Democrats are people too

By Stephen Dykstra

Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2013, marked exactly one year since the 2012 presidential elections between Republican nominee Mitt Romney, and the Democratic candidate and current president, Barrack Obama. Despite the fact that voter participation has dwindled in recent years, especially among younger generations, many Northwestern students made their voices heard by casting their votes. This is the story of a few of those votes.

It’s 7 p.m. Eastern Time on the evening of Nov. 6, 2012. After a busy Election Day, the polls in Vermont, Florida, Virginia, New Hampshire, Georgia and South Carolina close. Romney jumps out into the lead by taking Georgia and South Carolina; Obama claims his first victory of the night with Vermont.

José Martinez glances up from his laptop at the flat-screen 10 feet from the couch on which he sits. It’s Tuesday night — election night. He has been casually following the election results for some time now. He should leave; he has homework due tomorrow that is close to call. Stay tuned.

José Martinez grows up within the Catholic Church and held those beliefs most of his life. But since coming to NW, that has changed.

“This past year, I spent a lot of time reading in the book of Matthew,” Martinez said. “It talks extensively about what it looks like to love your neighbor, which I have come to appreciate.”

David Crowder’s song “How He Loves” is dear to Martinez because it not only defines true love but also draws him closer to God.

Taking into account his background, his struggles, his hardships and his uncertainty and doubt, it is no surprise that Martinez perceives life in America a little differently than most.

“Growing up in poverty has made me more aware of those who have the same experiences,” Martinez said. “My parents took advantage of government programs because they had to. It’s not that they were lazy; they just didn’t have the education and social standing to get the good jobs.”

Politically, Martinez ranks immigration reform as the most important issue to him, as well as the benchmark by which he judges presidential candidates.

“It’s how I vote for them – I’m really for immigration reform in the United States,” Martinez said.

See “Experience” on Page 2

‘Antigone’ tells a story of sand and sadness

By Theresa Larrabee

The war has just ended and the city of Thebes is left demolished. Pillars have fallen, buildings are ruined, and the people are trying to live in a post-apocalyptic world filled with sand and sadness.

This is where the stage for Northwestern’s “Antigone” is set.

“This play is about an individual struggling with the government and ... the tensions between family and authority,” Dr. Robert Hubbard, director of “Antigone,” said.

Professor Jonathan Sabo designed a set that captures the post-apocalyptic world by building ruins littered with bullet holes and tents instead of buildings because everything has been knocked down. To add to the post-war feeling, props master Jana Latchaw scattered the set with arms and legs. The costumes for the show, designed by Amber Huizenga, look as if they actually went through a war; they have been ripped, burned, thrown in the mud and rubbed against trees.

See “Experience” on Page 2

INSIDE this issue:

• Page 3: Ender’s Game review

• Page 7: Volleyball beats Dordt in five

• Page 8: Symphonic band concert
Experience the post-apocalyptic world of Antigone

FROM PAGE 1

Between the three designs, they created a wonderfully visual world that captures its audience’s attention. Senior Katherine Eick adds to the post-war barrenness of Thebes with her lighting design that shows both the heat of the desert wasteland and the sickness that wars bring. Professor Drew Schmidt was given the task of designing projections for the show. Projections have been used before in shows at NW, but they are uncommon. Despite the novelty, Hubbard said that Schmidt’s designs are visually exciting.

Antigone (Honna Brown) and her sister Ismene (Tiffany Hach) return home after a war ravages their homeland. When Antigone gets there, she finds that her brothers are dead. Antigone sets out to right a wrong and, in the process, defies her uncle and king, Croan (Jackson Nickolay). This allows the stage to be set for all manners of tragedy.

Jacob Christianson plays the blind prophet Teiresias, who aids Antigone’s fiancé, Haemon (Tiemen Godwaldt) in his quest to help Antigone along with Antigone’s aunt (Katie Shepard). The cast also contains a classic Grecian chorus.

“[The chorus] directly engages the audience and has a lot of really cool visual rituals,” Hubbard said.

Hubbard said that audiences of “Antigone,” originally written by Sophocles in 441 BC, can still connect to the play because “they see things in it that they can relate to, such as the universality of its themes. We always can identify with an individual struggling against the government. And tensions between an individual and family are universal.”

