Nature reserve to replace Commons

NORTHEASTERN WILL FOREGO CONSTRUCTION OF THE LEARNING COMMONS IN ORDER TO MAKE SPACE FOR AN ECO-FRIENDLY SANCTUARY

This is a grove of trees that could be the new home for butterflies or birds in the new nature reserve on NW’s campus.

“The building will be a great educational resource,” said Christenson. “Students and community members can come together to observe the slugs in their natural habitat while learning about the beauty of God’s creation.”

A small walkway for visitors will perimeter the building. The ground level will remain open dirt, an area which school officials have decided to title the “Common Grounds,” symbolizing the unity of slugs and people coming together.

Students and community members can come together to observe the slugs.”

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“I’ll get so much more hands-on experience for my biology classes,” said sophomore Liz Bluthe. “It’s such a unique experience. This is going to look great on a resume.”

School officials are still unsure about how the money saved on construction costs will be repurposed.

“We’ve been deciding on our top priorities, and I’m guessing we’ll land on either a butterfly garden or bird haven,” said Dean of Students John Brogan. “Honestly, just too much money has been put into tuition aid and food production for students this year. We’re looking to invest in something more practical. This is what we’re hearing from student voices on campus.”

The sanctuary is set to be open to the public in the Fall of 2013, though students and community members are encouraged to continue making the slugs feel at home throughout the summer months.

Beacon staff all fired for sexism

BY EMMA WESTERHOLM

The entire staff of the Beacon campus newspaper has been fired for being sexist.

Although the staff is 90% female, complaints have been steadily increasing over the blatant disrespect shown to females on the Northwestern campus. The editing staff can’t believe how ridiculous women are being with their demands for equal representation in these pages.

“Do they really think we’re interesting?” junior editor Christina Wesley said. “Seriously, how many ‘how-to-make-a-sandwich’ articles can we publish? Guys are just more interesting. What would we even report on? It’s not like women have any impact on campus.”

As the news of the editors’ mass-firing made its way through campus earlier this week, the students found common grounds for enthusiasm, especially among athletes. “Oh thank goodness,” said senior Aaron VanderSteg, a running back for the football team, upon hearing the news. “I was just sick of being objectified.”

“During every interview they’d just quiz me on my relationship status and how much I could bench. I just wanted to talk about the game,” VanderSteg said.

Female athletes—a concept the Beacon has referred to as “ridiculous” and “oxymoron”—are also glad to see changes happening. “You guys didn’t even spell my name right,” sophomore female “athlete” Megan Smith complained earlier this year in an email that the editors barely glanced at. “And you said I’ve scored four goals this season, but I play softball.” Smith got some conference award or something, but nobody cares because girls’ sports are boring.

The Beacon refuses to admit any wrong was done. “We covered the stupid game or tournament or whatever it was,” Wesley said. “I don’t know what more [the women of NW] want. We’d have been OK with putting in a_ABI SIDE Bar with engagement announcements since that’s at least interesting, but that idea got shot down. What else could we do?”

Although hiring and training an entirely new staff will be a lot of work, Beacon advisor Dayne Logan thinks that in the long run it will save a lot of time and headaches. “We kept having to cut pictures of shirtless football players from the Features page,” Logan said. “‘Features, not even the Sports page.’”

The newly-fired staff feel some bitterness, but acknowledge that this may have been the right move. “I’m pretty offended that campus thinks we might be interesting, but I’m sure some more male editors will make the paper way better,” Wesley said. “They’re just naturally smarter and better at this kind of thing.”

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Students across campus have been expressing their excitement for the sanctuary.

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PHOTO BY LINDEN FIGGIE

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Controversial media relations surfaces in NW athletic department

**BY DAYNE LOGAN**
**BEACON ADVISOR**

“If you look at the media relations they have at any other college and how they handle it,” said Figgie, “there’s no comparison. The players and coaches are directed to focus on the game, not to meet on common grounds, on common interests and on a common mindset simply to avoid any topics and gravitate toward others during interviews. The ‘Media Manual,’ as it is described on the front page of the document, is intended to ‘protect student-athletes while highlighting values such as teamwork and effort.’

Forbidden topics outlined in the manual include ‘individual performances,’ ‘coaching decisions’ and ‘game/match outcomes.’ When asked a question in one of these topical areas, players are instructed to ‘deflect the conversation toward the team’ by using phrases such as ‘good week of practice,’ ‘coach had us well-prepared,’ ‘couldn’t have done it without my teammates,’ ‘get better every day’ and ‘keep working hard.’

