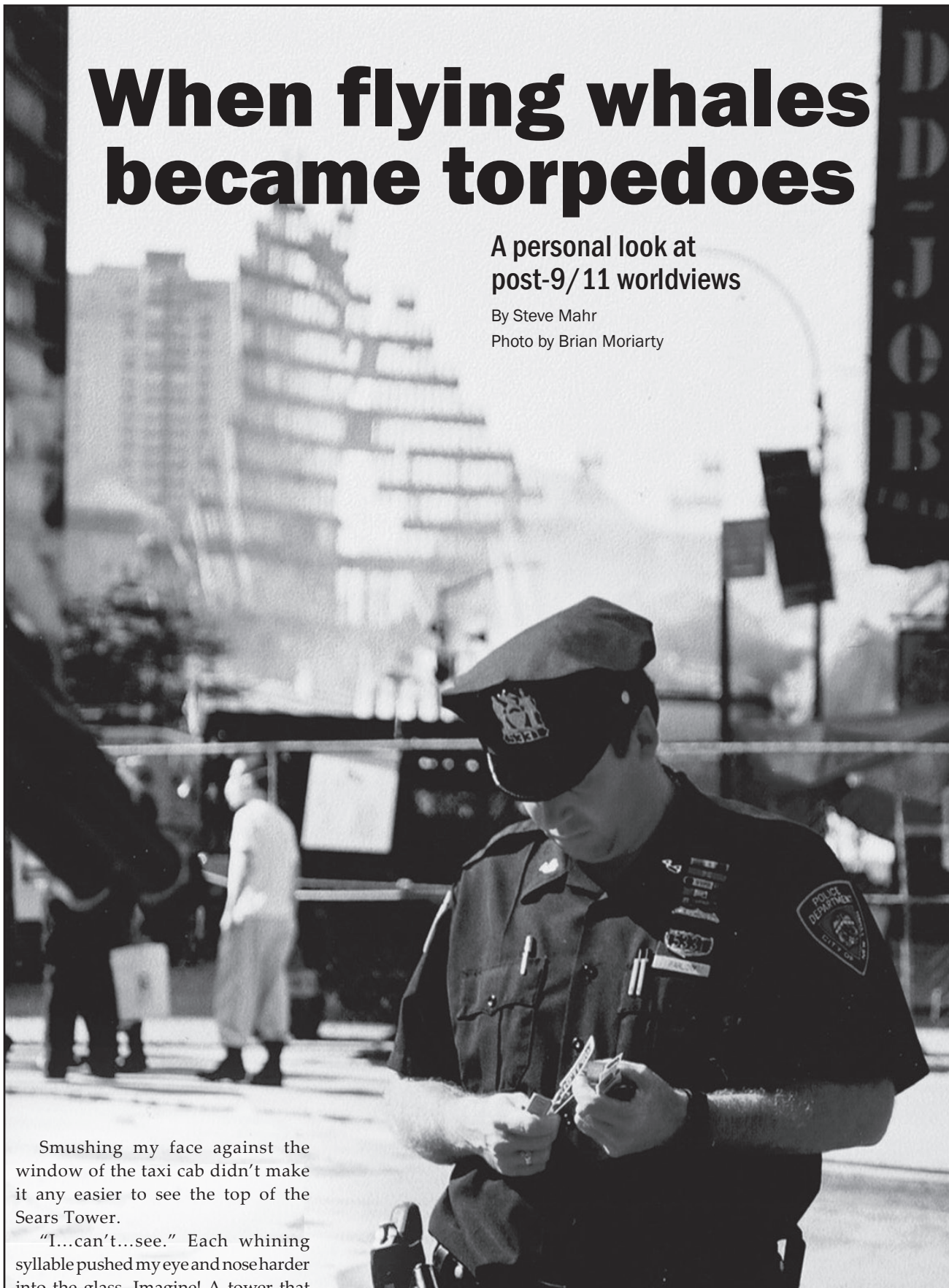


Northwestern College Beacon

When flying whales became torpedoes

A personal look at
post-9/11 worldviews

By Steve Mahr
Photo by Brian Moriarty



Smushing my face against the window of the taxi cab didn't make it any easier to see the top of the Sears Tower.

"I...can't...see." Each whining syllable pushed my eye and nose harder into the glass. Imagine! A tower that can scrape the sky! These ginormous structures stand as a reminder of America's ability to adapt. No more room to build out?

Fine, let's go up. On the 35th floor out the window of my grandma's apartment building we could see Navy Pier's colorful explosion of fireworks at eye level. My grandma lived in the sky. Incredible!

We used to go to the airport to pick up friends or relatives and stand waiting in anticipation outside the

closed door of the jetway. I would smush my face into the glass terminal windows. I did a lot of smushing as a kid. I would watch as planes the size of a whale would effortlessly sail into the sky. Since my first flight in third grade, I have loved watching the runway grow smaller, knowing I am flying, and humans don't fly, which makes the experience super cool.

Growing up outside Chicago seemed normal enough. My school had a diverse array of students of

all colors, ethnicities and religious beliefs. But students who were black, Polish or Hindi all played Oregon Trail and swung on swings and played line tag in P.E. There was nothing so different about us that could keep us from being friends.

At 8:03 a.m. on a Tuesday morning in September sitting in a desk on the third floor of my small town Iowan high school. I was sitting, staring at the

See **"Shattering"** on Page 4



PHOTO BY KATI HENG
Junior Hannah Biernacki holds an autographed program and bumper sticker from Tea Party speaker Sarah Palin.

Several students hear Palin speak at Tea Party rally

BY GILLIAN ANDERSON

"Run, Sarah, run" were the words that could be heard coming from the crowd in Indianola, last Saturday, Sept. 3.

Former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin spoke at a Tea Party rally to a generally positive audience that included several Northwestern students. If people don't remember her from the election three years ago, they may recognize her from the satire of Saturday Night Live or the notable amount of criticism she has received from the media.

"She has done very well considering all the criticism she has taken," said junior attendee Hannah Biernacki.

Some at the rally expected Palin to announce her candidacy for the 2012 election and were surprised when she did not. While Palin did not announce whether she is going to run, there is still time for her to enter the race. Some speculate that she will announce her campaign in the near future.

Junior Kati Heng also attended the convention and was surprised and disappointed by Palin's lack of political involvement in the current campaign.

"We thought Palin was going to announce something, but she didn't announce anything," Heng said. "There was this moment when she stopped talking and people were cheering

See **"Tea Party"** on Page 8

Where were you on September 11?

BY LINDSEY GEELS

On a typical day, the average person would likely have great difficulty remembering where they were 10 years ago.