Show times are at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 8, 9, 14 and 15 and 2 and 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 16. As always, staff and students are admitted for free.

Pentatonix is here to stay

BY JONATHAN DYKSTRA

Pentatonix, winners of season three of “The Sing Off,” is taking the a cappella word by storm. The five-member group, originally from Arlington, Texas, features lead singers Scott Hoying, Kirstie Maldonado and Mitch Grassi, vocal bass Avi “Bass Cannon” Kaplan and celloboxer (someone who can play the cello and beatbox simultaneously) Kevin “K.O.” Olusola.

What makes the group’s new album, PTX, Vol. 2, so special is their brave arrangements of not only their covers but also their original songs. Although the group has only been together for approximately two years, its style has developed so much that it can make just about anything sound good.

The album features four covers and four originals. One of the tracks, “Hey Momma,” samples the classic “Hit the Road, Jack.”

What makes this album even better than the group’s previous efforts is that it equally features all five members, especially Avi, whose bass lines often seemed overpowered by the lead singers.

The group’s brave arranging style exceeds all expectations set by the rest of the a cappella genre.

After opening with a high-energy cover of Macklemore and Ryan Lewis’ “Can’t Hold Us,” they move on to present songs such as an Electronic Dance Music-influenced original, “Love Again,” to a ballad-style original, “Run to You,” and to a very tricky medley of songs from Daft Punk.

Even if you’re not one to listen to a lot of a cappella music, pick up this album and give it a chance. The music is much better than what you would expect from not only an a cappella group but also one that is a mere five members strong.

PENTATONIX is here to stay

ALBUM REVIEW

BY JONATHAN DYKSTRA

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BY MEGAN VIPOND

"Ender's Game," the popular book by Orson Scott Card, has finally been made into a movie. And it is beautiful.

Ender (Asa Butterfield) is a small kid who is part of a government program that has been developed to counter the threat of the Formics, an alien race that attacked Earth 50 years ago. Ender seems an unlikely candidate for savior of the world, but somehow he is advanced to battle school from the Earth school that he’s been attending. Ender passes quickly through school; his brilliance shows in the strategies he comes up with and in the way he maneuvers simulations that have hindered or outwitted other students.

Colonel Graff (Harrison Ford) sees the potential in Ender and devotes special attention to the boy. Graff molds him into someone he believes can save the Earth from invaders — who no doubt will attack Earth again. And with the help of his friends, Ender might just succeed.

"Ender’s Game" has been long-awaited by lovers of the book. Although it doesn’t represent every aspect of the book perfectly, it does a fantastic job of taking what is important and converting it into a format that works well on the screen.

Nitpickers will complain about small details that have been changed or neglected completely, but those aspects do not affect the overall plot structure of the film. It’s possible that “Ender’s Game” should have been split into more than one movie, like all the popular book-to-movie series are doing, but that would have taken away from the viewing experience.

Harrison Ford has made a name for himself with hit movies such as “Star Wars,” “Indiana Jones” and “42,” and “Ender’s Game” measures up. The acting by Ford and other cast members was not only satisfying but believable. Where some would overuse the drama of the role to gain a name for themselves, the cast of “Ender’s Game” works cohesively and doesn’t act as if one part is better than any other.

The score for the film is beautiful; it fits the mood well and doesn’t overwhelm — only really making itself known when the moment calls for it. The scenery, whether computer-generated or hand-built, was realistic and believable with the events of the film.

For the gamers out there, the graphics during the game scenes might be a little too current to be believable; after all, some of the games in our day have similar graphics, and this movie is supposed to occur well into the future. Still, the director changed it up enough that it was obvious it was supposed to be a game and not the actual happenings of the film.

There are few negative things to say about “Ender’s Game.” It captured the spirit of the book and was entertaining and beautiful.

Rating: ★★★★

Avril Lavigne will never grow up

BY JANA LATCHAW

We all remember Avril Lavigne and her smash hit, “Sk8er Boi.” But let’s not forget that it was released in 2002 — more than 10 ago.

With many people hoping for a sign of Avril growing up, you only have to glance at the track list on her new self-titled album to know that it hasn’t happened yet.

With song titles such as “Hello Kitty” and “Here’s to Never Growing Up,” Lavigne’s new album will cause many eyes to roll.

