**Beacon designer dismissed**

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

After a yearlong test run, the Northwestern College Beacon student newspaper has decided to discontinue its use of a creative director. This past fall, Beacon Advisor Dayne Logan hired Jeriah Dunk for the new position in hopes of enhancing the newspaper’s design capabilities.

“I want the editors to be able to focus more on editing and building a sense of community; design is currently eating up too much of their time each week,” Logan said in an interview this past November.

The move appeared to pay dividends at first when the Beacon and Dunk launched a new design this January that received an overwhelmingly positive response from readers. However, the new design also ruffled some feathers in-house.

Beacon Editor-in-Chief Jocelyn Van Dyke was so put off by the design and readers’ reactions to it that she decided to terminate Dunk prior to the creation of this issue.

“All anyone ever talks about any more is how great the Beacon looks,” Van Dyke said with only a hint of jealousy in her voice. “Doesn’t anyone actually read the articles anymore?”

Arts and Culture Editor Lyric Morris shared similar sentiments.

“I won an award this year for review writing,” Morris said. “But does anyone ever say, ‘Wow, Lyric, you’re an awesome writer?’ No. They just rave and rave about the design. Jeriah didn’t even win any awards. I’m the big deal here. Pay attention to me!”

In an attempt to prove that point, the Beacon editors put this issue together entirely on their own.

“Will people like the design?” Features Editor Jessie Schuldt asked. “I don’t care if they like it. It’s not a friggin’ art gallery. It’s a newspaper.”

See Page 2
Ramaker revived to roof Raiders

With the upcoming destruction of West Hall, the moving of the men and the lack of housing for females on campus, Northwestern Residence Life was closing in on a cramming session.

"We were looking at placing three girls in a two-person dorm room in every female dorm," said Harlan Maverdink, director of residence life. "But we couldn't afford to risk the drama."

After many long discussions with contractors, administrators, donors and upperclassmen, another dorm will be added to campus in a pre-existing building. Beginning in the fall, Ramaker Library will become Ramaker Hall.

The previous plan of creating new office space and a homebase for the Student Activities Council, Campus Ministries and Career Development Services has been discarded as quickly as the old bricks on the walls.

"It was an abrupt change for sure, and now we have to work overtime on top of our overtime," said Rick Tennaple, a construction worker. "But they're paying us extra for it, so I guess we can make it work."

The re-renovated interior will have two floors and a complex hall system to accommodate the new residents. There will be room for 150 female students, with each room housing three girls. The resident director apartment will be fully furnished with a bathtub. Other furniture such as couches, bunk beds and desks from around campus will also be used.

"Thankfully we have a lot of extra furniture lying around, like the tub that didn't fit in the North Suites RD apartment," President Craig Gristy said. "We're recycling and trying to make the building cozy and have a well-worn feel."

Ramaker Hall will include three resident assistants who were selected from a pool of denied applicants. Two of the RAs will be placed on the first floor, and one will be on the smaller second floor. One of the RAs is Linda Vander Poop, a previous resident of Fern-Smith Hall.

"I think the new dorm will be really great since it's so large," Vander Poop said. "I'm a little leery of the couches being recycled from the plexes, but we can always cover them with sheets."

The construction crew is hoping to finish Ramaker on August 11, one day before fall sport athletes move in.

DISCUSSION TO DECREASE DOLLARS DUE

Last Friday an open forum was held in the chapel to discuss school tuition with students. Dean Juliet Ermeer-Velliott, Director of Residence Life Harlon Maverdink and President Creg Gristy hosted the forum. This year, several forums have been held to discuss policies regarding open dorm hours, Senior Bingo and students' opinions of the cafeteria.

"Since we have let students weigh in on all of these other topics, we thought why not discuss the cost of tuition with them?" Ermeer Velliott said. "After all, tuition is something that greatly impacts students."

The administration was very pleased with the turnout to the open forum. The chapel pews were full of students wanting to weigh in on how much their schooling should cost.

"We believe it is important to put the college's budget and the staff's payrolls aside and focus on what is important," Gristy said. "And that is pleasing the student body. I mean without them we wouldn't even have a college."

At the open forum, there was an open microphone, at which students could share their opinions of the current cost of tuition. Many students expressed their belief that Northwestern costs too much even though many other private schools have similar tuition prices. Students want NW's tuition to be comparable to public schools.

"I don't think that is an unreasonable request," Maverdink said.