However, 9/11 left an impact on people from all across the world. Almost everyone can recall some sort of strange detail about where they were when they first heard of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

Do you remember where you were or what you were doing when you first heard the news? Check out what some students, professors and faculty remember:

See **"Memories"** on Page 5

Arts & Culture | 2

Summing up the Summer

CRAZY, STUPID, LOVE

BY REBEKAH WICKS

The romantic dramadies this summer featured a slew of disappointments and washed out pre-teen dramas.

All hope seemed to be lost for the genre, until "Crazy, Stupid, Love" entered the scene. The film revolves around Cal (Steve Carell), whose marriage seems like perfection, until his wife Emily (Julianne Moore) suddenly requests a divorce. Newly single and struggling to find solace in the bottom of girly alcoholic drinks, Cal is approached by ladies' man, Jake Palmer (Ryan Gosling) who offers to reignite Cal's love life again.

The screenplay gives cynicism a newly comedic approach, but the characters refrain from any hateful actions or words against one another. Emma Stone and Kevin Bacon give life to characters that could have been left in the shadows but instead shone through alongside the leading roles. The movie does contain some sexually crude humor and themes of adultery, but ends in favor of love and marriage.

WIN WIN

BY KAMERON TOEWS

Thomas McCarthy's film, "Win Win," revolves around a financially strapped lawyer and high school wrestling coach who happen to stumble upon an opportunity to make money, help a runaway teenager and acquire an all-star wrestler. All seems well until the teen's mother returns from rehab asking for what is rightfully hers.

The film is wonderfully cast with Paul Giamatti starring as the hilarious Bobby Cannavale with newcomer Alex Shaffer as a quiet and hardened teen.

While there may not be much surprise in the movie's conclusion, it's still heart-warming, comical and beautiful. The script conveys McCarthy's knack for understanding what it is that makes humanity tick. The story moves nicely and mimics real life, freeing the audience to fall in love with its characters.

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 2

BY MICHAEL GUTSCHE

Picking up immediately where the previous movie left off, there's an action sequence, a few jokes and some plot thickening before Voldemort hugs Malfoy in an awkward way after blowing up a bunch of Hogwarts and then, here comes the spoiler alert, dramatically dies.

The last Harry Potter movie looked good, the direction was solid, but ultimately, it was kind of underwhelming. Most people who would see this movie and get anything out of it are the folks who have either read all the books, and thus know what's going on anyway, or seen all the previous movies. Or both. They're already HP Groupies.

So, I suppose the most thorough and concise review I could give of this is "Oh. Ok. Well that was what I expected." It was really good, but in an endearingly "I just want to be acceptable" way.

BON IVER 'BON IVER'

BY LISA WALTERS

Justin Vernon has returned from the woods. Since the release of his first album "For Emma, Forever Ago," which he recorded alone in the woods of Wisconsin back in 2008, Vernon has found success with both listeners and critics.

However, to say that Vernon has "hit the mark," with his new self-titled album "Bon Iver" is a bit of a stretch. Don't get me wrong, this new album is amazing and worth much recognition. Yet, it didn't quite reach to Vernon's full potential. In particular, his track "Beth/Rest" seemed to come out of nowhere with a strange 80's vintage synthesizer sound. Another track, "Hinnom, TX," has a strange, almost Marvin Gaye quality about it.

Aside from a couple misfit tracks, I would definitely recommend this album to anyone who is looking for some new innovative and contemplative music. Who knows, maybe you can enjoy the vintage synthesizer and the Marvin Gaye tribute.

TALLY HALL 'GOOD & EVIL'

BY MICHAEL GUTSCHE

It's Tally Hall. They're great. More importantly, this time they have a far more consistent and smoothed-out feel to their album. The songwriting is excellent, and the music feels coherent with nothing terribly out of place.

The best word to describe this album is haunting. It has plenty of juxtaposition and harmonizing, giving a lot of weight to the initially playful-sounding vocals. The whole style is cheer and happiness, wrapped up in just the right amount of vocal distortion and abstraction of content.

OH LAND 'OH LAND'

BY REBEKAH WICKS

Making the transition from "upbeat and free" summer to the "wind-down and focus" school year can be tough, especially with all the catchy summer anthems you heard on the radio still ringing in your ears. Oh Land's newest self-titled album is a perfect aide to the transition. Their newest CD features tracks that range from get-up-and-dance tunes to remembrance ballads. There's a splash of jungle beats and sounds of the city, mixed in with amazing vocals that have no trace of that horrendous invention called "auto-tune." Oh Land's sound is only beginning with this self-titled hit.

BASTION

BY MICHAEL GUTSCHE

"Bastion" is a video game that consists of exploring, rebuilding and subsequently hammering the daylights out of the inhabitants in a post-apocalyptic fairytale world that is literally coming to pieces all around. It's narrated by a wonderful man who sounds like Ron Perlman. It's brilliant.

Plus, the soundtrack is face-punchingly good. I haven't heard music this great from a video game in, well, ever.

Most helpfully, it only costs \$15. For an eight-hour game with Positive Adjective art, Positive Adjective music and Positive Adjective voiceover, it's a deal almost too good to be true.



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Spend too much time outside this summer and not enough keeping up with pop culture? We can help.

WILFRED

BY TYLER ZEUTENHORST

Complete with a talking dog, FX's "Wilfred" was one of the hottest shows released during this year's summer TV season.

This comedy depicts the life of an awkward young man named Ryan (Elijah Wood) whose life changes when he develops a friendship with his neighbor's dog Wilfred (voiced by Jason Gann).

Though seen as a simple canine to the outside world, Ryan finds in Wilfred a blunt companion with an Australian accent. Wilfred's unique, yet honest personality teaches Ryan how to react to and live in this crazy world.

Many of these learning experiences come from the comical escapades in which the two are involved.

If you can handle some language and on-screen drug usage, you should check it out at 10 p.m on Thursdays.

THE GLEE PROJECT

BY BRITTANY LEIKVOIL

"The Glee Project" doubles as a show and an audition for a role in the next season of the singing sitcom "Glee." Twelve contestants were in the competition, showcasing their talents of singing, dancing and acting to inspire a character for "Glee" executive producer Ryan Murphy.

The twelve recorded in a professional sound studio and learned choreography, all in preparation to make a music video at the end of each week and show that they deserve to stick around.

Reality TV shows have an agenda, along with plans on how to snag top ratings and viewers. "The Glee Project" embodies rooting for the underdog and working together as a team.

For those who need a dose of reality TV without the hate, get addicted to this.

