Beacon readership at all-time high

BY THE LINDEN FIGGIE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After several years, in fact decades, of rebuilding, Beacon readership has reached an all-time high and brought with it a crazed spirit across campus. Since its inception in 1957, the campus newspaper never garnered as much enthusiasm as it did with the recent issue. The Beacon’s horizon is only looking brighter with a larger average of readers per day.

“It’s exciting to finally see some of the fruits of our labor,” said Beacon Editor-in-Chief Senior Linden Figgie.

The key to the paper’s success?
“We established a vision and stuck with it,” Figgie said. “We pushed past the adversity and opposition, knowing our day would come.”

Indeed it has as students, faculty, staff and community members are eager to get their hands on the next issues.

However, the recent surge of Beacon popularity has unveiled a violent uproar across Beacon. Usually Beacons are delivered to their respective locations, but an issue hadn’t left the van before the driver was bombarded with eager students and faculty members.

A line had formed outside the Cafe, but it wasn’t for lunch. People were waiting to snag a copy of the Beacon, and with the surprising number of readers, issues were running low.

“Never before have we run out of Beacons. If anything, we’re trying to give them away. I mean, we tried promoting them as paper-mache material last semester,” said Arts and Culture Editor senior Kati Heng.

There was a mad dash for the issues in the Rowenhorst Student Center, too.

“Some dude clocked me from behind when I was just trying to check my mail,” said freshman Annie Geller. “I got him back after I stole his copy.”

The hype paralleled that of shoppers in Walmart on Black Friday.

“I’ve already got my site picked out and my tent packed for this week,” said junior Tanner Thanide. His elaborate set up in the grassy area next to the RSC bodes well for an early morning and his chance at the first copy.

It is only fitting that with the race to get a copy, the sports section has experienced the biggest impact.

“It’s always been a struggle to find new angles for sports writing,” said junior Michael Simmelink, the Beacon’s sports editor. “We finally got the message through to our readers: The Raiders are in the house!”

There’s no doubt the athletes of NW are the hottest topic.

“Our students are doing some great things, especially our athletes,” said Athletic Director Barry Brand. “It’s great to see such positive responses from the campus.”

The paper as a whole has seen increased popularity, but the sports section especially continues to improve its reading averages.

Online sports stories have made heralding NW’s athletic department more accessible to the campus and surrounding communities.

“It’s nice being able to add a few extra blurbs here and there that we wouldn’t be able to include in the printed paper,” Simmelink said. “I know athletes appreciate the praise and attention, so it’s nice to at least give them a shout out.”

Featured athletes, musicians, artists and other students will become near celebrities with their appearance in the Beacon, so don’t wait to get your subscription of the hottest news source around.

Issues can be found at major locations around campus. Whether online or in print, the Beacon truly has it all.

Copyediters strike—Good! We don’t even knead them

BY TOM WESTERHOLM
A&C EDITOR

The Beacon editorial staffs copy editors have gone on strike, demanding more pay money, more conveniently hours, and less usage of the Oxford comma by writers.

‘We are sick and tired of being asked too stay late,’ Emma Westerholm stated ‘and we don’t make enough.’

She is my sister and she is a copy editor at the Beacon. She used to get a bigger allowance than me, so maybe that’s why she wants more money.

‘The copy editor’s said something about being underpaid at the last Beacon meeting but nobody really took them seriously because copy editors don’t even really do that much honestly, they fix some grammatical errors but they don’t really improve the stories that much if you ask me.’

The NW College campus has been buzzing like the bees in the copy editors bonnets over the issue and some really lively discussions have been issued forward by the issue.

‘Whats a copy editor?’ questioned freshman Jesse Smith when asked about the issue.

‘Why are you asking me, I dont read the Beacon’ asked sophomore Len Adams. So campus remains pretty divided especially over the issue of what a copy editor does, nobody really seems to be sure.

There are two copy editors this year, one is my sister Emma Westerholm and Sarah Licious is the other. Basically what they do is eat our pizza every thurs. night and they mark up our pages a lot where they “think” we’ve made mistakes, with grammar or at least where our righters made mistakes. They are basically there to make sure the real editors have to stay late for no real reason.

‘Why do you keep asking me that? You are such a jerk,’ said Emma Westerholm to me yesterday when I asked her why, she thought she should get paid at all. I think copy editors aren’t.

