**Hamms welcome new resident to Coly**

The Northwestern Residence Life department recently welcomed a new addition to its family. At 10:46 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26, Resident Director of Colenbrander Hall Dustin Hamm and his wife, Brittany, were blessed with the arrival of Madison Jay Hamm. Dustin Jay, or “MJ” for short, weighed in at eight pounds, six ounces and measured 22.5 inches long.

Madison Jay was a name Dustin and Brittany had already decided on a long time before she was born. Brittany loves the name Madison, Jay is Dustin’s middle name, and they like the nickname MJ, so they said it just made sense.

Dustin and Brittany have been parents for just over two years now, and they said that so far, things are going quite well. At this stage, parenting consists of dealing with dirty diapers, feedings and naps. This means there have been some changes to their schedules, which MJ has commandeered.

“We learned that whatever we needed to do or get done was no longer on our schedule but on hers,” Brittany said. “She usually takes a nap in the morning and afternoon, but that doesn’t always go the way it’s supposed to.”

When they aren’t changing her or feeding her, Dustin and Brittany have been enjoying the experience of bonding with their daughter and watching students begin to bond with her. Dustin said that watching some of his residents trying to hold MJ is also quite entertaining.

The Hamms are the first married couple with children to live in Coly in four years. Previous RD Ryan Anderson was neither married nor a parent.

“Having kids in the dorms is probably more normal than people think it is,” Brittany Hamm said.

Prior to former RD Ryan Anderson’s time at NW, most of NW’s RDs had spouses and children living in the building. However, returning residents of Coly remember the RD apartment being more of a lounge where they could spend time hanging out at odd hours.

“It’s just a big change in dynamics to the apartment,” Brittany said.

As of now, the Hamms said they have had a positive experience living in the dorm with a baby. They have been able to maintain their privacy and some of their sanity while at the same time balancing their responsibilities. Brittany is on maternity leave until the end of the school year. At the close of the semester, Dustin will take over watching the baby during the day.

**Something new is brewing at The Old Factory**

BY LYRIC MORRIS

For the past four years, The Old Factory Coffee Shop has been a meeting place for Northwestern students and community members looking for good conversation, a comfortable atmosphere and the shop’s signature pour-over coffee that many would consider to be the best in town. None of these qualities will be disappearing anytime soon, but big changes are brewing for the business.

This weekend marks the end of NW English Professor Richard and Rola Soweinski’s ownership of The Old Factory. The shop was recently purchased by four Orange City residents and Old Factory regulars: Steve and Emily Mahr and Eric and Mary Arteche.

The Soweinski’s moved to Orange City in 2009 when Richard was offered a position teaching English at NW, and they opened the shop during Tulip Festival of 2010. Their business mantra was simple: “Community. Conversation. Coffee.”

“I was coming from the University of Iowa, where the coffee-shop culture was where writers went to write, students went to study and people met up to talk,” Richard said. “And I wanted there to be a place in town that made the kind of coffee I liked.”

Thankfully, the couple was able to see those dreams come to fruition.

“The best part has truly been forming relationships and friendships with great employees and meeting people that come in,” Rola said.

Richard said he has especially enjoyed the different performers who have hosted concerts in the space. A particularly memorable night happened last fall when The Usual Suspects, NW’s very own professor-formed folk group, and Canadian artists Le Vent Du Nord used the Factory for a “jam session.”

“Just seeing the crowd enjoying it made me feel like what we were doing was worthwhile,” Richard said.

The Old Factory is changing ownership this weekend. Steve and Emily Mahr and Eric and Mary Arteche will be taking over for the Soweinskis.

After several years of running the shop, the Soweinskis decided to pass on their project to someone else. Rola said she is excited about the prospect of traveling more and visiting the couple’s grandchildren, and Richard plans to spend more time focusing on teaching and his own writing.

PHOTO BY JONATHAN DYKSTRA

PHOTO BY EMILEE BERRY

PHOTO BY JONATHAN DYKSTRA

PHOTO BY JONATHAN DYKSTRA

PHOTO BY JONATHAN DYKSTRA
African adventure takes the stage

BY JULIA VAN DYK

Africa does not immediately come to mind when picturing places near Orange City. But this weekend, the Northwestern theater department will bring pieces of it to life in “Arlene: An African Trilogy.”

Eight years ago, NW Theatre Professor Jeff Barker began writing “Sioux Center Sudan,” a play following the adventures of missionary Arlene Schuiteman from northwest Iowa to Africa. Now, a three-part production tells the story of Arlene’s lifetime of teaching and nursing work in Sudan, Ethiopia and Zambia.

“I had no intention of going beyond Sudan,” Barker said of his work on the beginning of what is now “Arlene: An African Trilogy.” “(NW’s Drama Ministries Ensemble) ran (‘Sioux Center Sudan’) a couple of years. Then I went to Arlene and said, ‘Arlene, I know you had other experiences in Africa. Would you allow me to write about some of those?’”

The next segment of the story became “Iowa Ethiopia,” which the Drama Ministries Ensemble performed in Ethiopia. Just last year came the production of the last play in the series — "Zambia Home.”

“It just seemed right that we should put a punctuation mark on this journey by putting the whole thing together,” Barker said.

But combining three plays into one production has come with certain challenges. Each act was originally formatted as a single show, so some of the structure has changed slightly. Sophomore Brienne Hassman has been involved with Arlene’s story for her entire time at NW.