BIG BROTHER

BY EMILY BROUWER

"Big Brother," has become an annual tradition for many.

Every summer, a new season starts out with a slew of new Houseguests, new challenges and best of all, new evictions.

If you aren't familiar with "Big Brother," Houseguests are locked in a house with cameras everywhere. This season, the Houseguests consist of both new and old guests. The contestants fight through a variety of competitions, including food competitions and the occasional luxury competition, all leading up to the show's finale, in which one contestant walks away with \$500,000.

As of now, there are two veterans and three newbies left in the competition. We'll see which alliance can pull it off in the end to pull off a victory and win the money.

Campus Quotes

I be making the bread.

-Ann Minnick on making money

Joe Dirt is an author?

-Nate Johnston

Send your Campus Quotes, with context, to beacon@nwciowa.edu

Arts & Culture 13

Humor, Santa and recent works by Emily Stokes

BY KATI HENG
A&C EDITOR

After living in Massachusetts, Arizona and several states and cities in between, new professor of art Emily Stokes knew what she was getting into by moving to Orange City, Iowa.

"Orange City definitely fits in with my enjoyment of farm scenery," said Stokes.

Although she has never lived on a farm or raised a prize-winning pig, scenes of 4-H livestock contests are prevalent in Stokes' exhibit, which will be on display in the Korver Visual Arts Center through September 16.

Works such as "Under the Tent" and "4Hscape" show a piece of national culture to which many from the Midwest can relate—livestock proudly presented before a crowd of all ages gathered together in a tight dusty corral area. However, Stokes' artistic style is the force that makes these scenes truly come to life.

Other settings found in Stokes' art, which some describe as "cartoon realism," include national parks, crowd-filled stadiums and cityscapes. All of these pieces were created based on locations in which Stokes has either lived or visited.

"A lot of places do inspire me," she said. "I also like to people-watch and take in what I see."

With quick, squiggly strokes and quirky, playful colorings, Stokes has a style of capturing the world that is completely her own. Rich with humor, characters that are eerily remindful of someone we all know, and an attention to the smallest detail, her works capture the feel of living a true, all-American upbringing.

Stokes describes the

style of art featured in her current exhibit as many small sketches composited together. She enjoys playing with perspective and color choices and strives to make scenes come alive. Each piece contains more than what appears upon first glance.

A noteworthy aspect of Stokes' works is her signature "ice cream cone man." The cartoon character, which depicts the traditional vanilla soft serve sugar cone for sale at any ice cream stand

"You have to have a sense of humor about human culture"

in America, is featured in a majority of the pieces in her current exhibit. Even so, he has yet to receive a formal name. Born during Stokes' time at grad school, the faceless treat, with arms and legs sprouting from his cone body, was a way for Stokes to represent traditional Americana in her works.

"He was an idea that came about as a way to unify my pieces," said Stokes. After awhile, Stokes started to feel forced to come up with ways to fit him into her scenes.

"That's when he and I had our 'falling-out,' and he was written out of the script," she said.

"Muthscape," perhaps the most recognizable of her works after appearing on posters promoting her exhibit, illustrates Stokes' impressions of the Michigan town of Frankenmuth.

"It's like Orange City's Dutch fronts on buildings,

but instead the whole town is decorated in a Bavarian Germanic way," explained Stokes. Prevalent among the town is a celebration of all things Christmas.

"The town has a hierarchical layout with the huge Santa statue you see in my drawing at the front, and then it funnels down to the church," she said.

Stokes' related piece, "Muthscape: interior," is based on the town's enormous warehouse of all things—Christmas ornaments, decorations and supplies.

Stokes is quick to defend the people of the town's good intentions. She also pointed out the way signs throughout the city point spell out "CHRISTmas" with an emphasis on Christ.

"The family that owns Muthscape holds Christian beliefs," she said.

Each audience member may walk away with a different reaction toward the pieces. Some see a celebration of the holiday and traditions surrounding it, while others see a statement about the American overly consumeristic culture.

"Different people see humor, sarcasm or sincerity," Stokes said. "You have to have a sense of humor about human culture."



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY STOKES
"Muthscape" isn't abstract, but is based on a real town in Michigan.

"Breezescape: 161," the earliest piece featured in the exhibit, offers an intimate look of the city at night. Set late in the evening, the yellows coming from streetlamps, factories and automobiles create a dazzling effect against the night blue background of the piece.

Showing the intricacy and almost maze-like quality of the big city, "Breezescape: 161" does not judge the city lifestyle, but rather gives a sense of the excitement and adventure waiting around every corner.

Although it may not be as large or have as many people to observe, Stokes believes Orange City can give inspiration to future sketches.

"Even the corn is pretty in its own way," she said. Stokes is looking forward to driving through and around the town and surrounding area and taking snapshots of sights distinct to the place. Stokes goes back to photos she takes to gain more inspiration for her artwork.

Without opportunities to draw from canyons, skyscrapers or national monuments in her backdrop, Stokes is content in this small Dutch town.

"As long as I have paper and materials, I'll be happy," she said.

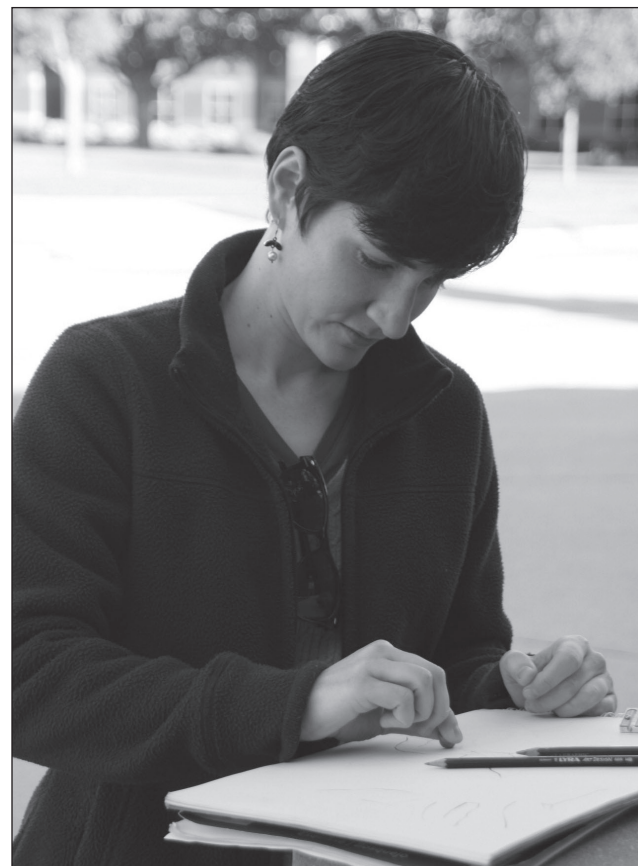


PHOTO BY KATI HENG
New professor of art Emily Stokes touches up on a sketch capturing a piece of NW campus.

