

Northwestern College, Iowa

NWCommons

The Beacon, 2023-2024

The Beacon student newspaper

9-8-2023

The Beacon, September 8, 2023

Beacon Staff

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Hospers RD is fired up for this fall

DANA VAN OSTRAND
READY FOR STUDENTS

JACK MACGREGOR
THEATRE

As returning and new students settle in for the academic year, a new member of resident life staff is also assimilating. Dana Van Ostrand is back at Northwestern as the resident director of Hospers Hall. After graduating from Northwestern in 2020, Van Ostrand worked as an Admissions Counselor for the 2020-2021 academic year until he moved to Jacksonville, FL, in the summer of 2021 shortly after marrying his wife, Amber.

During his time in Florida, Van Ostrand worked at two churches as a youth ministry director. He also worked at a golf course as a golf caddie, a job he appreciated for the change of pace. While in Jacksonville, the Van Ostrand's enjoyed going to live concerts, playing recreational sports with friends such as basketball and spike ball, and golfing at the course he worked at. In his free time

Van Ostrand is found reading and sharing ideas with others, but deeply values engaging with people and socializing.

Van Ostrand, though he relished city life, had a desire to come back to NW. Michael Simmelink, former Hospers RD and friend of Van Ostrand, informed him of the job opening in January of 2023. After applying, interviewing and receiving the job offer, Dana was ready to come back to NW and take up the torch as Hospers' new resident director

While transitioning into his new role at NW, Van Ostrand has been secure. As a former resident assistant of North Suites, he knew what to expect coming in as an RD. Current RA's of Hospers Owen Kolste (basement) and Collin Verschoor (third floor), described Van Ostrand's transition as "smooth". Verschoor acknowledged how a position like Dana's is built off of the shoulders of those that went before, and believes he has done that successfully. "It's a testament to Dana and Simm's work," Verschoor said. Verschoor also is excited to see Dana continue



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWCMARCOMM
Dana Van Ostrand, resident director of Hospers, begins new role serving students in the dormitory.

to thrive as Hospers RD. As he put it, "It's amazing to see how he relates to guys, walks into rooms and watches games with the guys." Kolste chimed in, "Dana is so personal and he cares. main goal this year is to steward the

strong culture Hospers has already developed. "I want people to feel known and connected," Van Ostrand put it. "I want to be a bridge for that in some capacity." A valued phrase in Hospers that resonates with Dana

is 'you belong because you exist'. As Dana expressed, the phrase "is foundational and should be in every Christian space."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Students beat the dorm room heat

STUDENTS SURVIVED
SCORCHING WEEK

REAGAN SCHOLTING
AG BUSINESS

There is no weather like Northwest Iowa weather. On the week of August 20th, a heat wave rolled through Northwest Iowa resulting in many Northwestern students searching for air conditioning. Temperatures reached up to 101 degrees with even higher heat indexes. To say it was hot would be an understatement.

There are three dormitories on campus that were without air conditioning. These include Hospers, Colenbrander, and Fern Smith's north and south wings. Students are very aware when they come to campus if their room has air conditioning or not. One can only wish for a cool August but that was not the case for this week. However, NW faculty and staff did all they could to provide these students with adequate places to sleep.

On Sunday afternoon at 2:47 p.m., a campus-wide email was sent out with options for sleeping accommodations for each of these halls. Hospers men were allowed to sleep in the basement and main floor lounges of their own hall, Coly men were given the lobby of the theatre building to sleep in, and the women in Fern had the option of sleeping in the Ramaker Fireside Room or Northwest Lounge. All students had to be out of these areas by 7:30 a.m. each morning.

Although everyone was given the option of cool areas to sleep, not very many took NW up on the offer. It could have been the fact that some are uncomfortable sleeping in public spaces or didn't want to have to be up by a certain time, but many NW staff members offered up spaces in their homes for students to sleep in the privacy of a home but there were still many who chose to stay in their blistering hot rooms.

"It seems as though students would rather put up with intolerable



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH
Air conditioning was a hot commodity in early August amongst NW students.

heat than leave their rooms." Julie Elliot said. "Students feel at home in their rooms."

Some students had mentioned that they simply feel more comfortable in their own rooms

due to the familiarity of people as well as the feeling of home. Still, it was nice to have the option of an air-conditioned place to sleep.

However, not everyone slept through the heat. Many found

themselves on a friend's couch in the apartments, others crowded into other dorms and some were able to crash at a family member's house in the area.

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“Zach Bryan” album feels fully human

NEW DIMENSION
TO COUNTRY
ANGST

JOSEPH CALLAHAN
NURSING

Over the last two calendar years, Zach Bryan has become a breakthrough country artist who has been releasing music at a blistering rate. In 2022, the debut of his “American Heartbreak” album exploded his “one man on a barstool” career into stardom. His lyrical style of putting everyday life experiences and human emotion into storyteller songs has stayed the same over the years. In this latest album simply titled “Zach Bryan” you will find elements of lost relationships, longings for feelings of home and a reminiscing on how things used to be. However, when you find that same Zach Bryan feeling, it will be bolstered in several ways.

In the song “Hey Driver” featuring Michael Trotter Jr. and Tanya Trotter of “The War and Treaty” Bryan takes a step back from the microphone. Listeners can hear Bryan say, “This is your song Mike, let’s do it.” Bryan’s voice becomes the consistent smooth background, while the Trotters take the spotlight with soul and active dynamics. With the primary

instrument complimenting these three vocalists being piano, this song feels like three friends in a living room describing a simplistic home just beyond the lonely winding road. The journey to find home is a theme found in much of Bryan’s music such as “The Outskirts” and “Tishomingo” from “American Heartbreak.”

“The Lumineers,” Kacey Musgraves and Sierra Ferrell feature in “Zach Bryan.” All three songs describe romantic relationships. “Holy Roller” with Ferrell describes a love that is very human and simple. The chorus singing “I ain’t ever been a holyroller, but I found God in your eyes”. In contrast “I remember everything” with Kacey Musgraves tells a story about love that is lost, but memories that endure. Much like “Holy Roller”, “Spotless” featuring “The Lumineers” is a love song portraying the power of love between people of imperfection. A repetitive line in this song is “If you want spotless, I’ll always lose, I don’t want love, lover I want the truth”.