Her least impressive lyrics are in, “B-tchin’ Summer,” in which she raps about the “motherf-cking cops” and trips to the liquor store. These far-from-inspirational words might be expected from a 17-year-old pop star, but Lavigne’s pushing 30.

Unfortunately, Lavigne’s new album also includes a duet with her husband, Chad Kroeger, lead singer of Nickelback.

Lavigne and Kroeger worked together to develop the majority of the songs on the new album. Lavigne is producing the same style of obnoxious music that she was 10 years ago, but with an unfortunate new addition: the ear-shattering sound of Nickelback.

If a flashback to the early 2000s is necessary and listeners are feeling extra angsty, the album might be worth a listen on Spotify, but don’t buy it.

We all need a little time to reminisce, but this new album is not worth your money.

Rating: ★★

Key Track: “Here’s To Never Growing Up,” “Rock n’ Roll,” “Let Me Go”
Features

Dean of students returns to roots

BY EMILY WALLACE

Many of us have felt the sting of homesickness in college, and occasionally wish to revisit the warmth of our childhood homes. Julie Vermeer-Elliott, dean of students, got the opportunity to live in her childhood home once again, upon returning to Orange City to take her new position at NW.

“My parents built the house in 1964 when they came to Orange City,” Vermeer-Elliott said. “All five of us kids were raised in this house.”

Her parents picked out a large lot to put the house on so that their three young boys could use up all their energy outside.

“My father, being a vet, worked with animals all day long, and so they built a mud-room for him to shower in and to wash off all the smell before coming in the house,” Vermeer-Elliott said. “My mother was a very organized person, so the house has cupboards and shelves everywhere. The house reflects their personalities.”

While living in a Philadelphia suburb, Vermeer-Elliott noticed that it did not have the same sense of community that Orange City had while she grew up.

Her mother passed away in December, and her father followed not long after. But before her father was gone, he declared his desire for her family to live in the house.

“He told me multiple times, ‘I would really like it if you’d think about moving back,’ and that’s what really pushed us to look into the move more seriously,” Vermeer-Elliott said.

She had already begun looking into moving to Orange City after her mother’s death to take care of her father.

“We sold the house would be a loss of a home after the loss of two parents,” Vermeer-Elliott said. “That was just simply too much to think about.”

The idea of living somewhere with so many fond memories so quickly after such a tragic loss might seem unthinkable to some.

“It’s both painful and healing,” Vermeer-Elliott said. “I’m constantly reminded of their absence in the house, but from the pain of feeling their loss, I am also forced to face the healing process, too,” Vermeer-Elliott said.

Although many difficulties come with the move back into her parent’s home, she describes many memories with sentimental delight. “I think my favorite memory was the everyday stuff,” Vermeer-Elliott said. “My mother constantly cleaning the kitchen — she must have thought that it was always messy because she was continuously tidying up in there — and my dad sitting at the table every afternoon with his Dr Pepper and dark chocolate.

Orange City and that house are home to me. There are so many memories.

From the day that her parents built the house till the day they left it, they didn’t change a thing.

“I think the thing about the house that is so special is because it never changed,” Vermeer-Elliott said. “When I would come back to it as an adult, it was always the same house I had grown up in and lived for 23 years. There was just something very comforting about that.”

Although she treasures the familiarity of her house, she is making some changes.

“We have been painting rooms and took out some shag carpet. Soon we are hoping to completely redo the main level,” Vermeer-Elliott said.

Despite the fact that many things have changed in Vermeer-Elliott’s life in the past year, one thing does remain constant through all the years.

“My family is really happy I kept the house so that we all still have a place to reunite,” Vermeer-Elliott said. “Orange City is home for all of us.”

Professor conducts on and off campus

BY MICHAEL JOHNSON

Most people in the music department are familiar with him, especially if they’re in the music department. To others, Chad Hutchinson is probably unknown. Hutchinson joined the NW faculty in 2011 and serves as the director of the Women’s Choir and the director of the Chamber Orchestra.

Hutchinson was born in Onawa, Iowa and grew up in the small town Pisgah, Iowa. He graduated from West Harrison High School and then attended Morningside College in Sioux City, where he received his bachelor’s degree in music education. From there, he attended Bowling Green State University and got his master’s degree in orchestral conducting.