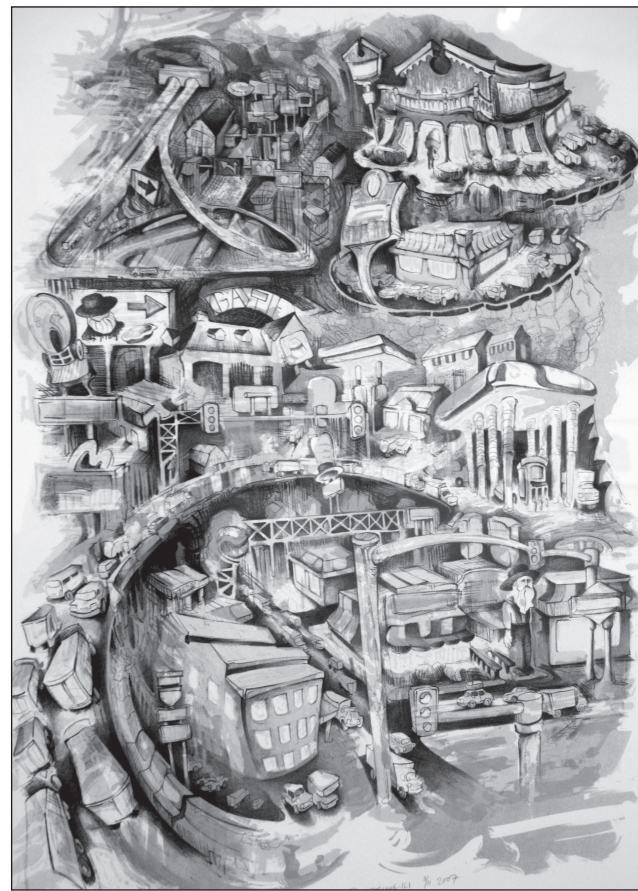


PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY STOKES
"Breezescape 161" is all about lights, colors and the city's action.

Top 5 things to do before the summer weather ends

Next week Top 5:
YouTube Clips
Submit your own
weekly favorites to
beacon@nwciova.edu

1. Stay out all night long

Anything you can do in the daytime is double the fun after dark. Swing at the park, play tennis with a bud or climb trees before the nights get cold.

2. Kinder Spelland

Who doesn't love a good game of hide-and-go-seek, especially in a wooden park? Go before leaves hit the wood-chipped grounds.

3. Wear Skirts

Look instantly classy. Guys can wear kilts if they feel left out.

4. Popsicles & Fudgesicles

It's common knowledge they lose all their flavor when it's under 60 degrees outside.

5. Do your homework on the Green

You've seen others do it. You know you want to join them. Now is the time.

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Sat-Sun: (2:00)
7:20 & 9:45
Fri / Mon-Thur: 7:20 & 9:45

Sat-Sun: (2:15)
7:00 & 9:30
Fri / Mon-Thur:
7:00 & 9:30

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OPENS SEPT. 30

DOLBY 3D SHARK NIGHT PG-13

Sat-Sun: (2:30) 7:20 & 9:30
Fri / Mon-Thur: 7:20 & 9:30

APOLLO 18 PG-13

Sat-Sun: (2:30) 7:10 & 9:40
Fri / Mon-Thur: 7:10 & 9:40

THE HELP PG-13

Sat-Sun: (2:00) & 8:00
Fri / Mon-Thur: 8:00

SPY KIDS ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD PG

Sat-Sun: (2:15) & 7:10
Fri / Mon-Thur: 7:10

Our Idiot Brother R

Fri - Thur: 9:40

Shattering worlds and worldviews

FROM PAGE 1

television mounted on the wall in the corner of the room. I was staring at a flying whale smushing its ginormous body into the side of a magnificently tall building.

Planes are magical vehicles of transportation that sail from place to place. They are not torpedoes. Right? Skyscrapers are where people watch fireworks and trade stock and write newspapers. They are not targets. Right? These Muslim hijackers cannot possibly be the same Muslims that were a piece of my ethnically diverse childhood. Could they?

In Holland, Michigan, senior Rachel Plockmeyer's sixth grade teacher, Mrs.

Vermeer, turned on the television in time to watch United Airlines Flight 175 fly into the south tower of the World Trade Center. Mrs. Vermeer gasped. Rachel thought it had to be fake. She thought it was some toy plane. And then she realized, "What if it had been Chicago?" She suddenly felt deeply connected to the rest of the country.

On Sept. 10, 2001, Rachel had no knowledge of the Muslim world, but on Sept. 12 she thought, "Muslims are bad people." For the first time, Rachel realized that the United States was not perfectly safe. She was scared.

Isaac "Trixy" Hendricks had a similar experience. Eleven-year-old Isaac was

sitting in his sixth-grade science class in Jefferson City, Missouri when a teacher from across the hall came in and discussed something with his teacher, Mrs. Paden, in a hushed tone. Mrs. Paden quickly went and turned on the television mumbling that she was looking for the news. Just as she found the channel, Isaac and his classmates watched as the second plane crashed into the south tower.

Isaac thought it had to be caused by some human mistake. "I didn't think it was in the human capacity to hijack a plane and willfully fly it into a building," Isaac said, remembering that day.

Down south in Sierra Vista, Arizona, Denise

Cowherd was kept completely in the dark for an entire year. It wasn't until her fourth grade music class had a day of remembrance for the one year anniversary that Denise had any knowledge of the events of September 11. Denise grew up in a military family, and her dad was often deployed, so her mother made it a habit to keep the news off and her children's nightmares at bay. But when Denise finally saw footage, she cried. She thought, "Why would someone have so much hatred?" In the following years, whenever Denise or her classmates saw a dark, bearded man, they would snap and say, "Terrorist!"

Six years after the attack, Rachel was assigned to read "The Crucible." With the help of her teacher, she was able to see the connection between the "witches" of the novel and her understanding of Muslims. Rachel realized that 9/11 was executed by a fraction of Muslims with extreme hatred. She was able to see the wider picture, to see Muslims as people, and her fear went away.



PHOTO BY BRIAN BRANDAU
One World Trade Center, formerly the Freedom Tower, rises from the ashes at Ground Zero.

A few years after Denise was exposed to the tragedy, she began to learn to "see everyone as God's people no matter what they've done." This gave her the ability to judge less and ask more about how others see and understand the world.