A lyrical skill Bryan owns with writing romance songs is that he can fully capture love and heartbreak without making the subject the representative of absolute goodness or evil. The subjects of his love are portrayed in wholesome details that make them feel fully human to the

listener. They are not written to be perfect angels redeeming his troubled past, nor are they the villains of his heartbreak. In his songs people are people whether the love he has shared with them is present or gone away. That is the draw many listeners have to Bryan’s work. They imagine themselves finding love because the subjects of his love songs are not fairytales. They are loved for the ways they dance or prefer their coffee. Bryan’s lyrics give hope that love is something for the most ordinary of people.

The final new element presented in this album is the angst that seems to be stemming from Bryan’s newfound career. “Ticking” and “Tradesman” are two songs fueled by a life spent celebrity collaborations, diverse instrumental features, and an overall more interesting musical experience compared to previous albums. Bryan also presents a new dimension to his typical country boy angst, now singing about struggles associated with the demands and life changes associated with his growing career. On the road and away from the life the singer, presumably Bryan, used to live. “Ticking” is song of letting go. It is as though the singer has come to terms with the requirements of a life spent on the road. Specifically, the love that he has for a girl must be cut off. It is as though Bryan is



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

caught between love and success putting him in a place where he is dissatisfied either way. Finally in the song “Tradesman” Bryan sings a heartfelt tune wishing himself back to the days of blue-collar work. Where he felt the simple satisfaction found in early mornings and sweat. He describes feelings of ostracization in the career he

finds himself singing “They look at me so strange when I talk”.

Overall, this artist named album brings that classic Zach Bryan feel with new flavors. He is certainly branching beyond the same cowboy chord repertoire and proving himself as a high-quality musician and writer. With new voices, instruments, and emotional elements this

album has listeners humming on their way to class, feeling nostalgic for a life, they perhaps, have never even lived.

★★★★★

Gerwig’s storytelling seldom seen on screen

MOVIE REVIEW

BOLD, COLORFUL,
AND VULNERABLE

LIAM NIBBELINK
THEATRE

“Hi, Barbie!” is one of the newest trending phrases in modern popular culture. The reason for this trend, in which women and men randomly wave to one another in passing while referring to one another as “Barbie” or “Ken,” is the recent release of Greta Gerwig’s “Barbie,” based on the wildly popular, plastic, fashion doll that we all know and love.

With this film, Gerwig takes a storytelling approach that is seldom seen in film or television adaptations of intellectual property targeted toward children. With this film, Gerwig decided to tell her story in a mature fashion that takes this children’s toy and places Barbie in a narrative more geared towards the adults who grew up with her. Barbie faces many obstacles that are not commonly portrayed with such vulnerability in children’s media. In one scene, Barbie is catcalled and touched inappropriately by a man, and in another a Barbie doll gets bleeped out

in a line where she uses a hard expletive. Furthermore, Gerwig decides to use this narrative of a Barbie doll in Barbie Land to depict struggles of depression, anxiety and even body image struggles, which are all common struggles that women face, but that can be dense and complex concepts for any story to tackle, let alone a film about a plastic children’s toy that wears sparkly dresses and lives in a bright pink dreamhouse. However, Gerwig’s masterful writing makes it all work in the end.

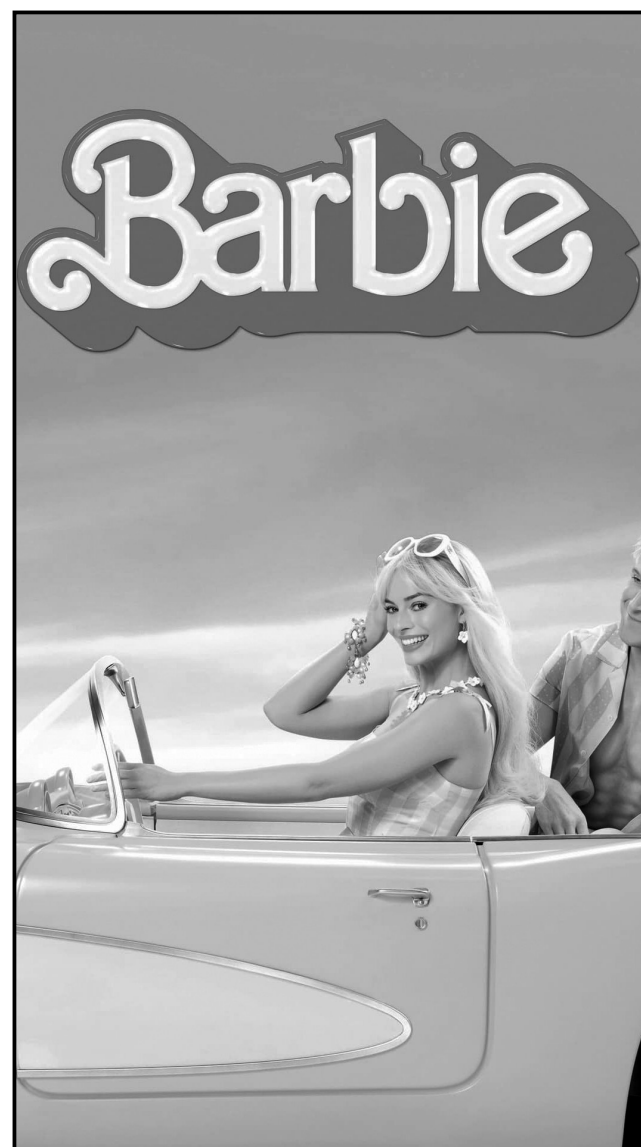
One common complaint of this film is that it seems to force a sexist, ultra-feminist agenda that can be seen as praising women as superior to men. While the film is definitely a feminist story (which the world needs more of, to be honest) it actually paints a beautiful image of the ways in which men and women (or, in this case, Kens and Barbies) can coexist with one another in a healthy manner that does not actively oppress or put down either gender. The majority of the film depicts the main Ken (Ryan Gosling) discovering the patriarchal societal structure of the “real world” (the modern day United States). This is a pivotal moment in the film because in Barbie Land, the gender roles

are basically polar opposite. The Barbies run everything and hold all significant positions of power, while the Kens spend all of their time mindlessly chilling on the beach looking pretty. This sets it up so the perspectives of life in a functioning society are immediately flipped upside down for both Ken and Barbie (Margot Robbie); Ken learns that the “real world” gives men the majority of the roles of high authority and power, while Barbie learns that women are not respected anywhere near as much as they should be. These changes in perspective cause two very different forms of character development for each. Ken’s ego inflates and he goes back to Barbie Land with a new trashy and entitled attitude, while Barbie becomes deeply troubled and has a mental breakdown while she tries to wrap her mind around the difficult issues and struggles that women face.

