSH Presents. "It's so much fun, even if you think you are a terrible dancer."