Isaac sees the events of September 11 as a seminal shift for his generation. Yes, it "threw some gas on the Christian-Muslim fire," he

said, but it also exposed us to "the fodder of so much dissonance and unrest."

Looking back, it's easy to see that after September 11, we began to question our invincibility. However, Isaac noted, we "witnessed an explosion of patriotism."

Puzzling and burdensome as it can sometimes be, we are all learning to believe in the resurrection of hope that comes out of tragedy.



PHOTO BY BRIAN BRANDAU
The World Trade Center towers once stood where only a slump in the New York skyline remains.

How to know everything about everyone without meeting them

BY KAMERON TOEWS

Things make more sense and can be processed more easily when they can be fit into boxes. Dorms on Northwestern's campus are not immune to the stereotyping of residents.

Dorm stereotypes don't sit well with Steggy junior Tanya Woodward. "I thought, 'Oh, no! They're going to publish the dorm stereotypes in the newspaper, and then everyone will know them! I was hoping people would forget the stereotypes, and then the new freshmen wouldn't know them.'"

While dorm stereotypes are generally known around campus, the students living in each residence hall have the opportunity to live up or live down those stereotypes.

Despite a general dislike of dorm stereotypes, they do exist and are no secret.

"Hospers girls are your friends, you date girls from Steggy and you marry Fern girls," junior "Fern girl"

Corrine Muyskens said.

"For both Fern and Steggy, I'd say my overall impression is neutral or positive because there's a wide mix of athletes, nice girls, slightly more odd girls, girls I don't know, etc.," said Joshua Hollinger, a sophomore in the North Suites. "There are a number of guys who think of Hospers on the whole as being a dorm of weird, moderately creepy girls, and that it's not really the place to go hang out."

According to Woodward, Coly guys are stereotypically thought of as "jocks," West guys as "preppy kind-of" and North Suites guys as "a mix of all the guy dorms."

West junior Abraham Klafter said Coly guys "spend most of their free time in the group showers, playing video games and talking about how everybody thinks they're talking about sports."

"To be stereotypical," said Hollinger, "guys in West like folk and Indie

music, prefer to be rebellious against the mainstream, enjoy playing Frisbee, dress somewhat 'hipster'-ish and have traditionally been thoughtful, philosophical and studious."

Men living in the North Suites, the newest Northwestern residence hall, have not yet been given a stereotype.

"I haven't heard of any stereotype for the North Suites," said Fern senior Carolyn Dundas, "but I am sure it will have one through some activity there or even any common interest among the guys that live there."

Students on campus all have quirks and should not be labeled casually. Each larger dorm community is composed of smaller communities.

One example is the Heemstra wings of Coly, who have distinctness while still enjoying the brotherhood offered by other Coly wings and the dorm as a whole.

"Stereotypes always lack precision," said junior Coly resident Skylar "Sharptooth" Tiaht, who lives on the Heemstra wing.

Many students believe that getting to know people from other residence halls is the best way to break down harmful stereotypes.

"When a person living in one of these dorms spends a ton of time with people of that dorm and little to no time with people of other dorms," Klafter said, "then a certain fear of the unknown brings rumors to mind, and we tear down the integrity of those in other dorms."

Although there is a negative view toward stereotypes, they can be found and do provide an easy way to put people in a box. Knowing that generalized and often false stereotypes exist could go a long way in creating a more understanding campus.



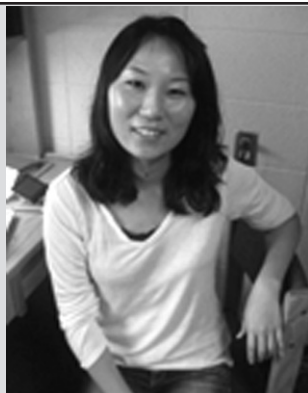
PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW
Residents of campus male dorms aren't always as easy to identify as Steve Ehlers, Josh Hollinger, Skylar Tiaht and Abraham Klafter.

Features ¹⁵

Ikuyo Ueda

Year:
Senior

Hometown:
Oyodo-cho,
Nara (Japan)



Ikuyo was at home when her dad called her to see what was happening on the news. When she first saw the buildings going down, she thought it was a movie, but soon realized that it was reality.

Krystina Bouchard

Year:
Senior

Hometown:
Henderson, IA



Krystina clearly remembers being in seventh-grade music class. Her teacher told the students that he had family working in the Twin Towers and started crying as they watched the towers go down on television.

Jessica Miranda

Year:
Freshman

Hometown:
Alton, IA



As a third grader, Jessica remembers being in science class when she heard. Jessica had some close connections to loved ones amidst the chaos in New York. Jessica's aunt was supposed to be teaching at a school across the street from the towers, but she had not gone to work that day. Another one of Jessica's aunts was on the nursing staff in New Jersey, so she had to care for people who had been hurt in the catastrophe since the hospitals had filled up in New York City.

Quinn Langworthy

Year:
Freshman

Hometown:
Omaha, NE



Quinn first saw the news when he was at home. When he got to school that day, everyone was talking about it. His uncle was working in the World Trade Center complex that week but fortunately was outside the buildings when they collapsed. Quinn got called out of school early because his family could not get in contact with his uncle, but they eventually heard that he was safe. Three years later, Quinn had the opportunity to go visit Ground Zero and saw the last standing stairwell and the monument that was being built.

Where were you when you heard the news?

Mitch Kinsinger

Position:
Department
Chair, Religion

Hometown:
Orange City, IA



Professor Kinsinger will always remember the day his family received their new fridge because he was at home waiting for it to be delivered when he saw the planes hit the Twin Towers. At that time, one of his college roommates was living in New York. The two had e-mailed back and forth about how the ordeal must have been some sort of crazy accident. They thought the whole catastrophe was too out of the norm for it to be an intentional attack.

Araya Assfaw

Year:
Sophomore

Hometown:
Mekelle,
Ethiopia



As a fifth-grade student, Araya first learned of the terrorist attacks on America when he was at school in Ethiopia. He remembers that all those around him were really sad as they watched the buildings fall down.

Shannon Gier

Year:
Sophomore

Hometown:
Crestwood, IL



Realization of what happened did not hit Shannon until she arrived home from school. Her dad was watching the reports on TV, and she remembers her parents being afraid since they were near Chicago and the Sears tower.

John Brogan

Position:
Dean of
Students

Hometown:
Orange City, IA



Ten years ago, John remembers teaching Intro to Biblical Studies in VPH 119 when he heard about the news. He went to the LRC soon after and asked to have a TV set up for students to watch what was happening.