He comes from a musical background so his career choice probably isn’t too surprising. His dad was a jazz/rock musician and his mom an elementary music teacher and high school band teacher. That exposure to two different sides of music gave him a well-rounded experience. He has been influenced by both parents in that he plays piano trombone and bass.

Before joining NW, Hutchinson taught high school orchestra in Sioux Falls and in Rochester, N.Y. There he is the only high school orchestra. Although NW is Hutchinson’s main headquarters these days, it isn’t the only place he spends his time. The South Dakota Symphony also takes up many of his hours. He is the assistant conductor and is essential to the symphony sounding its absolute best. The assistant conductor attends all the practices, listens to the symphony play and takes notes on its performance. If there is anything that doesn’t sound just right to Hutchinson, he takes note of it so it can be improved.

Hutchinson started with the South Dakota Symphony because of his connection with the symphony’s conductor, Maestro Gier. They had studied together in Sioux Falls, when Hutchinson was teaching high school orchestra. The two of them formed a teacher-student relationship. Gier later offered him the job of assistant conductor, and Hutchinson accepted it.

Balancing his time between teaching at NW and his job as assistant conductor has been quite a challenge. He is generally only at the college on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Attendance at every practice requires him to be in Sioux Falls often.

One of the main challenges he faces is staying focused on the job at hand. With such a busy schedule, he has found that keeping his mind on the present is difficult but crucial to balancing his duties. But Hutchinson’s passion for music outweighs the negative aspects.

“I love music, I love the emotion and communication music can provide to one’s soul,” Hutchinson said. “I love glorifying God with music.”

On the teaching, I love to see how music also affects students, exposing them to a great piece of art and watching the process unfold.”
Democratic parties are so today's political structure. who are frustrated with a large number of Americans both sides justifying their people will always be on controversial, I feel like and so whenever there's then laughed at the apparent and the Bible offers support a moderate. he considers himself to be Obama in 2012. And yet run in 2008. He voted for Barrack Obama's historic today's standards."

That's why he doesn't strongly affiliate with one party. "I would consider myself a moderate Republican, but I feel that the Republican Party has moved so much to the extreme right that I considered liberal by today's standards."

José Martínez supported Barrack Obama's historic run in 2008. He voted for Obama in 2012. And yet he considers himself to be a moderate.

"The most liberal issues can be argued both ways, and the Bible offers support on both sides," he said.

Martínez paused and then laughed at the apparent irony: "It's crazy how slavery was justified by religion, and so whenever there's an issue that is extremely controversial, I feel like people will always be on both sides justifying their support with God's Word."

"To say liberal isn't Christian is really ignorant." But Martínez isn't alone in his beliefs. He represents a large number of Americans who are frustrated with today's political structure. Both the Republican and Democratic parties are so ideologically polarized that many Americans struggle to vote for a candidate they feel best represents their views. All too often, the terms "liberal" and "conservative" are merely generic labels society has given to politics. Consequently, certain stereotypes are often associated with both parties, and, unfortunately for Christians with left leanings across the nation, "Democratic" and "Christian" simply don't mix.

It's just after 9 p.m. Eastern Time. Obama has just won Mississippi as well as New York with its essential 29 electoral votes. Romney responds with big wins in Texas and Louisiana. Moments later, both CNN and ABC report that the Republicans will maintain power in the House of Representatives.

Two hours later, the race appears much less competitive. At 11 p.m. Eastern Time, the Associated Press announces that Obama has taken California, Washington and Hawaii. Romney manages to grab Idaho. In several minutes, CNN will inform the nation that the Democrats will maintain majority in the Senate. It will only be a matter of time until the race is officially called.

"My family, we're all Democrats, but I think I'm more conservative than them. But here, I'm definitely more liberal than my friends. I've learned a lot from them, and I'd like to think they've learned from me."

Meet Alyssa Currier. She grew up in Ottawa, Kan., and felt that they should be shipped back to Mexico or learn our language. That was a really frustrating conversation to have because it went against my values as a Christian. The Bible talks so much about welcoming strangers, and I feel like as Christians that should be our attitude. This is a country that is for everyone, not just English speakers.

"I don't think it is a huge deal," Currier said. "I don't want people to think that it's bad to be a Republican because I don't. I only speak up when I feel like it's necessary, like with the situation with the girl bashing on immigrants. But I really try not to be confrontational."