Despite this somewhat polarizing central conflict, Gerwig does not for even a second let the film lose its sense of playfulness and outright goofiness. That’s the real glue that holds this film together as a crowd-pleasing and wildly entertaining film. Additionally, everything that

occurs throughout this film is tied back to something so obviously ridiculous, such as the fact that everything the Barbies and Kens do or say in Barbie Land are meant to be the kinds of things a child would make their Barbie doll say when playing an imaginary game with their dolls in their bedroom. Another example of this is when Ken injures himself, he goes to the doctor but doesn’t even need treatment because his plastic limbs instantly heal and never actually hurt.

Overall, Barbie is a bold and colorful film that takes a staple of American childhood and pairs the juvenile nature of the toy with a raw and vulnerable story of the flaws and holes in modern political systems and societal structures, as well as the true conflict of gender equality that pervades those systems. The theme, at the end of the day, is that despite our human failings and senseless arguments, we are all (men and women alike) “Kenough.”



★★★★★

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MOVIE DATABASE

Glimpse into courage-building retreat

BRIDGE CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

NATHANIA SMITH
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

A sense of community; that's what Northwestern is all about. The Bridge Center lives up to that calling and provides a place where everyone can feel part of something and come as they are. This is what creates community. There is something special about how small the group is that gets the opportunity to attend.

The Bridge Scholar retreat is an opportunity for Scholars to learn about who other involved are and what makes them tick.

On the retreat, they had a chance to connect with people from campus that they might not have had the opportunity to connect with otherwise. There were moments of downtime where they found themselves diving into conversations about who they were and where they all came from. There were also

lots of team-building exercises, which is a favorite parts of the whole trip. This year, scholars were broken up into two small teams who got to zip-line, walk through a high ropes course, and have the chance to kayak and canoe on Lake Okoboji. Most people were able to stay afloat, but that was not the case for all.

A highlight of the team bonding happened on the high ropes course. When it came time to go on the high ropes course, one member started to panic. She did not want to attempt the towering course but at the same time, she did not want to walk away regretting not taking the chance and going out of her comfort zone.

Dr. Chris Nonhof was one of the adult leaders on the trip and even though the scholar believed she was concealing her anxiousness Dr. Nonhof saw right through her. He did not pressure her to go on the ropes course or call her out for being scared, instead, he encouraged

her by telling her that he would go either right in front of her or right behind her to encourage her along the way.

A sense of peace rushed over her by his simple gesture. She was climbing her way up the pole. As she climbed her way up and stepped onto the small wooden platform at the top, Dr. Nonhof spoke nothing but encouragement.

As the scholar made her way through the ropes course he followed behind and continued to encourage and compliment her. It wasn't just Dr. Nonhof that cheered on the nervous student though, her fellow team members also encouraged her along the way, and made her feel capable and brave. This is just a small glimpse into a fraction of the weekend-long retreat.

Bridge Scholars encourage students to check out the Bridge Center, come to an event alone or with friends, and spend some time with the leaders, the Scholars, the interns.



PHOTO BY PRATIK PAUDEL
Bridge Scholars and leaders pose for photo during retreat

Design professor digs into the digital age

STEPS CLOSER TO THE AFFECTS OF MEDIA

COLLIN VERSCHOOR
ENGLISH TEACHING

For many a college student what I am about to propose is something that you may have only heard of, but never experienced. Imagine a life where the internet was not active in your youth but rather kicked off as you graduated college.

For Jessica Henderson, an Assistant Professor of Design at Bethel University in St. Paul MN, this life, its questions and feelings are what propels her to make art. Henderson works along the lines of self-actualization in the social media age to figure out how smartphones and social media form/formed her.

The walls of Northwestern's Te Paske Gallery are currently filled with upwards of 40 pieces from Henderson with the exhibit titled "Look Am I." Henderson's unique and often layered, two-dimensional work is created through processes such as vinyl cutting, CNC routing, digital printing and screen printing.

Upon first viewing of the exhibit, it is not hard to notice that Henderson primarily uses the neutral colors of black, white and gray. This use of minimal colors allows for certain aspects of the pieces to stand out, including her use of metallic accents and refractive materials, that catch the viewer's eyes when the pieces are hit with light. Once the viewer notices how the light and angle affect the work, they are encouraged to get different perspectives of the pieces.

If a viewer is to step closer to the pieces, the intentional layering from Henderson becomes more evident and intriguing. Throughout several pieces, phrases and words can be seen, with some being hidden

and others being the forefront of the piece. It is through this artful language that Henderson's intention of exploring social media really starts to bleed through. The work is littered with phrases such as "so alone," "Trying to figure this out" and "the world is not real." These statements, which seem to be a plea for help, could be Henderson commenting on the negative effects that social media has been seen to have on people's mental health.

Problems with self-worth and body image have long been tied to social media and the lives that are portrayed in them. Henderson, trying to reflect her history with social media openly admits to trying to distract the viewer from the deeper meanings in her work. On her website Henderson says, "The work itself contains mixed media pieces that play with material, dimensional, conceptual and process-based tension. Slick, flat, screen-like acrylic surfaces are disrupted by gestural shapes and the action of seeing is challenged by various forms of camouflage, layering and overt distraction through the use of materials like mirrored vinyl."

Perhaps this camouflage is a way for Henderson to comment on the distractions that social media can bring about, or how people willingly use social media to distract themselves from other issues. Whatever Henderson is trying to communicate could be interpreted differently by each viewer. In a time where technology and contact around the world sits in our pockets, we all have different stories and experiences with social media. Henderson's work puts the viewer in the position of storyteller, it calls for the viewer to dig into their own lives and see how they have been formed by the digital age.