Opinion ¹⁶

Life since 9/11 has not changed much

BY BRIAN BRANDAU

I suppose it's only natural that we choose to observe the anniversary of 9/11 by looking at the ways in which it has affected us. It also strikes me as ironic. From my perspective, all the memorials we're watching and all the articles we're reading are not about us. They're about the victims dressed up in nationalism and presented to us as "the nation's sacrifice." There have been a lot of anecdotes, stories and personal tragedies played out on a national stage.



This is not at all inappropriate. Stories of suffering and heartache are never inappropriate. What is inappropriate is this sense of national solidarity, as if we have all shared in the sufferings.

Americans have done nothing of the sort. Contrary to what we tell ourselves, most Americans' lives were not substantively affected by the events of that day.

I am not referring to the people who have lost loved ones or have been directly affected by the resulting military operations stemming from that day. Indeed, until my dad retired from the armed services, I was quite convinced that September 11 had drastically altered our lives. I remember ten years ago I turned to my mother and asked, "Everything's going to change now, isn't it?"

It seemed only natural. I knew enough history even then to know that everyone is called to sacrifice in times of war,

and the United States was going to war. Deployments were longer and more frequent, base activity and security were greatly heightened, and there were many other changes to life on base. As an Air Force communications officer, my dad wasn't even affected as greatly as those in other branches or in other theaters of conflict. However, it wasn't until my dad retired that I was dropped into a world where we might as well have been living in the 90s.

For the civilian world, I will concede that security in airports is tighter and that racial and religious tensions have not exactly eased. The former is inconvenient and the latter is nothing to sneeze at, but where is the shared sacrifice? We've all heard the stories about rationing, food stamps and victory gardens

"As I look at my life right now, I cannot identify one substantive aspect that differs greatly from civilian life in 2000."

in World War II and the protest movements and national upheavals in the wake of Vietnam. In both of those conflicts and all the preceding ones, the nation truly did go to war. In this decade the nation has sent other people to war, has forced other people to bear the brunt of the response to the attacks and has then tried to forget that anything ever happened.

In 2003, for the first time in American history, taxes were actually cut while trying to fight a war. Policymakers have been lampooned for this decision, but underlying every decision of representative government is some lurking sentiment of the represented. Every attempt has been made to carry on life as normal here at home while life-altering and culture-shattering responses are carried out far away. As I look at my life right now, I cannot identify one substantive aspect that differs greatly from civilian life in 2000. I think that if most people are honest with themselves, they have to agree. We throw TV specials and newspaper tributes out at a dizzying rate, reckoning them as appropriate memorials while trying to live exactly as we did before.

Many have become disillusioned with our country, proclaiming that they disagree with the decisions that have been made and divorcing themselves from any feeling of responsibility or love for the United States. Many have responded by waving their flags, playing their anthems and screaming their patriotism at the top of their lungs while trying to live as if our actions haven't had consequences. Both responses are grossly inappropriate.

We are born to a nation as fallen as ourselves. We cannot escape our responsibility to pursue God's redeeming work in this world by denouncing the nation or pretending it's exemplary in every way. Whatever your thoughts on how we should have responded, it seems disingenuous to say now that "we" have suffered because of what happened. It's time to stop romanticizing our collective victimhood and start reconciling ourselves to a post-9/11 world.

Orientation O-verkill

BY JOCELYN VAN DYKE

Move-in day is stressful no matter who you are.

Between bunking beds, trying to assemble that futon, and remembering what you forgot at home, there's a lot to think about. For freshmen, there's even more to add to the list, and it all starts with fall orientation.



Looking at the schedule, I was impressed by all the things that had been planned. From morning to evening there were activities to help familiarize us with campus and integrate us into life at Northwestern. Additionally, the O-staff was readily available to answer any and all questions. Not only were they upbeat and welcoming, but it was clear that they had put an abundance of time and effort into preparation for the weekend.

"I was about ready to ditch 'camp perpetual happy' and hide out in my dorm."

Even so, I couldn't help but notice how quickly this impressive schedule turned into an aggressive schedule. By the end of Saturday, I was exhausted, and the not-so-comforting fact was that there were still two full days of orientation left. Discussing the weekend's events with my new classmates, I found that their thoughts echoed my own. We had already begun to feel overloaded, overwhelmed and overrun, and school hadn't even started yet.

Furthermore, the fast-paced tempo of the weekend didn't necessarily help people make friends. Even though it was great to meet new people, it wasn't great to meet so many people

so quickly that two minutes later I couldn't remember their names. The break-neck speed with which we plowed through the weekend only added to my exhaustion.

Exhaustion soon mixed with frustration as the weekend began to take on a "church camp" feel. I was exceedingly thankful that my O-staff leader didn't put my small group through the torture of playing a cheesy, sing-song game, but I watched as other groups did. By the time I cheerfully said my name, intended major and hometown for the umpteenth time, I was about ready to ditch "camp perpetual happy" and hide out in my dorm.

I think my main concern arose when there was confusion regarding which activities on the schedule were required. For someone who attended the spring orientation, a clarification as to what needed to be attended and what did not would have been highly beneficial. Letting those who went to spring orientation know that there were things that didn't apply to them would have saved time and effort, both on my part and the O-staff's.

I'm not saying that orientation weekend is completely useless, because I don't think that at all. In fact, orientation provided me with the opportunity to set up my laptop and meet my adviser, two things I found to be most helpful.

I think orientation is a great opportunity to meet new people and become familiar with the place you're going to be for the next four years. When so much is packed into such a short amount of time, people become overwhelmed and lose their focus. I know I did.

I barely had a chance to settle into my dorm before the whirlwind of orientation activities began. All I wanted was to be given an adequate amount of down time to get settled in and catch my breath before classes started on Tuesday. Needless to say, by the end of the "church camp" weekend, I felt like I should be heading back home into the comfort of my own bed, the privacy of my own bathroom and the luxury of my mom's home cooking.

Write to the Beacon

BY NATE JOHNSTON

OPINION EDITOR

Greetings Northwestern College students! Welcome to the opinion page. This is the page where you will be able to read the opinions of your peers who have chosen to write for this fine paper. We have several wonderful writers on staff that you will be hearing from over the course of the year. This page, however, is not reserved exclusively for their opinions.

As a student publication, the Beacon wishes to serve the students. The opinion section is a venue for students to express themselves and have their voice heard.

Feedback is very important to our staff, and we always want to know what you think. For this reason, the opinion section will eventually include a space for student responses. All students are welcome to respond to what they have read. Let the Beacon staff know what you think about articles, and send us your ideas for current debate issues.