After reading the leaked manual, Beacon Sports Editor Michael Simmelink revisited his notes from recent post-game interviews. “It all makes sense now,” Simmelink said. “In a basketball game this season, a player scored 35 points and hit the game-winning shot as time expired. After the game, I asked him if it was the best performance of his career. His response: ‘We’ve been working hard in practice. We’ve gotta keep working hard.’”

Another favorite from Simmelink’s archives: After setting a new school record in the long jump, a member of the women’s track and field team fielded this question from Simmelink: “How does it feel to jump farther than any other woman in Red Raiders history?” Her reply: “I ran and jumped. The coaches here are great.”

Context: Why bother?

**COLUMN BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK**
**SPORTS EDITOR**

A buddy of mine was recently charged with DUI. He got a little unlucky – the officer had been citing every semi-truck driving down that particular sidewalk. He was really feeling down about it, so my brother told him to remember Jeremiah 29:11 and that God has a bigger plan for him and that all will be well.

I thought about that statement over lunch with my brother a couple days later. I asked him, “Don’t you think you took that verse a little out of context? It might be proof-texting, or at least a misreading.” He answered, “Yeah, you could be right. But it is in the Bible, and it makes him feel better. I wasn’t lying, so I really don’t think there’s anything wrong with it.”

I began to think about his reply. It did make a little sense. He certainly wasn’t lying; it is in the Bible. Maybe I have been focusing too much on the context of the words, I thought, or maybe I’ve been squelching the Holy Spirit by reading the Bible like that.

So the next time I saw my friend, I gave him a postcard with 1 Timothy 2:3 on it, which says, “This is good and pleasing to God, our Savior.” I didn’t want my friend to feel like God didn’t love him, so I showed him a verse that proves God is okay with his DUI. It says so in the Bible. He was so relieved by the Truth I had presented him with. I went to bed smiling at the knowledge of the good I had done.

As I looked for more opportunities to share such a freeing view of the canon, I saw that I hadn’t even fully grasped the power of this new outlook. Why was I still limiting the Word of God to the order that ancient, fallible humans had placed it in? Wasn’t there just as much Truth in every single word, no matter their placement on pages? I opened my study Bible and began to feel the potential jump out of the binding.

The next day, a coworker confessed she felt guilty after being caught cheating on her husband. Another opportunity? “Blessing! I knew the Spirit was at work, and I rushed to grab my Bible. A couple of words from John 11, a phrase from 1 Corinthians 12, a dash of Romans 5, and I was able to hand her a verse.”

She was enthralled and invigorated by my encouragement. She loved that this Truth had really come from the Bible. Sure, citing it was a bit difficult, but it is the labor one must suffer to unlock such knowledge. Such a fresh perspective on Scripture has given me all sorts of confidence in supporting my faith when false prophets come. My friend’s recent status about homosexuality is causing quite a stir, and I just know that I can bring some reason to the comment section with this gift of the Spirit.

PHOTO BY EMILIE BERRY

**NW to build useless building**

**BY DAVIE LOGAN**
**BEACON ADVISOR**

Poor quotes and uninspired comments from Northwestern coaches and athletes have left local reporters and editors frustrated for years. Although athletes from other colleges regularly exhibit emotion and awkwardness after even the most action-packed contests, NW athletes have developed a reputation among the area press for stiffness and awkwardness after even the most action-packed contests.

“If you look at the media relations they have at any other college and how they handle it,” said Figgie, “there’s no comparison. The players and coaches are directed to focus on the game, not to meet on common grounds, on common interests and on a common mindset simply to avoid any topics and gravitate toward others during interviews. The ‘Media Manual,’ as it is described on the front page of the document, is intended to ‘protect student-athletes while highlighting values such as teamwork and effort.’

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Features

Student safety is priority at Northwestern

COLUMN BY JOCELYN VAN DYKE
FEATURES CO-EDITOR

Henry Ford changed the world in 1908 with the popularization of the first mass distributed motorized vehicle, the Model T. Since then, the evolution of automobiles has taken off at speeds faster than those reached by Jeff Gordon. Today, the latest cars on the market feature innovative advances in technology and are obnoxiously environmentally friendly. Yes, these vehicles are safe for our earth, but are they safe for the earth’s inhabitants?

Students at Northwestern find themselves having to dodge cars to get to class and, on occasion, even find themselves the victims of a run-in with someone’s front bumper. We can all meet on common grounds and agree that a prominent public safety issue lies before us. Let’s face it: Crossing the streets on Highway 10 and Albany Ave. has become much too dangerous. In order to better protect and serve the student body, we have come up with a list of safe and speedy ways to cross the street. Simply waiting for motorized murder machines to slow down is a thing of the past. Here are some more advanced methods for crossing the street and making it to class on time:

1. Faculty and staff will be signing up for shifts to stand at the crosswalk and escort students across the street. Remember when your mom walked you across the street and said, “Hold my hand, and look both ways”? Yeah, just think of Professor Monsma as your new mom.