PHOTO BY JACK MACGREGOR
"Look Am I" art exhibit on display in the Te Paske Gallery

Orange City
ACE
Hardware

Beholding the arts in a professor's office

EXAMINING THE ARTS

JOSIAH TROUTNER
WORSHIP ARTS

Take a sneak peak into the office of an art department chair, Phil "Mary Poppins" Scorza. Not only the chair of the department but a celebrated artist in his own right, Scorza's office could be better described as part exhibition hall, part studio and part mad science lab. Pieces come and go (though the hood of a 68' Chevy he mounted to the wall seems pretty permanent) as his office functions as storage for his completed pieces and a temporary home for works coming and going to exhibitions from New York to California.

Further, Scorza's office is an active art studio for dozens of pieces in various stages of completion, with some unfinished pieces decorating the walls to be accessible as soon as inspiration strikes. High ceilings, white walls and a studio-quality lighting rig make Scorza's office

an ideal location for displaying his work. With his eclectic style that bridges screen printing, pop-art and mixed media; pieces with inspirations as far flung as the moon landing, Superman and Ray-Ban, Phil Scorza's playful and vibrant art brings life, mystery and curiosity to the ordinary.

With his use of mixed media, boundary pushing techniques and playful Warhol-inspired style, Scorza has an artistic ethos bordering on mad scientist. Whether he's using the jerry-rigged pigment transfer method of his own design, caustic chemicals like lighter fluid and bleach or even a handful of Sweet Tarts, Phil's got the eye and the skill to find beauty and creativity in the least of things, and it's this artistic wizardry which gave him the nickname "Mary Poppins" for his ability to bring art from junk.

Scorza's great talent and creativity, it seemed only fitting to lend him this platform to comment on the art world today as he sees it, to which he

had this to say: "Visual art at the moment is low on the totem pole.... We're in a space where if you don't understand, you research, but with visual art, people don't take the time. People give an hour or two to a movie or play, but with art they say, 'explain it to me!'" It's a fast-paced world out there, and that pace mixed with the sheer volume of images we're presented with has devalued the visual mediums. Doom scrolling, and micro-cultures have caused us to seek out cheapened art that reflects well on us rather than causing us to reflect on it.

So, spend some time with some art this week - take some time to seriously enjoy the visual arts. Spend an hour in the art building looking at Jessica Henderson's exhibition or check out Scorza's office to see his work. Be taken aback by the beauty there is to be found in the ordinary, and let its meaning reflect on you as you reflect on it. Let yourself be in awe of God's

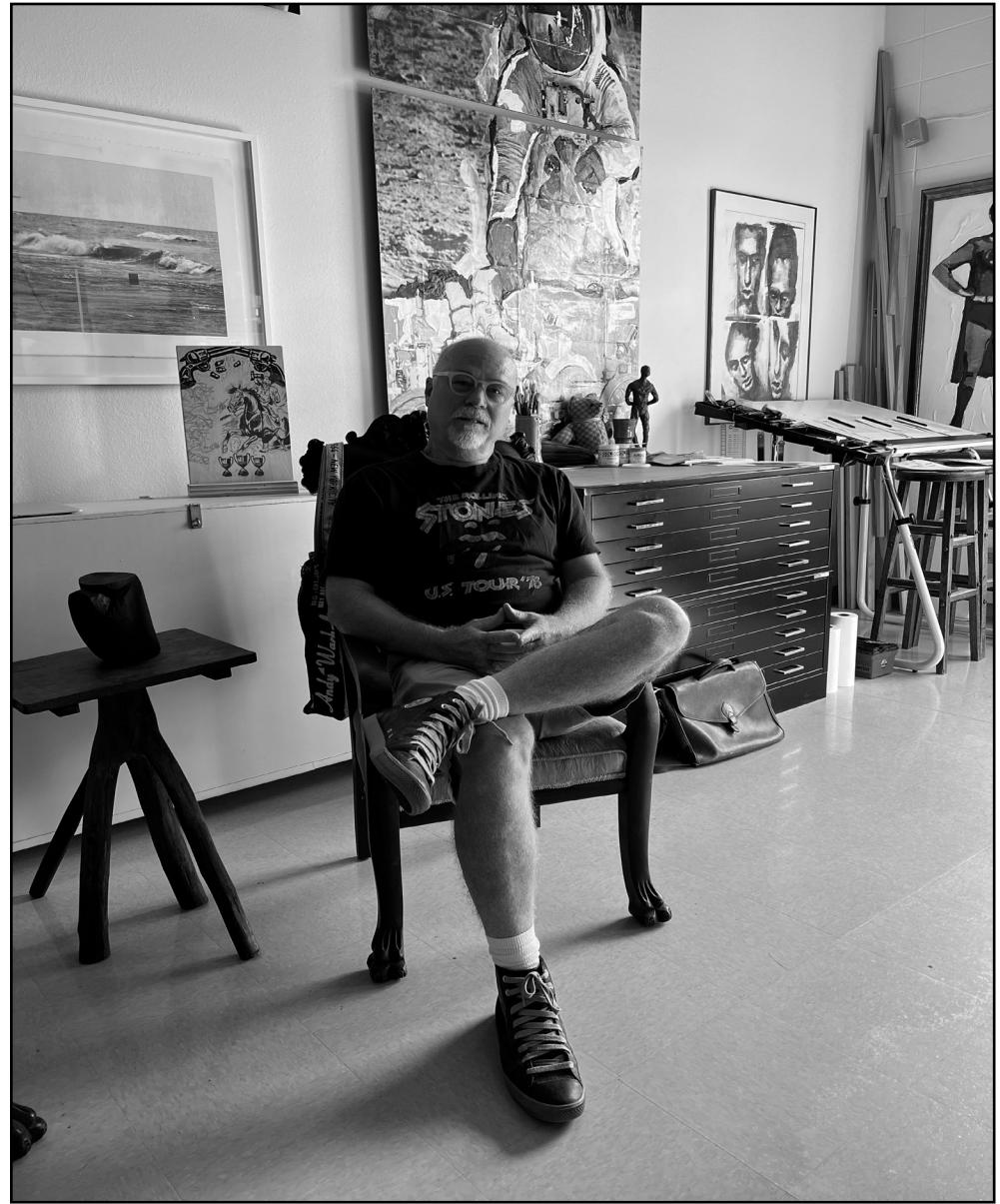


PHOTO BY LILLIAN REITH

NW art professor enjoys the arts so much, that he decorated the office with various mediums.

creation this week. Your much an act of worship as at P&W, the theatre or the enjoyment of it is just as the hour or two you spend movies.