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Online
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E-mail
beacon@nwciowa.edu

Football has unfinished business this season

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

Sophomore and pre-season All-American running back Brandon Smith has lofty goals for the Northwestern football team's upcoming season on the gridiron.

"We want to win the national championship; we feel like we have the talent to reach that goal."

Victory Sports Network agrees. The Raiders are ranked No. 7 in the nation on VSN's pre-season poll, while the NAIA coaches ranking lists them at No. 14.

It's hard to argue with them. Northwestern returns 10



PHOTO BY TEC SUN

Members of the Raider football team participate in drills in preparation for their game against No. 5 Morningside. The Raiders are 1-0 on the year going into conference play.

starters from last year's squad, multiple pre-season All Americans (Smith and senior offensive lineman Travis Hofmeyer), and junior quarterback Jayme Rozeboom who says he is ready to go after a major ACL injury sidelined him two years ago.

"Honestly, it did [affect me last year]," says Rozeboom. "Not only physically, but mentally. I struggled gaining confidence on it. Now it's feeling great, the confidence is back, and I'm ready to go."

Not all the impact players this season will be familiar faces. A transfer from the University of Sioux Falls, junior Jordan Carlson is likely to make a big impact on the defensive line.

"Jordan is very, very good," said coach Kyle Achterhoff with a chuckle. "He's going to be a lot of fun to watch." At free safety, senior Steven Norman is a transfer from Dixie State. "He plays fast, he plays physical, so he's going to be a guy who can be a difference-maker defensively."

Coach Achterhoff and every player interviewed unsurprisingly pointed towards Saturday's matchup with projected GPAC champion and No. 5 Morningside as a huge game for the Raiders.

"Morningside is definitely a game that is huge when you win that game, and they've had a bit of a run on us now, it kind of sets you up for the rest of the season," said Achterhoff.

Smith was less diplomatic. "We have a bad taste in our mouths, have some unfinished business with Morningside."

For a team jilted from the playoffs last year, due to "people's voting; bureaucracy kind of things" according to Coach Achterhoff, this bad taste seems universal. What is certain: the Raiders are starting the season with a giant chip on their collective shoulder and will not be jilted again.

Volleyball replacing program staples with young talent

BY ALEX HERRINGTON

The Red Raider volleyball team returns to the court this fall for the 2011 season. Head coach Kyle Van Den Bosch brings back six starters from an impressive 36-2 campaign, but leaves behind a strong 2010 graduating class including three-time All-Americans: outside hitter Hillary Hanno and setter Kaitlin Beaver.

Providing plenty of playing experience and leadership on the court are seniors Kate Boersma and Rylee Hulstein. Boersma, an outside hitter, earned All-Conference GPAC honors last year after hitting .257, averaging 1.8 kills and nearly

one block per set.

Hulstein has done great things throughout her career at Northwestern, receiving the accolades of three-time second team All-GPAC, and 2010 honorable mention All-Region. Another outside hitter, Hulstein averaged 1.8 kills per set and 44 ace serves last season.

The bulk of the Raiders versatility is in the junior class, which boasts Jennie Jansen, Jaci Moret, Heather Goehring and Danie Floerchinger. Jansen, a 2010 second team All-GPAC outside hitter, had the best hitting average on the team last year at .293. She averaged 1.7 kills while totaling 88 blocks. Moret was

a strong contributor as the libero last season, averaging 2.4 digs per set. Goehring, an outside hitter with a specialty in serving, recorded an impressive 47 aces in the 2010 season. Floerchinger, a defensive specialist averaged 1.6 digs per set and had the second highest serve receive percentage on the team.

There are some new faces to the Red Raider program who are expected to make an impact immediately on the court. Megan Hutson, a sophomore transfer from the University of Nebraska-Omaha (NCAA D-II) was a contributing freshman last year as a middle hitter for UNO, hitting .256, averaging

1.5 kills and a team-best one block per set.

Freshman Kaitlin Floerchinger had an outstanding high school athletic career but faces the challenge of setting this season, a position she has never played before.

Other new contributors include middle hitter Emily Horstman, outside hitter Katelyn Kragt, setter Mikinzie Phillips, libero Alexis Bart, and libero/serving sniper Brandalyn Van Zee.

The Raiders will look to improve more as the GPAC season approaches and will travel to the Viterbo Tournament in La Crosse, Wis., this weekend.



PHOTO BY LINDSEY GEELS

Sophomore Ariel Watts gets a glove on a shot during practice. The women have started out the season 2-0-1 and will look to continue that success as they travel to Kansas this weekend.

Women's soccer works to expand on last season's success

BY GRAHAM KINSINGER

Coming off last year's playoff berth, the women's soccer team is not only looking to climb back into high GPAC contention, but also to surpass those expectations.

The Raiders lost four of their 11 starters, but they feel confident that roles can be filled in effectively. "We returned a lot of key players and added a solid group of freshmen to the mix," coach Blake Wieking said.

One area of weakness the Raiders face is their defense. Two All-GPAC honorable mentions graduated and left some big shoes for backup players to fill. However, Wieking has faith in some veteran players who had some defensive experience last season.

This year, three forwards, sophomores Jo Jensen, Alli Dunkelberger and Ann Calsbeek will all look to be explosive scorers to help put the team on the scoreboard. Although they are young, they possess a lot of talent and do not hesitate to put the ball in the net. Dunkelberger had an impressive nine goals on the season last year as a freshman striker.

After three games, the Raiders are 2-0-1 on the season. They beat William Penn and Waldorf and tied Trinity International College last weekend.

"We are pretty excited for the season, and we're off to a pretty good start," coach Wieking said. "We've set a good base for the season, and now we look to improve and build off early successes."

Youth contribution evident for both golf squads

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
SPORTS EDITOR

The 2011 fall season has kicked off for both the men's and women's golf squads, and hopes are set high this year for the two groups.

Coach Aaron Aberson's men return all of their varsity firepower from last year, where a below-average final showing landed them in sixth place at the GPAC Qualifiers. Sophomore Neil Malenke tallied the fifth-lowest season average in

Northwestern's history as a freshman and battled for the top spot with sophomore Ryan Kiewiet.

Freshman Jay Monahan, sophomores Joe Clark and Kyle Stane, and juniors Michael Dykema and Michael Clark will fight for the leftover spots.

The women's team, under the direction of Harold Hoftzyer, will look to improve on last year's third place finish at the GPAC qualifier,

but also must find a replacement for top finisher Maggie Rozenboom, who graduated.

Fresh faces are looking to do just that. Freshmen Jessica Locker, Betsy Wallin and Emma Wynja will all get varsity chances, as will some returning players.