Bashing on immigrants? Currier sighed. "My freshman year, I had a conversation with a girl who really didn't like undocumented immigrants and felt that they should be shipped back to Mexico or learn our language. That was a really frustrating conversation to have because it went against my values as a Christian. The Bible talks so much about welcoming strangers, and I feel like as Christians that should be our attitude. This is a country that is for everyone, not just English speakers.

A senior at NW, Currier is double-majoring in political science and Spanish. If all goes well, she hopes her career will take her abroad, perhaps as a mediator between countries or an expert in conflict resolution with the United Nations. A law degree might fit somewhere, too. And lots and lots of traveling.

With her current aspirations, it makes sense that politics has always been an interest of Currier's.

"I've always liked politics; I think it is good to get a perspective on politics for the things I want to do in the future," Currier said.

With her family historically leaning to the left, Currier generally favors the Democratic Party, although there are always exceptions.

"A lot of it is it was the way I was raised, so a lot of certain values have been instilled in me," Currier said. "The part I believe in strongly is how the Democratic Party pushes for social programs for the poor."

She cites some tension with her political views, especially after deciding to attend college in Sioux County. She is in the minority, which she's accustomed to, given that her home is in heavily Republican Kansas. But the prominence of conservatism in Sioux County still baffles her.

"I was surprised to find that it was one of the most Republican counties in the country, but I don't think it's hostile," she said. "Everyone is pretty nice. But it is too bad that people don't get exposed to the Democratic side because it'd make them more informed as voters. Around here, Christian and Republican go together," Currier said. "To branch out would be like exploring another religion — why would you?"

"A lot of my friends growing up were Republicans, so I've always kind of been in the situation of a Democrat among Republicans," Currier said. "But I think it has been good because it has given me an inside perspective; it has made me sensitive to both sides."

Currier is not a devout Democrat. She said she firmly disagrees with abortion and would like the party to return to its peaceful international affairs platform. Not surprisingly, the events recently unfolding in Syria and President Obama's handling of them have made her nervous, borderline exasperated.

"I really like the idea of diplomacy first, war second; just not going to war quickly," she said.

For Currier, her political decision comes down to people. Poverty and immigration are two issues she sees as being central to Americans.

"I don't like the 'We earned it; it's ours' mentality because as Christians we're supposed to give to help our money given away," Currier said. "I think that the only Christian response is to help those in need."

Currier said she is passionate about the immigration issue. "I would really like to see the Republican Party adopt a more open platform on immigration because I agree with a lot of their points," Currier said. "There's a good chance that I would vote Republican if they were to do that."

In the end, Currier summed up her thoughts on politics in America by saying, "It wasn't designed to be a Godless country, but it also wasn't just designed for Christians. Overall I think there are a lot more moderates, and the media definitely makes politics seem more extreme than it really is."

It's nearly 1 a.m. on Nov. 7, 2012. Presidential candidate Mitt Romney has just finished his concession speech. His ruffled hair and sagging eyelids testify to the strenuous campaign that began 18 long months ago should they exit the stage and leaves the Republican Party angry, confused and dilapidated.

Martínez has long since finished his homework and sits alone in the lounge. He'd celebrate if he could, but most of the guys in the dorm either don't care or voted for Romney. Martinez returns to his room both excited and anxious to see how the next four years will unfold.

Currier grabs two empty bowls off the table and heads for the door. The chips and dip had been brought by her roommate, a registered Republican. Alyssa smiles at the thought of her friend attending the Campus Democrats election party. She also smiles because President Barack Obama has won a second term.
Punched in the empty stomach

BY JON HOLM

If you take a trip to Central America, you might complain about your stomach feeling uneasy for the first day, but during my stay in Honduras before the semester started, it took two weeks until my stomach finally stopped hurting. You can take Pepto Bismol, which might help a little, but in the end, you have to be ready to spend a lot of time letting your stomach adjust.

Don’t laugh. It’s life, and your stomach will slowly adjust. You might want to be ready for the lower prices. How could these two realities exist simultaneously? And could these two realities coexist? Many people who live in these countries, in particular in Nicaragua, are vulnerable to this reality.