2. Since Northwestern is apparently in the business of building, a skywalk will be constructed over every intersection. Heck, while we’re at it, we might as well build skywalks to and from every building. Just imagine NW as a kingdom in the clouds from now on.

3. You’ve seen the hot air balloon floating around Orange City? Well, it’s been pretty busy transporting The Great and Powerful Oz (A.K.A Harlan) places, but it will now be used for taking students up and over the streets.

4. If you’ve always wanted to go to Sandy Hollow and try out the rope swing, you’re in luck. Several rope swings will now be installed at each crosswalk so you can “swing” on over to your next class.

5. I don’t know about you, but when I was a kid, I was all about those pony rides at the fair. So I’m happy to announce that pony rides (Courtesy of Vonder Bruegge Ranch) will now be another option for crossing the street. Saddle up, cowgirl! Oh, but please, please don’t feed the animals — at least don’t feed them anything from Sodexo.

Photograph by Emilee Berry
NW students disprove climate change

BY ALYSSA CURRIER

A vast majority of the world’s scientists have found new common grounds concerning the existence of climate change after several Northwestern students reported abnormally cold weather in April.

“It’s been a very cold spring,” said junior public relations major Ben Vander Youngstra. “Obviously, if global warming were real, it would be getting hotter, not colder.”

Although it has at least half a decade since scientists began using the term “climate change” instead of “global warming,” intelligent NW students have not been fooled by the switch in terminology.

“There just isn’t any proof for global warming,” said Spanish major Casey De Hoek.

Hof’t, “There was a snow storm in April.” When NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration heard reports of this snow storm coming out of NW, they were forced to reevaluate every thing they thought they knew about climate change, including undeniable evidence of warmer, more acidic oceans, melting ice caps and rising sea levels.

“These NW students have made me rethink my life’s work,” said Dr. Aiguo Dai of the National Center for Atmospheric Research. “The fact that a warmer climate traps more water vapor in the atmosphere and causes more intense snow storms does not seem to explain why NW has been experiencing more intense snow storms.”

Thanks to NW’s well-informed students, decades of preeminent scientific research and data has been disproven.

“There is simply no way that the change in Orange City’s normal climate could be caused by climate change,” Al Gore said.

This breakthrough will go down in NW history not only as a great scientific achievement but also as a moral victory as well. After all, Christians have known for decades that climate change is a conspiracy made up by the scientific community, which is notorious for making up facts such as the earth being round and revolving around the sun.

It is important to note there is a small percentage of Christians who take climate change seriously due to an obscure doctrine that teaches humans should care for the earth.

Sodexo declares empire

TOM WESTERHOLM

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

After a series of requests that included the banning of snack carts and vending machines so that only Sodexo food would be served on campus, Sodexo Dining Services officially changed its name to the “Imperial State of Sodexo,” seceded from the United States and declared full totalitarian control over the campus of Northwestern College, including this publication.

Students on campus are all thrilled with the changes and expressed their jubilation with joyous and completely spontaneous speeches and songs.

“I love Sodexo, especially the chicken and the other foods,” sang junior Emily Liston. “All the foods are so good. They make me happy all the time.”

New songs, including the one above, have replaced the old hymn books in the chapel in a move that thrilled students across campus. In an effort to promote community, the Imperial State of Sodexo has made chapel a requirement all seven days of the week, and students are embracing the opportunity to attend from 5 to 10 a.m.

Two ex-professors in the philosophy department said they were displeased with the new regime’s sudden rise, but both have been let go due to sudden budgetary constraints.

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the Imperial State of Sodexo,” said sophomore Tyler Kraft. “And to the republic for which it ...”

This publication has no idea where Tyler Kraft went after his statement trailed off, but we would like to remind our readers that in no way should the Imperial State of Sodexo ever be referred to as a “republic”.

Speculation as to whether or not North Korea might be involved, given the rise in international dishes that continue to be advertised around campus, is completely baseless.

“That’s ridiculous,” said Eastern Civilizations Professor Barry Wright. “Haha.”

Professor Wright, although he only arrived last summer, was given tenure yesterday.

Rumors of a rebellion are, of course, ludicrous because no one would dare challenge the Imperial State of Sodexo, and really, why would we when we are all so happy? This publication would like to specifically tell any group of potential rebels to cease and desist immediately, especially any group that ratted out this publication for having Pizza Ranch delivered to the North Suites basement because you are the reason we can’t have nice things, you jerks.