All in all the Beacon editorial staff believes that the copy editor strike should be resolved when the editors realize how the Beacon is fine without them.
New majors added

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
SPORTS EDITOR

With the job market constantly changing, Northwestern is trying its super-duper best to keep up with the addition of two majors to the curriculum.

Starting next fall, students will have the opportunity to major in Food Critiquing as well as Spouse Hunting.

Due to the pervasive discussion about the quality of food service on campus, the administration is hoping that students will be able to learn practical skills for academic credit that will help them in the outside world.

“We’ve heard the outcry about food quality,” said President Greg Christy, “and we want our students to use that complaint as a way to further a whole education for their whole lives.”

The other new major, Spouse Hunting, is for those on campus who aren’t starving for food but for someone to unite their fates with. It is an academic attempt to prepare students for a world in which they are highly unlikely to find a suitable partner for marriage once they leave campus.

“I think what makes my heart palpitate is finally being able to study what I came to college for,” said sophomore Hannah Bradley.

The major is expected to be filled with women, although some guys have expressed interest, too.

“It’ll be nice to have ladies educated on how they should try to attract me as their potential Boaz,” said junior Brian Clarkson.

“I think I also might enjoy some tutelage on the stage to graduate,” said freshmen Lincoln Morris.

The 30-credit program places a high emphasis on receiving either a promise ring or an engagement ring before he or she crosses the stage to graduate. Completing that alone is worth 26 credits.

Classes might include Measuring Love in Feelings and Topics in Marriage: Boss Size’s Place in Finding a Soul Mate.

Registration will be open after spring break.

Senior Scramble has begun

BY JOCelyn VAN DyKE
FEATURES EDITOR

Graduation is only five months away for the class of 2013, and as seniors scramble to snag a significant other before the end, the Student Activities Council is hard at work to help.

“It’s obviously a scary thing to think about graduating and leaving school alone, so that’s why we want to help students find someone,” said SAC member junior Peter Grey.

“Northwestern is all about community, and we want to help students take a piece of that community wherever they go. What better way to do that than sending them out two by two?”

After Christmas break, senior students can expect to find questionnaires in their mailboxes. Members of the SAC have compiled an extensive set of inquiries that will give them the information needed to match single students perfectly.

“We’ve been working on this a long time now, and we’re really excited to see who gets paired with whom,” Grey said. “Our hope is that we’ll create some great love connections in the short time we have left before graduation.”

While the seniors scramble, many younger students, including sophomores Anna Clarkson, are hoping to avoid the rush their senior year.

Clarkson said she became aware of her situation during homecoming dress-up days.

“During homecoming, I so appreciated how we were asked to wear colored t-shirts that displayed our relationship statuses,” Clarkson said. “It made me realize that I’ve only got a couple years left in school, so I’d better start on that husband hunting now and find one before they’re all gone.”

More arrogant students are relying on themselves to acquire a soul mate.

“Sometimes you’ve got to lower your standards just a bit,” Vander Ploeg said. “It’s called sacrificing for victory.”

The women on campus aren’t the only ones on the prowl, though. Senior Grady Olsen is doing as much scrambling as the next senior, and he’s got some advice for others in his predicament.

“If you’ve had your eye on a cute girl, you’ve just got to go for it,” Olsen said. “Get after her, and if that girl is the one that we all know that after you leave Northwestern, your chances of finding someone decrease drastically.”

There are some seniors who are content with staying single, however.

“I find my hope in relying on Paul’s words when he says that complaining as a way to get your justice is somehow NW’s doing is unwise, and there are struggles involved in finding the one,” said senior Maggie Vander Ploeg.

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The women on campus

feature editor

Found to be carriers of a rare contamination that poses a serious threat to baked goods of all kinds,” Tibbits said.

Using an infrared scanner, Tibbits detected the contamination throughout the Dutch Bakery and traced its origin to the Dordt perpetrators.

The contamination, known as chondriagastro-hyperitis, is transmitted through the air from infected individuals to bakery items. Once contaminated, baked goods take on a taste described by Tibbits as “fatefiskish.”

To prevent the entry of Dordt students into the Dutch Bakery, NOOBS officials have installed a sensor in the front door that detects the contamination. The sensor is wired to the Orange City Police Department to expedite the removal of potential Dordt offenders.