After all of the students wanting to share had a chance to speak, slips of paper with three different tuition options were handed out to everyone present. Students were given the instructions to circle the tuition price that best suited their desires. The three options were: $10,000, $20,000 or $30,000.

Gristy said the results of the survey would be reviewed and discussed by the administration and the board. He said students should expect to see a change to the cost of tuition.

"We are really pleased with the results of the open forums that have been held this year," Velliott said. "We believe channels of communication have been opened between the students and administration that will build an even stronger community on campus."

FROM PAGE 1

Many students want more work to be assigned in the classes. Northwestern Davis Tennant finds the homework fun and exciting.

"I don't see why the professors don't assign everything in the book it is super fun and really worth the time and effort," Tennant said.

The class is so popular that NW has considered adding another physical fitness requirement to combat the increase of interest and rising participation. This would go into effect in the 2014-2015 school year.
Features

Passed—up pews present problem

BY JOCELYN VAN DYKE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With only a week of chapel credits still available, one would think that more students would be frantically trying to fulfill their credit requirement. However, trends at Northwestern show the opposite. In fact, for several weeks now, no one has been attending chapel — literally no one.

"I think it's surprising that students haven't been showing up," Chaplain Orlan Van Hort said. "Usually students love chapel, and they can't seem to get enough of it."

Students' lack of attendance hasn't seemed to affect the praise band. The band has vowed to play even if no one shows up.

"To be honest, I've reached my credit requirement so why go anymore?" Suzy Snoozer said. "I have to admit I will miss my midmorning nap."

Many students such as Snoozer have confessed they will have a hard time adjusting their sleep schedule without chapel. But they're not the only ones making adjustments. Chapel speakers have had to make some changes, as well.

"I get nervous when I do public speaking gigs, so I was advised to imagine the audience in their underwear," chapel speaker Chuck Norris said. "But that's kind of hard to do when I don't even have an audience."

Some speakers have chosen not to give their talks at all.

"I was really surprised to arrive to NW and find an empty chapel," chapel speaker Mark Zuckerberg said. "I figured at least a few people would come to hear me speak about the redeeming work God's doing on Facebook, but because no one showed up, I decided to leave."

Both students and chapel speakers have gone in peace and not returned. This lack of attendance now leaves NW asking the question: Will chapel be resting in peace?

From Hosphers to homeless

BY JORDAN DYKSTRA
FEATURES EDITOR

In a shocking turn of events, a motion passed Tuesday evening to tear down Hosphers Hall instead of West Hall. The women of Hosphers will move to West for the 2014-2015 school year. The previous residents of West will be without a dormitory and will be placed outside in makeshift tents and shanties.

"It doesn't really bother me all that much," said Josh Frankenstei, a current West resident. "I don't ever shower anyway, so my hygiene practices will remain the same."

The women of Hosphers are excited about moving east across campus into their new building.

"The aesthetics of West are truly breathtaking," Ashley Van Sluugen said. "It is such a masterfully designed building that is truly fit to last through the centuries, much like the Roman coliseum and Greek Parthenon."

The decision made by the committee of executives was not an easy one, and much thought was put into the move.

"We evaluated every possible alternative, but in the end, we felt that West Hall was a more valuable and everlasting symbol for Northwestern," President Creg Gristy said. "We want to have all of our buildings to have a unified look and feel to them, and we felt that West certainly brings out the best in terms of curb appeal for NW.

Because of the limited capacity in West, the girls will have to triple up in what were always two-person rooms. However, due to a lack of beds, two girls will have to share a mattress.

"Sharing a single bed with my roommate should be looked at as a blessing," Van Sluugen said. "It just gives me another outlet for community, and I am truly thankful that NW has provided that for me."

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"I'm paying over $35,000 to go to school here, and they make me sleep outside," Jakub Eesau said. "The worst part of it is that they don't consider me an on-campus resident anymore, so I don't get a meal plan."

An appeal has been made by the former residents of West that will be reviewed by the board of directors in six years.

Thou shalt not tweet

BY CALLIE NORDAHL
STAFF WRITER

Even though Lent is over and we are no longer encouraged to fast on Fridays, let us not forget the valuable lessons we learned on those days, especially regarding the social media disconnect. We, as the interaction-addicted generation, are completely dependent on our 3.5-" by-6.5 inch" iPhone screen and what it displays. Be it through blue boxes containing an "f", a little bird, a camera or even a cute little white ghost, we are all guilty. So cut it off for 20 minutes a month, a week, a day even! Be bold and take the risk.