Hospers welcomes new Resident Director

FROM PAGE 1

As the semester carries on, students should feel free to introduce themselves to Dana and get to know him. "He's such an easy person to connect with," Verschoor said. "He wants to connect with people even if you're not a Hospers guy."

Van Ostrand loves how NW students are able to jump into activities. "Students want to support other students in their endeavors, not necessarily out of their own interest in the activity, but their interest and care for the people involved," Van Ostrand said in his staff bio. "Dana is great at encouraging students all around campus - not

just to the Hospers' residents," Verschoor said.

While on his new adventure as RD, Van Ostrand looks back on his NW days as a first-year student. "I will never forget how quickly anxiety about living in the dorm dissipated during those first few weeks of on campus," Van Ostrand's bio states. "I felt incredibly welcomed by everyone - including my RD, RA and the seniors living in the hall - and it moved me to really value my residence."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Resident Assistants of Hospers Hall and Van Ostrand look forward to cultivating community in the dorm.

Shopping Sustainably in Sioux County Cities

ENJOYING THE FARMERS MARKETS

ELENA LEE
HISTORY

Grab your reusable grocery bags and apply your homemade deodorant, because Sioux County has two farmers markets around the area that anyone – granola girls and cowboys alike – can enjoy. Throughout the summer and early fall, Northwest Iowa hosts farmers markets once a week in order to give local vendors the chance to sell their produce and goods. This also gives buyers the opportunity to find locally sourced food and trinkets. Every Wednesday from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Sioux Center hosts a farmers market in their Centre Mall parking lot, and every Saturday from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Orange City, you can find booths of vendors down Central Avenue.

Now, upon hearing the term “farmers market,” it is natural to experience some confusion. Is it a

market for farmers specifically? Is it a market made up of farmers? Is it a market that sells farmers? Or is this some weird, small town FarmersOnly.com? The answer is a bit of everything. (except the selling farmers part. That’s not cool). Farmers markets are opportunities for people of the community to share what they are passionate about, and to make a profit to support their business and families. This tradition of creating spaces for small businesses to thrive dates back thousands of years, and it continues to be a space that gives people today the chance to advertise and share their craft.

The Orange City farmers market features a variety of vendors and booths and is sure to have something for everyone. Fresh produce makes up the majority of what is offered, but there are also crocheted goods, potted plants, fresh flowers, honey, eggs and homemade baked goods. Junior Elliana Zerr, frequent market attendee, says

that “It’s such a fun way to get outside, spend some time with friends, and to meet nice people from the community!”

Senior produce-enthusiast Clara Pahl echoes this statement, saying that “It is a small but mighty market with lots of local honey and cute dogs.”

In addition to cute dogs, you can also find items that are locally sourced, ethically made and environmentally friendly. For instance, one stand sells reusable crocheted dish sponges and another offers shampoo bars, which eliminate the use of single use items and plastic bottles. This is a great opportunity for students who are looking to try their hand at sustainability but might not know where to start.

The Sioux Center market includes similar opportunities, but the main vendor is Cornucopia: a farm that supplies many of the local businesses with their produce. They offer a monthly subscription-style



PHOTO BY PRATIK PATEL

Local farmers markets provide social, economical, and environmental advantages for all.

system, where you can sign up for your “share,” and then pick up a bag of fresh produce once a month. This provides a steady source of vegetables and gives the farm steady business.

There are still benefits for those who aren’t looking to shop: farmers markets offer chances to meet new people and get involved with the community. For instance,

one vendor had a flower picking event that they put up signs for, which many college students would not have known about if not for going to the market. Furthermore, as college students, it is so easy to stay in the campus bubble and forget that there are real people with real jobs just a half mile away. Northwestern is not the only thriving community

in Orange City, and by getting out and shopping locally, students are able to form connections and gain opportunities that academia does not offer. The markets are a great opportunity to meet local people, get connected with nature and to invest in the city that has already invested so much in to the college.

Heat wave takes over NW

FROM PAGE 1

“We all made the best out of a really bad situation,” said Elliot.

Minimal concerns and complaints were made to NW faculty about the lack of air conditioning. Those who did express their concern were parents, not students. Students seemed to be very calm and light-hearted with the entire

situation. In fact, some students chose to leave their air-conditioned rooms and sleep in the heat instead. A group of men from North Suites were spotted sleeping in Coly so that they could call themselves survivors of the heat wave. Some even slept in sweaters.

Once again, there is no weather like Northwest Iowa weather. Here at NW, any day can consist of extreme

heat or bitter cold or both - one may never know. With sudden changes in weather, NW staff has always and will continue to do all they can to keep students safe and comfortable. It is safe to say that the students and staff of NW won this round against mother nature; NW beat the heat.



PHOTO BY MARISSA LERAAS

Sophomore Hope Wallace reenacts sleeping in the theatre building.



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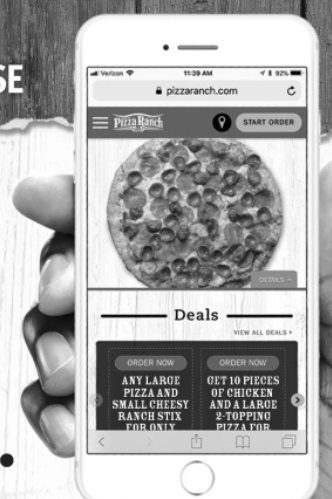
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Clara Pahl
Psychology

Most Christians know about C.S. Lewis and his slow conversion to Christianity. They rave about the Saul-to-Paul miracle. They might even identify with the prodigal son.

I grew up hearing these classic conversion stories alongside aggressive churchgoers who had a knack for re-evangelizing the evangelized. The stories were righteous permission slips for them to piously ask anybody “if they knew Jesus.” They memorized Bible passages inside out and backwards. They knew object lessons, egg analogies, cross diagrams and Ken Ham quotes.