The part of our program that we spent in Nicaragua only lasted 10 days, but it left a mark. Once, we passed as a group through the largest market in Central America.

An awful stench filled the air as we walked close to a dump.

Several people who were lying down and covered in filth stretched out their arms and tried to touch our shirts or shake our hands as we walked past. The filth was so terrible that I did not even want to step through there. As we continued walking, I saw pieces of meat hanging on hooks with blood dripping down and sewage puddles in the walkway. Pig’s snouts for sale and all manner of unsanitary things made me want to get out of there.

After that, we spent a couple hours at what our program described as “the upper-class mall.” It was more or less like a nice mall in the U.S., except for the lower prices. How could these two realities exist simultaneously? And why was it that a little beggar kid crawled across the floor of an ice cream shop - before being kicked out - to ask me for the rest of my ice cream cone? The hardest part was seeing a little beggar boy outside the mall who reminded me of what I looked like some years back.

After a couple days there, our professors sent us off in groups to live in communities, and that was the start of my hunger. Always, ALWAYS hungry. It never seemed to leave me alone those first days. It would be nighttime, and all I could think about was how hungry I was and how despairing the poverty must have been for those who were born into it and never escaped from it.

Most of the other students had enough to eat, but seeing as my host mom was too sick to even get out of bed, the dad did both his and her work. Some kids bathed in muddy puddles formed from the runoff of sudden rainstorms. My room was in a small shack with a dirt floor, and the kids ran here and there without shoes. Chickens and dogs came into my room constantly, and after a while I started to accept the new reality.

There are many more stories I could share, but just think about this article next time you feel tempted to complain on Facebook about chapel or an extra-long class. These stories are real, and those people are real. They face a life in that poverty, not just 10 days like I did.

Editor’s Note

The opinions published both in print and online are the opinions of the authors only. Beacon staff members do not necessarily support the opinions expressed in this section. Research and editing (other than formatting) of articles is the responsibility of the authors rather than the editors.

Respectfully,
the Beacon staff
Women's basketball

Soccer squad finishes first round of GPAC playoffs

Northwestern takes down Hastings 31-28

Junior outside hitter Kaitlin Floerchinger notched 20 kills and 20 digs. Floerchinger also recorded a career-high six aces. Sophomore outside hitter Haley Chambers notched 10 kills. Sophomore setter Brooke Fessler recorded 51 assists. Bart had 20 digs.

“Confidence was the key,” senior defensive specialist Nicole Jacobs said. When we competed for every point we reached another level of intensity that was not going to stop.”

NW will return to action on Saturday to host the GPAC tournament quarterfinals against Morningside. The match will start at 8 p.m.

“We will be taking this one game at a time like we have been doing all season,” Jacobs said. “Every opponent is going to give us their best shot, and we will prepare to take on those challenges every night.”

Last Saturday, NW won its final regular season road game over Midland in five sets. The win also clinched the regular-season GPAC championship for the Raiders.

NW hit .315 for the match. Floerchinger tallied 22 kills and hit on a .311 percentage. Sophomore middle hitter Kellie Goedken recorded 12 kills. Chambers and Schut recorded 13 and 10 kills each.

Soccer squads finish first round of GPAC playoffs

WOMEN’S SOCCER SEASON ENDS

The women’s squad fell at the hands of Midland on Thursday afternoon 2-0. The women had already fallen 2-1 at the hands of the Warriors earlier in the season.

The Raiders finished the season with a total record of 8-9-2. They were 5-4-1 in conference play.

Freshman Alissa Christoffer led the team with four goals from the midfield position. Three of them were game winners. Freshman Jahdai Dink and senior Alyssa Duren each scored three goals.

Junior Tyler Farr assisted on three goals, as did senior midfield captain and Jol Jensen.

Senior Ariel Watts played all 1,753 minutes of the season in goal. She saved 86 percent of the shots taken at her and recorded eight shutouts on the year.

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The first quarter belonged to the Raiders. A 30-yard field goal by freshman Julian Dittman and a one-yard plunge by senior Theatre Bartman allowed the hosts to sit at 10-0.

The Broncos returned the favor by dominating the second quarter through the air. Two touchdown passes had Hastings up 14-10 and 31-25.

On the Raiders first drive of the third quarter, senior Davis Bloemendaal found sophomore Court Ecklund and a one-yard plunge of the end zone. The Raiders were up 28-25.