Senior Andria Hinz, juniors Kayla Johnson and Leigh Van Hove, along with sophomores Taylor Kline and Abby Van Gorp, will compete for a spot in the top five.

MORE SPORTS ONLINE

Get full coverage of all Raider sports on our website
beacon.nwciowa.edu

- Men's soccer moving from "unfulfilled" season
- Cross country squads grateful for familiar faces
- Projections for MLB postseason and awards
- Changing of guard among NFL running backs

Around Campus

Kick-off Dance

La Mosaic will host a dance on the Zwemer patio at 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9. Come dressed in your favorite sports jersey.

Activities Fair

The activities fair will be held at 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 12 in the Vermeer Dining Room. Come to learn how to become involved with campus activities, clubs and ministries.

Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 14 and 15 in the Bultman Center lobby. Make appointments at www.lifesevrbloodcenter.org or call 800-287-4903.

Campus Convo

Campus Conversation will be held at 10 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21 in the Franken Center Meeting Room. The topic of discussion will be the spiritual discipline of hospitality.

Submit Events

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

Chapel

Monday

◆ Dr. Jerry Root, Wheaton

Tuesday

◆ Dr. Jerry Root, Wheaton

Wednesday

◆ Ryan Anderson, Colenbrander Hall RD
◆ Spanish Chapel

Friday

◆ Richard Sowienski, English

Palin empowers Tea Party

Students experience 'the conservative of the conservatives'

FROM PAGE 1

really loudly, but then she just went on with her speech. It was kind of disappointing. We thought she would at least endorse a candidate."

Many people are confused about what the Tea Party actually is, but after attending the rally, junior Andrea Hallberg said she now has a better understanding of this political group.

"It is the most conservative of conservatives," she said.

Palin spoke about the nation's recent problems and her suggested solutions, including her plan to solve the budget crisis and get the country back on its feet after the national credit rating was downgraded. Palin claimed

that the United States has natural resources and does not need to go overseas for oil. She promises that "this will bring real job growth" to the United States.

"Don't tread on me."

Palin also addressed the fact that there was no percentage increase in the job market this past month and referred to Obama's campaign slogan in 2008 when she said "that hopey-changey stuff didn't create one job in August, did it?"

Other speakers joined in the criticizing of Obama and the Democrats, both directly and indirectly.

"Something that was

surprising to me was the rhetoric speakers at the rally were using. Every time President Obama was mentioned, they called him Barack Hussein Obama, with emphasis on the Hussein," Heng said. "The worst part was a comedian who started making jokes about kids with special needs. He said that Palin was so pro-life that she would not abort a baby even if she learned that the child had as defective of brains as Nancy Pelosi."

Also interesting was the unique dress and demeanor of many in attendance. From USA themed fold-up chairs to T-shirts touting the Tea Party's adopted slogan "Don't Tread on Me," the group from NW stood out a bit more than the rest.

"The crowd was a lot different than I expected," Heng said. "I was dressed in nice clothes, but a lot of people were wearing cowboy hats, T-shirts and cowboy boots. It was weird."

Palin suggested that even if Americans don't want to replace Obama, a change is necessary. The cheers of the crowd made it clear that many of those in attendance agreed. Despite criticisms the Tea Party has faced over the past several years, their enthusiasm remains.

"I think it is very cool that a group of people are willing to come together and rally for something they believe in," Hallberg said.



PHOTO BY KATHERINE HENG

Sarah Palin speaks at the Tea Party rally in Indianola to an enthusiastic crowd of supporters.

Professor, author, coffee expert to speak in chapel

BY TYLER LEHMANN

Few people at Northwestern know the art of storytelling like Richard Sowienski. The English professor will speak on "story" in chapel on Friday, Sept. 16.

"Richard is a man who lives and breathes story," said junior Shelby Vander Molen. "It only makes sense that he'd talk about it in chapel."

Sowienski has seen many stories in his life. He holds an M.F.A. in nonfiction writing and has extensive experience in the publishing industry. He has been an editor of several magazines, including Better Homes and Gardens, Raising Teens and Country America, as well as the literary magazine The Missouri Review.

The Sowienski story began a new chapter in the summer of 2009 when he moved with his wife to Orange City. Sowienski joined the NW faculty that fall and soon became a favorite of some students.

"One time in my Intro to Literature class he divided the classroom into Dutch and non-Dutch students in order for us to understand segregation," said junior Jasmine Smith. "It was funny, but at the same time it was a smart way to help students know what it feels like to be a minority."

When Sowienski isn't in the classroom, he's often sharing stories at his coffee shop, The Old Factory. Even there, with coffee in hand, the word-minded professor is often sharing some of his many experiences with students and friends.

"He tells amazing stories that are vivid and intriguing," said sophomore Tiffany Hach, "He seems to have a story about everything."



PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Students gather in the Franken Center to discuss issues of justice at the first Campus Conversation.

Students discuss big issues

BY CHARITY SPRINGER

The first Campus Conversation was held Wednesday, Sept. 7.

This new activity offered by Campus Ministries is designed to give students an outlet to discuss topics of interest to them in an open and informed setting.

This week's Campus Conversation topic was "justice issues in Sioux City" and was hosted by Sandi Altena, executive director of The Bridge ministry in Sioux City, and social work professor, Val Stokes. They took turns speaking about what justice means to them.

For an hour, the group of 20 people discussed what they can do to fight injustice.

"Val and Sandi did a tremendous job leading meaningful conversation and challenging students to question our role in the struggle to end those situations around us we know are just not the way that they should be," said Northwestern's Americorps Vista Volunteer Coordinator, Lanet Hane.

For the first semester, Campus Conversation will be focusing on justice, spiritual disciplines and relationships. Discussion will be facilitated by an NW faculty or staff

member. Occasionally off-campus guests participate as well.

"I think it's really valuable to set aside time to talk about big issues because sometimes we don't do that on a day-to-day basis," said junior Melissa Hassmann.

At the first meeting, students were encouraged to share their own thoughts, but they were also free to simply listen to what others had to say.

The small group setting made it easy for students to speak up.

"We talked about practical ways to be more aware of injustice. In a majority group it's really easy to overlook injustice because it doesn't affect majority groups as much," Hassmann said.

The topic of providing justice in Sioux City was taken seriously, but the setting was casual and light.

Some of the topics discussed relate well to certain majors and can help students learn more about their particular field of study.

Campus Conversation is 10-11 p.m. Wednesdays in the Franken Center Meeting Room. The schedule of conversation topics for the entire semester is available on MyNorthwestern.



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