Let us remember the words of Psalm 119:97, written by a nameless worshiper, which says, "Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day."

Although such esteemed speakers as Chuck Norris and Mark Zuckerberg have come to campus to speak in chapel, students have not been in attendance. The administrators are confused at the behavior of the student body because students are usually chomping at the bit to come in.
During the college years,” Resident Assistant of Stegenga Hall Mannah HicBride, said. The RA staff will be primarily responsible for monitoring NW students in the residence halls.

During his time at Northwestern, Logan was known for giving highly quotable chapel speeches, revamping the school’s journalism program, watching massive amounts of poorly-streamed soccer matches during Beacon-layout evenings, proclaiming himself to be the “anal-retentive Grammar Nazi,” publishing the school’s first e-yearbook and unintentionally fooling most non journalism majors into thinking he was a student.

Logan was born sometime in the 80’s — a fact which might or might not contribute to his affinity for moustaches and more-fitted-than-average pants later in life.

He married his wife, Rachel, after studying Journalism at Kansas State University. The former Wildcat prowled through several jobs after school before settling in the Dutch tundra known as Orange City, Iowa.

Due to a drastic increase of parent and student complaints over the past several years, public displays of affection (PDA) will now be banned on NW’s campus.

Record sunshine in April has left students in awe. Last week, Northwestern witnessed the most consistent amount of sunny days in the past decade. “Three straight days of glorious warm sun,” said Judy VanTrouwen. “I’m basically overdosing on Vitamin D.”

The men of campus shed their shirts, and the Steggy beaches were overcrowded with students anxious to soak up some rays.

“I don’t even own short-sleeve shirts,” Nathan Welkom said. “When it gets above 45, I just go shirtless.”

However, not everything was breezy and beautiful during the warmest days students have seen in months. Thirty-two students, faculty members and staff members checked into the Wellness Center with head injuries related to tennis ball and disc impacts — another record-breaker.

In an official email from the Wellness Center, the staff said, “It is clear that people do not remember basic walking safety during warmer days. Please be aware that there are many flying objects that can hurt you. Remember the motto: stop, duck and dodge.”

Although the warm streak couldn’t last forever, the remnants of the Spring-like weather can be seen all over campus. Brown and green grass dots the lawns, and red, sunburnt students hasten through the once-again chilly wind reminding NW that while Spring may tempt, winter always has the last word.

Public puckering punishable by poison

BY JESSIE SCHULDT
FEATURES EDITOR

Due to a drastic increase of parent and student complaints over the past several years, public displays of affection (PDA) will now be banned on NW’s campus.

Acts of PDA include but are not limited to the following: kissing, muzzling, cuddling, holding hands and anything beyond. The administration will be posting signs with specific guidelines at the beginning of next week.

“We believe that we must be considerate of others by holding ourselves to a Christian standard both in public and in private,” Dean of Student Life Juliet Emmeer Vellott said.

To help combat this issue, there will be several security cameras installed across campus over the summer. Some of the newly surveyed areas will be residence hall lobbies, the RSC and VPH. In addition to security cameras, all doors in the dorms will be removed to keep students accountable for what they do in their private time. This will also provide increased opportunity for dorms to build community.

“My son no longer wishes to attend NW after seeing several couples canoodling in the Learning Commons when we had our campus tour,” said Orval Proutect IV, a parent attending RED101 days.

Parents of both current and prospective students expressed their disgust at seeing NW students and their significant others spending so much of their time earning their MRS degree rather than a degree in something more practical.

Naturally, the change in rules is followed by students protest. In response to the newly installed rule, several NW couples have already applied to transfer to Dordt College in the fall.

“My girlfriend and I believe that our love flame should not be smothered by this unreasonable rule,” freshman Bart Throb said.

Just two days after the initial announcement was leaked to a portion of the student body, it is estimated that out of almost 1,100 students, 436 of them have expressed a desire to transfer to either Morningside or Dordt.

The consequences of violating are severe. Ermeer Velliott’s retinas have been fitted with poison-dart guns that will stun violators instantly. Students may also be sentenced to community service hours. The RA staff will be primarily responsible for monitoring NW students in the residence halls.

“As a student that is not in a relationship, I am excited to see the community in our dorm transform and have more of our campus focus on what is really important during the college years,” Resident Assistant of Stegenga Hall Mannah HicBride, said.

The rule will be officially in place as of noon on April 30, 2014.