Sadly, they misunderstood the new exodus, which includes 70 percent of previously professing Christian college students who graduate disaffiliated and disinterested in church, as reported by Barna’s group. Other researchers cite similar statistics.

Loving the one and leaving the congregational 99 might be the Evangelical Achille’s Heel.

As a kid, I knew this intuitively, unable to verbalize my numbness towards my childhood church which recently joined the Southwest Baptist Convention. My faith was smothered underneath nonsensical doctrines and circular arguments until my religious cognition dissolved into a Holy Spirit-less existentialism.

God was a literary muse, and Jesus was a hyper-idealized teacher.

I didn’t realize I had been in a faith crisis until a close friend identified her own. Afterall, if you cannot verbalize something— cannot put it into your semantic memory— do you actually understand it?

Yet, mourning is experiencing these missing appendages; you and I are called to sit with those who have phantom sensations.

“Nobody teaches you how to grieve the loss of your faith,” Rachel Held Evans wrote.

Truly, no person was going to fill my black hole of questions about beauty, forgiveness and science, but I somehow resisted denying the communal God. I kept three people very close to me to talk about injustice and the shadow I felt between me and Christ. Intellectually, I knew faith was a state of being best evolved slowly. It would take empiricism and deep historical and artistic reflection about mine and Christ’s life.

However, I was self-conscious about turning into a C.S. Lewis bobblehead with poetic language written on my forehead in bold font to announce to the world that I had done it!

I converted! I logic-ed myself into believing again!

Yes, even Lewis, I hold loosely. My opinion is that you hold me loosely, too.

Now, I see my younger self in anxious freshman engaged in ‘radical’ conversations with faculty, stunned by new theology, vowing to never return to their parents’ church. You and I are called to give them space and courage to seek a new thing:

Metamórfosi, a transfiguration. Kintsugi, if you will.

And because Jesus took with him three disciples that day, and kept them close, we should do the same. We should expect bright light from this gathering.

Intellectual and spiritual humility do not come from harsh evangelism, being defensive, or breaking people into thinking differently than they do. To become more human, you must be gentled. Then, like in Jeremiah, you must learn to run with the horses.

“The mark of a certain kind of genius is the ability and energy to keep returning to the same task relentlessly, imaginatively, curiously, for a lifetime,” Eugene Peterson said.

This takes ungodly amounts of hope. You and I are called to pursue our neighbors relentlessly, with a love and a light that only our transfigured Christ can claim.

HOT TAKES

WHAT NON-DORM BUILDING WOULD YOU WANT TO SLEEP IN DURING THE HEAT WAVE?

“Drew Schmidt’s office”

“Kepp”

“Science building co-lab”

“The theatre sounds cozy”

“PGC’s house”

WHAT DID YOU STEAL FROM THE CAF TO MAKE THE BACKPACK RULE RETURN?

“One fork a day for a whole semester”

“A 128 oz can of nacho cheese”

“Stacy’s chef hat”

“Their hearts :)”

The quotes expressed in these polls represent student opinion and is no way intended to indicate particular perspectives or beliefs of the beacon staff.

Be sure to follow the Beacon on Instagram to submit your own CAMPUS QUOTES!

The power of presence



Noah Roisum
International Business Major

“Once upon a time, in a world without cars and screens, people had no choice but to live where they lived,” writes author Scott Hubbard. While this seemingly obvious observation may not seem to be ripped from the pages of a profound philosophical essay or the mouth of a genius detective, its implications are actually quite deep and quite relevant to the present context we find ourselves in. How many of us would say that we are more prone to actively engaging the people around us and the physical places we inhabit than retreating to our screens? While we might be tempted to dismiss or rationalize this question away, our answer unavoidably carries vital significance for our lives.

Without a doubt, the era of social media and digital connectedness has given us the tremendous blessing of

staying in touch with geographically distant friends and family. This is not the issue. The danger is in how our digital age has effectively uprooted us from the moment we are in.

An alternate universe that promises a sense of escape, distraction, and connection resides in our pockets and constantly beckons for our attention. Unfortunately, the more we run to this alternate universe, the more isolated and lonely we become. In his book, “12 Ways Your Phone is Changing You,” Tony Reinke puts it this way: “The smartphone is causing a social reversal: the desire to be alone in public and never alone in seclusion.” Rather than engaging in conversation with the real person sitting next to us, we’d rather engage the shallow online profile of someone we hardly know. Instead of participating in campus or community events, introducing ourselves to our neighbors, or getting genuine rest that feeds our souls and bodies, we’re content to hole up in our dens, mindlessly scroll, and settle for a virtual universe that robs us of the most meaningful aspects of our physical lives.

Reinke writes, “The more we take refuge in distraction, the more habituated we become to mere stimulation and the more desensitized to delight. We lose our capacity to stop and ponder something deeply,

to admire something beautiful for its own sake, to lose ourselves in the passion for a game, a story, or a person.” The digital age has subtly yet drastically, altered the human psyche in ways that should startle us, and there are myriad reasons why we should attempt to counter this shift. Psychological studies have shown that those who live with a mindset oriented towards the present moment are most content with life. Ephesians 5:15-16 calls us to live wisely by “making the best use of the time” we are given. Perhaps most importantly, living out our calling of loving God and neighbor requires us to be present for it.

This is not to say that our phones and social media accounts are bad. Rather, it is a challenge for us to ponder and reorder our habits. It makes a difference when we put down our screens and engage with the person next to us. It matters when we embrace the stillness of quiet moments, take in our surroundings as we walk to class and regain our capacity to ponder deeply. Both ourselves and our neighbors will be better for it when we embrace the power of being present. Let’s be that kind of people.

Editor’s Note

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GPAC Setter of the Week: Liv Reitsma

AN ATHELETE WORTH WATCHING

KATE MCEWEN
SPORT MGT-MEDIA

Liv Reitsma is a young ambitious athlete who continues to impress Raider fans with each game she plays. Only two weeks into her sophomore year of college, Reitsma was nominated player of the week and accomplished her 1000th assist of the game. With such talent, amazing coaches and teammates, it is no surprise Reitsma has made these accomplishments.