With 7:03 left, the Raiders scored the go-ahead touchdown, 31-28. That was the final score as senior Harri Edwards of Northwestern's finishing the game off by dominating the offense.

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Symphonic Band to play guest’s piece

The Symphonic Band practices for its concert, which will be at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 8, in Christ Chapel.

BY LIZ KOTTICH

Northwestern’s Symphonic Band, directed by Professor Tim McGarvey, will feature a piece by composer James Syler in its upcoming concert.

Syler is a faculty member at the University of Texas. He will attend the concert to hear the symphonic band perform his piece, “The Hound of Heaven,” for which he won the prestigious Arnold Gabriel Composition Award.

The band will perform a variety of other pieces, including the traditional “Fanfare & Allegro” and funeral march “Trauersinfonie.” However, the highlight of the program, according to Professor McGarvey, will be “The Hound of Heaven.”

“I think that the pieces chosen by Dr. McGarvey are very diverse,” trumpet player Aaron Norman said. “There are serious pieces like ‘The Hound of Heaven’ and then celebratory pieces such as ‘Fanfare & Allegro.’”

“The Hound of Heaven” is based on an English poem by the same name written by Francis Thompson. It tells the story of a “hound chasing the hare,” which is analogous for God chasing after man. Throughout the piece, the man tries to find grace and happiness in worldly avenues such as nature, the stars or children. In the end, man realizes that the grace he seeks can only be found in God.

During the week leading up to the concert, Syler worked with NW band members on their songs and explained to them the story that his piece tells.

“The music inspires me, and I want people to be affected the same way,” McGarvey said. “My goal for the concert is to take the listeners on a journey.”

Other pieces that will be played by the band include “New Century Dawn,” “Circus Band” and “Imagine If You Will.” Each piece can be interpreted in many ways.

A variety of instruments will carry the melody and insure that everyone gets a chance to lead the band.

“I’m excited to perform a march that has French horns actually playing the melody,” French horn player Britta Wilson said. “Praise Jesus.”

This will be the Symphonic Band’s second performance of the year.

“I’m looking forward to being able to play with my friends in this concert and showing my family the pieces we have been working on,” trumpet player Drew Lemke said. “It should be a lot of fun.”

The Symphonic Band concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 8, in Christ Chapel.

Cafe faces fork shortage

Throughout the past few weeks, a trend has emerged in the Cafe. It seems there are not enough forks. It is a common sight to see students digging through silverware holders in search of a fork.

There is speculation about where all the forks have gone.

“I think the cause of the shortage is that people are taking the forks,” Ben Guhl said. “I think the cafeteria staff is trying to teach us a lesson by not supplying extra forks to make up the difference.”

Students have been affected in many ways by this apparent shortage. Some students feel strongly that something should be done.

Jenna Beeson said many of the meals she enjoys at the Cafe are traditionally considered “fork foods,” and the lack of forks has made eating meals difficult.

“The fork shortage is causing a lot of stress to already stressful lives,” Beeson said. “How are we supposed to eat the already ungraceful foods like salad with spoons and not look even more ridiculous than we normally do? I don’t think it’s possible.”

Hannah Shie, a work-study student in the Cafe, said that both the shortage and the reactions of various students have upset her.

“It’s frustrating not to be able to put out clean forks for everyone,” Shie said. “It’s also frustrating because people get mad at us for not having clean forks when there really isn’t much we can do. We work to get clean silverware and dishes to people as fast as we can.”

Last month, the Sodexo staff took more than 300 forks out of storage to add to the supply in circulation. Chef B.J. Whitmore suggested that perhaps students simply are not looking on all five silverware stations.

“I encourage students to check other silverware locations if they have trouble finding what they need,” Whitmore said. “Please inform a Sodexo employee so we can remedy the problem as quick as possible.”

Several students have thought of different solutions to the fork shortage. Kristen Schuler suggested that the Cafe serve pudding and applesauce for every meal so students do not have a need for forks. Beeson also came up with a possible fix.

“I feel like a simple solution would be for the Cafe to buy more forks,” Beeson said. “The student body can be proactive with this fork shortage and try to limit fork usage to one fork per person instead of getting a new fork for every dish.”

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