In response to the ban, Dordt students immediately began picketing the Dutch Bakery. Eyewitnesses said they heard the protesters chanting phrases such as “Donuts for Dordt!” and “Pray for pastries.”

Led by Dordt senior Clarence Pickwick, the protestors questioned the validity of NOOBS’ report.

“We will not let this injustice stand,” Pickwick said. “Dordt students deserve equal bakery rights with Northwestern students.”

Allegations of any so-called contamination are unfounded and merely part of NW’s agenda to sabotage Dordt students’ culinary liberty.”

NW’s administration refuted Dordt’s claims.

“Dordt banned from late-night doughnuts

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Girls find love at construction site

BY KATI HENG
ASSISTANT EDITOR

For many girls on campus, including junior Becky Henrikson, the disproportion of upper-class females to single males has caused them to look elsewhere for love.

“I just got so sick of it,” Henrikson said. “I’d be hanging out with a guy for a few weeks, and he’d, out of nowhere, tell me that he had a girlfriend from back home. It was mortifying, and I had to start thinking of other places to meet boys. Northwestern is too risky. Boys at this college come with attachments.”

Henrikson came to NW, like so many women, in hopes of finding a Christian spouse. After striking out during both spring registration and freshman orientation, Henrikson became anxious.

“Everyone was telling me not to worry—they would be boys to meet in class,” Henrikson said. “But at the end of sophomore year, I was still single. And I didn’t want to wait much longer, because getting engaged to someone you’ve only known for a year is trashy, you know?”

Luckily for Henrikson, the circumstances changed at the beginning of her junior year. While walking by the construction site of the future Learning Commons, she noticed a beautiful sight.

“There were guys everywhere,” she said. “Big, robust, construction-working guys. I thought I would meet boys at college, but I never thought I’d be meeting men!”

Unlike many NW men who are engaged or in serious relationships that might not be evident at a glance, it’s simpler to see if construction workers are taken.

“At their age, they’re either married or single,” Henrikson said. “And it’s easy to tell, because they’ve got wedding bands.”

There are still a few gaffes, but it has all been in good fun.

“There was this one construction worker, Peter, that I followed around for, like, a whole afternoon before he told me he doesn’t wear his wedding band on the job,” Henrikson said. “The guys and I still laugh about that one.”

Henrikson isn’t the only girl taking advantage of the new pool of mature suitors.

“I think I’ve gone on dates with about three of the construction guys so far,” said sophomore Arielle Bergens. “I just prefer going to dinner with an older, more financially stable man who doesn’t always make me ‘go Dutch’ because he’s too cheap to pay for my steak.”

Others, such as freshman Gabriella Vanden, just prefer older men.

“NW guys are so immature,” Vanden said. “They’re always farting in class and talking about poop and boobs, and it’s just disgusting. The construction site might smell like poop, but at least the guys know how to treat a lady. They remind me of my dad!”

Although the staff, the studious males and engaged women are eager for the Learning Commons to be complete, Henrikson will be sad to see construction end.

“There’s a whole new wave of girls who will be coming here next fall, and I know Tom, George and Curly are still waiting to meet someone,” Henrikson said. “It’s sad that some girls won’t get to meet their soul mate, simply because he’s moved on to a new site.”

Dordt College announced as new SSP location

BY JODI STAHL
OPINIONS EDITOR

Dordt College has been announced as a new Spring Service Project (SSP) location. For the first time, a group of students will travel to Sioux Center during the coming Spring Break.

Dordt’s Spring Break week follows Northwestern’s break, so the Campus Ministry team saw the timing as a sign from God.

“We felt that with the academic schedules coinciding as they did, we were being shown a divine window of opportunity to reach Dordt’s students, faculty and staff while they are still on campus,” said Patrick Hummel, NW’s director of missions.

The team’s main focus is to present the gospel message to Dordt. Members will be hosting workshops and prayer groups in high-traffic areas of campus in hopes of reaching as many people as possible.

Jacob Jenkins, a junior from Seward, Neb., will be one of the two student leaders on the trip.

“We are expecting Dordt to be quite unreceptive to our views of the Bible, but we are prepared to hold follow-up sessions and times of prayer for the softening of their hearts to our message,” Jenkins said. “We will also hopefully have some one-on-one time with Dordt students and staff.”