Her outstanding performance is witnessed on the court and is a result of how dedicated she is to this team outside of practice. "Sports helped me with different aspects of my game when it comes to certain motions, my mindset, and

playing under different types of coaches" she said.

Reitsma has been in sports her whole life and understands the meaning of being an athlete. Reitsma doesn't just play for the experience; she plays to learn. She views her teammates as more than just competitors; they have become some of her closest friends on campus.

As much as Reitsma values her friends and volleyball, her family will always come first. Being from Bellevue Ne, it is a short two-hour drive away from the comfort of her family.

"My family has been with me and my athletic career since day one," Reitsma said. And they continue to show unconditional support through college. "As far as my family goes, they are my number one supporter, so it's not often I look to the stands and one of them isn't there cheering us on."

Balancing practice, school, friends and a part-time job on campus can be time-consuming and stressful. However Reitsma thrives at being organized so the school's busy schedule does not intimidate her. Majoring in Sports Management-Leadership and getting her coaching endorsement is a goal for Reitsma as she hopes to one day coach her own team or work in the sports industry. It is no surprise Reitsma was nominated as athlete of the week. Her work ethic and attitude are an inspiration to those who watch her play.



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Liv Reitsma makes her 1,000th set.

NW Soccer Represents Across the US

SCORES IN MONTANA AND ILLINOIS

KAYLEE BANDSTRA
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Northwestern men and women soccer teams travelled a significant distance to play their first games of the season. The men's team started their season in the Chicago area, while the women's kicked off their season in Montana.

The men's soccer team had a 2-0 win against Roosevelt in Arlington Heights, Il. The Roosevelt game made forward Stan van den Beld Scooter's player of the week. The Raiders put up a fight at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Il, but lost 3-1 to the Trolls.

Head Men's Soccer coach, Dan

Swier, says that this trip was great for team building both on and off the field. "These trips are always good for building team camaraderie, even if everything doesn't go the way you want it to," Swier said. "On this particular trip, we enjoyed overcoming the extreme heat conditions to win our first match of the season against Roosevelt. We enjoyed our day off in downtown Chicago."

To the west, the women's soccer team had strong showings in Montana, but lost both games during their time in the Big Sky state. The Raiders started their season by playing against University of Providence Argos in Great Falls, Montana, but lost 2-4. The women's next game was in Helena, against Carroll University. Another loss: 0-2.

Midfielder Julie Dunlap enjoyed

the bonding time the team was able to have during this long trip. "The drive was long, which meant we spent a ton of time together on the bus watching movies, playing games, laughing (and) getting to know each other," Dunlap said. "I enjoyed getting ice cream after one of our games, and while we ate, we listened to a busker who was playing guitar and singing."

Goalkeeper Abigail Bastian, who got 12 saves during the Carroll game, said that the losses did not hurt team morale. "I think the most memorable moments from the trip were when we were driving from Great Falls to Helena," Bastian said. "It was disappointing to have lost the game, especially after being up 2-0 at half, but most of the girls still held their head up high."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW ATHLETICS
Women's soccer huddles before the game.

Red Raider Football NAIA National Champions

FIRST IN NAIA POLL

NICHOLE HANSEN
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Last year, the Northwestern football team reached one of their greatest goals as of today: making it to the NAIA Championship in North Carolina. Not only did they make it to the finals, they came out on top, which has placed them at the number one spot in the NAIA preseason poll. Though this was a great accomplishment for the NW football team and their coaches, even more pressure lies on their shoulders for how they will compete this upcoming season.

"Winning the national

championship and now being ranked number one puts a lot of pressure on our team," said sophomore team member Peyton Carroll. "Being number one means we have to prove why we are number one, which helps us push our team to work harder and play harder and to show the other teams why we are ranked highly." The team has a lot of work to return to their previous season's winnings, though several team members and coaches, agree that they have what it takes.

Head coach, Matt McCarty, spoke on the team's focus as they head into the new season. "I think the biggest thing going into this year is continuing to focus on the way we do things," he

said. "Even last season, our focus was never on winning a championship but instead our focus was on doing things every single day at a championship level." This focus remains as they want to pursue excellence daily. Carroll also commented on what he believes the team has going for them when it comes to their focus in practice. "We focus on the little details in everything we do, down to blocking, catching the football, ball security and knowing what to do on the plays called on the field," he said. "We also specialize in taking it one day at a time and getting one percent better every time (they) practice."

As the season draws nearer, it is clear that

the team has a great opportunity on the horizon. "It is great to open the season as the number one team," Coach McCarty said. "As we saw last season, playing at home in the playoffs can be a huge advantage. Ratings determine the home teams, so starting out at the top of the poll is great." Ultimately, the players are aware that they cannot skip ahead to the postseason. They need to continually grow and improve, so the entire team, coaches and all, are playing their best the next time they step on the field to prove their point.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW ATHLETICS
Red Raiders make a tackle during national

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Change in Caf rules causes questions

BAN ON BACKPACKS IS BACK

MCKENNA RAWSON
CHRISTIAN ED/YOUTH MIN

While walking towards the Caf for their first meal of the school year, returning students were met with an unfamiliar sight. Backpacks of all shapes, sizes and colors lined the walls and floor of the lobby. New students may not have thought twice about this sight, seeing it as just another new thing to become familiar with. Upperclassmen were surprised at this sight and not necessarily welcome to the change.

The sight of backpacks piled up in the Caf lobby used to be commonplace. For years, it was normal for students to drop their bags off before coming into the cafeteria because backpacks were not allowed inside. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the backpack rule was removed to help with traffic flow and social distancing. Students were allowed to bring their backpacks into the Caf so that they could enter in one door and come out a different door, preventing a crowd of people from forming at the main

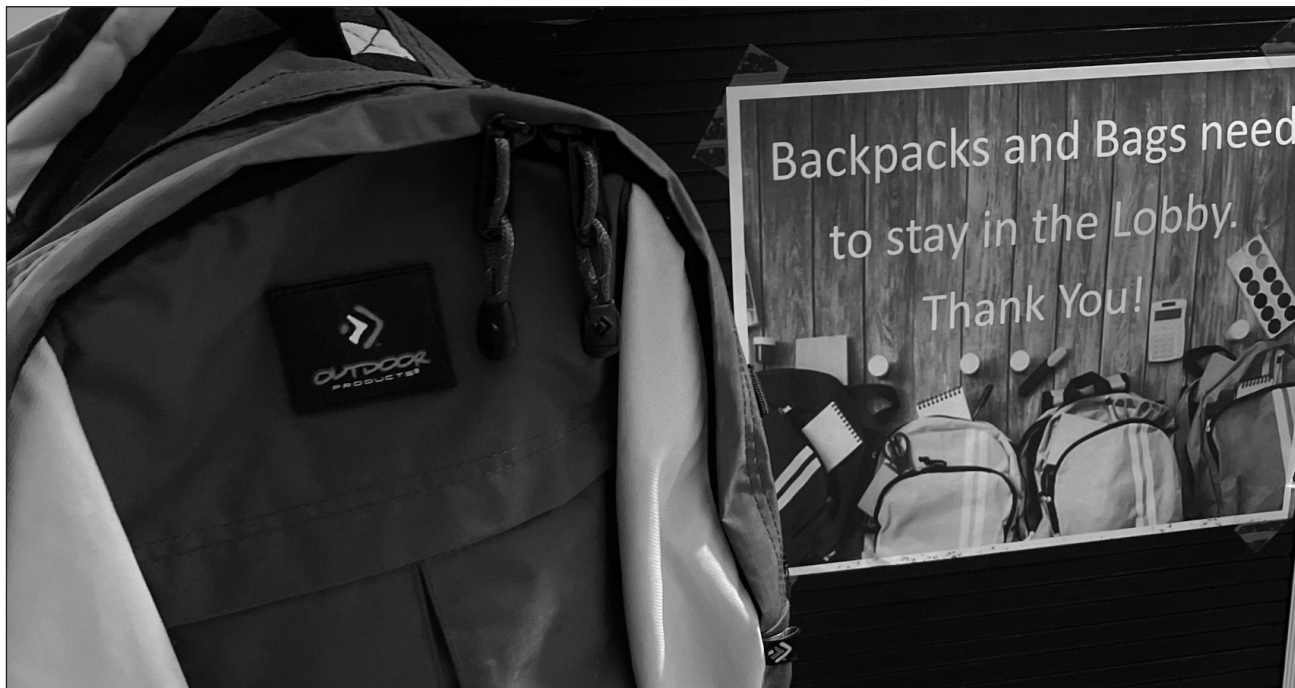


PHOTO BY NORAH BEEKHUIZEN
Campus dining staff reinstated the no backpack rule to address problems of theft and to keep meal plan costs down.

entrance.

The allowance of backpacks in the Caf remained in place for a few years, causing students to grow used to it. However, backpacks began to be a problem last school year. The Caf staff has decided to start enforcing the rule again as bags became a tripping hazard for people walking by, and too many food items were being taken from the Caf.

During the 2022-2023 school year, bags were increasingly used to take food out of the Caf. Things like

whole loaves of bread, wrapped sandwiches and large amounts of fruit were being put into backpacks and taken out. Some have questioned why this is considered a problem. After all, students pay for the food, so why can't they take it with them?

The staff explained that the food students pay for is the food they eat in the Caf and not the food that is taken out. Shelly Grotenhuis, a staff member, stated, "In an effort to keep the price of your meal plan down, we reinstated the

no backpack rule."

For students that want to take a meal out of the Caf, there are green to-go boxes available for a \$5.00 deposit that students will get back at the end of the year with the return of their green box. When a student comes into the Caf with a green box, they can exchange it for a clean box, put food in and take it out of the Caf.

Campus dining staff encourages students to purchase a green box if they want to take food outside of

the Caf and eat it elsewhere. It is hoped that with backpacks being banned from the Caf again, there will be fewer instances of food being smuggled out.

While campus dining staff recognizes that backpacks and bags are convenient for students, they are requiring students to leave them outside in the Fern Smith Hall lobby, located outside of the entrance to the Caf.

Clash of the Classes comes closer to original form

CLASSES BATTLE FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS

THOMAS VANCE
SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHING

Karaoke, tug of war and an insane amount of slime; those three things together can only mean one thing: Clash of the Classes is back! On August 25-26, Northwestern students came together for two days of friendly competition between the classes. The classes were given points based on participation or placement in various events.

Events kicked off on the 25th with a karaoke night that was held at Pizza Ranch. Several students showed up from each class,

and the sophomores quickly ran away with the lead.

Saturday was an action-packed day that included musical chairs, a giant trike race, ribbon dancing, tug of war, dunk tank trivia, ball pong, a pie-eating contest and a banana relay race all before dinner time. Some memorable moments were the juniors winning the tug of war, dunk tank trivia being called a tie between the freshmen and sophomores after a quadruple overtime and Lincoln Siebert losing to his teammate, Liam Nibbelink, in the pie eating contest.

After these events and an outdoor dinner came the slime fight with 1,000 gallons of slime and quadruple points to be earned. The juniors walked into the slime

fight winning by roughly 300 points before squaring off in a four-way stare down. Not every class had the same amount of representation, so the freshmen were like a tiny army, while the seniors had only ten competitors.

The freshmen won by being the first to fill their tank full of slime, followed by the sophomores. Both classes then collectively decided to help the seniors battle for third place. Sophomore Colton Vargas, a football player for NW, expressed his respect for the seniors. "Just like in sports, I think it's all about learning from them. They've been around the block a few times, and they know what it takes to be successful," said Vargas.

The sophomores' success in the final event of the competition pushed them ahead of the juniors. Ultimately, the sophomores won the weekend followed by the freshmen, juniors and seniors in second, third and fourth place respectively.

This year marked the full return of Clash of the Classes to its former glory as it was before the COVID-19. Lucas Heiberger, head of Student Activities Council (SAC), has attended every Clash of the Classes event since 2014. "This year's Clash of the Classes feels like... the old, traditional Clash that I experienced as a student," Heiberger said. "Now that we've had one Clash like this under our belts, I'm super excited for next year when people have a better idea of what to expect."



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SAC
Sophomores came in second place in the slime fight.

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