“We are excited to reach the unreached places of Sioux County,” Jenkins said. “We are preparing gospel messages that we can share with those who have been misled about the Scriptures or who haven’t heard the gospel at all.”

Sophomore Lindsey VanZeek from Pella will be traveling to Sioux Center as a member of the team.

“As nervous as I am to go into this highly heathen area, I feel that we are being prepared well for outreach,” Van Zeek said. “We have been encouraged to try to fit in with Dordt students, as hard as that might be.”

Because leaders are hesitant about the exploratory nature of this new location, Hummel will be leading the trip to ensure safety of the team.

“I felt it would be best if I go for the first SSP to Dordt,” Hummel said. “The area that our team will be staying might be considered ‘sketchy’ by some participants, so I want to be there for the peace of mind of the team.”

There will be 12 student team members, two student leaders and two staff leaders traveling to Sioux Center to work from March 1–10. With the addition of the Dordt location, NW will send 14 teams consisting of more than 200 students to sites across the world.
**Parking seeks greener ground**

**By Kati Heng**

A&C Editor

Due to the growing number of student complaints about the lack of parking spaces, Northwestern administration has begun planning construction for on two new parking areas on campus.

"The lack of parking was becoming a big problem," President Greg Christy said. "I can’t even tell you how many students complained about it. They were so upset about parking, they didn’t even have time to complain about the grade-D meat in the Cafe."

To calm this surprising surge in student-concern about an issue, a new parking lot will be constructed on the empty space between the front entrance of Christ Chapel and Van Vranken Hall. This area was being overrun with a whole bunch of grass, and in the winter, a lot of snow collects in this area," said Director of Safety and Security Blake Wieking. "By adding a parking lot, not only will students have a new place to park, this once-grassy area will be filled with beautiful concrete, brightly painted with yellow lines and gorgeously decorated with oil stains and gasoline run-off."

The other newly designed parking area is a surprise for many.

"We scrapped the whole ‘learning commons’ idea earlier this year,” Christy said. "People were much less enthused for another bunch of bookshelves and place to get dirty tasting coffee than our new idea to turn the structure into a multi-level parking ramp!”

So far, Christy has received only a few complaints about these new parking areas.

"Yeah, I got a few complaints from this Lit teacher, Keith Fynaardt, who complained about the ‘naturally beautiful grass’ we’d be destroying, and Dr. Schlak, the director of the library, made a big fuss about my being a ‘Taker-Backer,’” Christy said. "Honestly, getting complaints about prayer, devotionals, this week’s Campus Matter. “Coffee will be served.”

The founder of SJC is coming to speak at Northwestern. 

"This book challenged me so much," said junior Katie Van de Oorten Hof’t. "It’s mind-blowing to consider God’s plan and following God’s plan." 

A&C Editor Mathyas Buldging will speak in chapel on Friday. 

"I’m not a good person," Buldging said humbly.

**Skinny jeans speak with hipster help**

**By Alyssa Currier**

News Editor

The founder of Skinny Jeans for Christ (SJC) is coming to speak at Northwestern.

"Of course, jeans are a core part of hipster culture. I can’t imagine a hipster not wearing jeans," said senior Carrie Free, the founder of SJC.

But Buldging is not just a hipster with a mission. He is a Christian, but he totally is.

"I’m not really homeless," Buldging said. "I think dressing this way gives off a Mother Theresa vibe. And it shocks old people, which makes young people care about what I say."

"I love that what I do is making skinny jeans out of recycled materials gathered by impoverished women of Central America and sells them at wealthy churches and Christian colleges all across the U.S. Nearly one-fifth of the proceeds go to shipping used toothbrushes to people who do not have toothbrushes because their water supply is so contaminated they would rather get cavities."

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Buldging said humbly. "You can tell that by my tattoos and occasional swear word. I’m just a really good Christian who is doing more than most people to change the world."

He encourages everyone to do their part by liking him on Facebook or following him on Twitter, which he updates from his iPhone. 

"Buldging will speak in chapel on Friday. Afterwards, he will sell skinny jeans as well as traditional third-world bracelets. Some proceeds go to SJC. To learn more, look for the posters with world map and sad toothbrush-less children."