“A major difference is that ‘Zambia Home’ had these proverbs where someone would stand up and say a proverb that fit with that piece of Arlene’s life,” Hassman said. “That’s not a thing in the other two shows, so the structure of that one changed to work better with those. Staging is also a huge difference. We had to do it in a way we could tour with it and perform in any space.”

Another interesting feature of “Arlene: An African Trilogy” is the sheer number of characters.

“All of us except Christa (Arlene) play multiple characters,” Hassman said. “At least three.”

Hassman plays approximately 10 different roles; some of the other actors play many more.

“According to the script, there are around 130 characters,” student costume designer Amber Beyer said. “So, one of the hardest things was just figuring out how we were going to costume the show. We ended up going more simply and relying on the actors to do more of the work than the costumes. But we focused on characters that were more important in her life and reappeared throughout the play.”

The costume design stays on the simple side, but the simplicity is well-earned. Among the costumes and props are authentic African pieces of Arlene’s. In one scene, Arlene receives a book from students in Zambia. The book used onstage is the actual book the students gave her, and the gauzy white costume pieces worn in the scene are real Zambian costumes.

“This show is unique in that we’re telling the story of someone who lives in this area, and it’s not as distant as some other stories that we tell,” Beyer said. “I think it’s cool just because I was at church yesterday and I saw Arlene. It’s a story that’s a part of this community.”

Sophomore Abby McCubbin plays one of Arlene’s close friends, Vandy. Arlene met Vandy on the mission field in the Sudan, and Vandy currently lives in Massachusetts.

“I’ve loved being able to talk to and interview my own character who I’m portraying in the play,” McCubbin said. “You don’t usually get to do that in plays, you make the character up on your own. But with ‘Arlene,’ I actually had the chance to talk to Vandy.”

Arlene resides in Sioux Center now. She is planning to come see the show, a story that covers material from her middle school years all the way to the present.

Barker hopes that others can see the importance in sharing Arlene’s story.

“She really believes in a principle I believe in, and that is this: God did not make things happen in our lives to benefit only us,” Barker said. “In fact, perhaps a greater benefit is when the story is told to others. Then it acknowledges God’s work in our lives.”

“Arlene: An African Trilogy” will be performed at 6 p.m. on April 11, 24 and 25 and at 6:30 p.m. on April 12. On Saturday, April 26, and Sunday, April 27, the show will begin at 2 p.m.

Performances will be held in the England Proscenium Theatre.

PHOTOS BY SARAH PEMBERTON

Megan Vipond, John Amodeo and Jacob Christiansen rehearse for this week’s opening of Arlene: An African Trilogy.

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“God’s grace makes people angry, usually not because it may exclude someone, but because of who will be included.”
- Tweet from Chaplain Harlan Van Oort

“I’m not shaving my legs because I’m sassy and can’t be tamed.”
- Malle Stephens embracing her womanhood. Submitted via Twitter by @MEGtropolis_

“I would rather be stripped naked and tied to an anthill covered in jelly than see Rock of Ages.”
- Dr. Bob Hubbard on his taste in theater. Submitted via Twitter by @JacobC476
This past weekend, "Captain America: Winter Soldier" stormed into theaters across the world. It set a new record for the most money made in an opening weekend in the month of April by a significant amount and left a wide age range of moviegoers satisfied with the experience and eagerly waiting for more.

In this power-packed sequel to the 2011 movie "Captain America: The First Avenger," it becomes clear that Marvel has figured out exactly the correct ratio of explosions and slow-motion fight scenes to powerful dialogue to hold audiences completely enraptured for two hours. Despite the garish explosions, outrageously fit bodies and a slew of super-secret gadgets that continually present new and interesting escape options in the nick of time, "Winter Soldier" gives audiences an enjoyable two-hour ride that leaves viewers begging for even more information on America's super hero.

"Captain America: Winter Soldier" takes full advantage of the already established Marvel world by giving a brief introduction of new characters and then hits viewers right away with incredible action sequence after incredible action sequence. This leads to the ultimate question: Can anyone beat the Captain?

Of course the answer comes right on the heels of a victory in the form of the Winter Soldier, a mysterious mercenary with a record for assassinations that reaches back 50 years. Add to this the fact that he has a mechanical arm capable of stopping the Captain's vibranium shield mid-flight and a set of martial arts skills that seem more reminiscent of a sith lord than a Marvel villain, and the question rapidly becomes: Can the Captain rally his forces to beat this newfound terror, or will a new world order arise?

The action sequences in the film, though at times showy and a little preposterous, are breathtaking. During some sequences, viewers find themselves trying not to blink to keep up with the rapid pace with which the Captain and the Winter Soldier move and instantly adapt to each other's fighting styles.

"Winter Soldier" offers a number of genuinely good acting moments tucked away between the explosions and chase scenes. The performances from Chris Evans and Scarlett Johansson lack nothing in their normal dry comedic timing, and Anthony Mackie, the newest member of the Marvel team, turns in a good performance as a recovering war veteran who is called on by the Captain to serve again.

As an added bonus, "Winter Soldier" takes time to develop some of the secondary characters of the Marvel universe. This means screen greats Samuel L. Jackson and Robert Redford get a lot more screen time to develop their characters and show their acting chops.

Of course, the special effects for this film deserve an honorable mention. More than half of the film has some form of CGI in the shot, and it is carried off seamlessly. Giant, hovering battleships and heli-fighters aside, there is quite a bit of human animation that is done to make the ridiculously fit Chris Evans look scrappy and skinny for a part of the movie.

"Captain America: Winter Soldier" does exactly what it is supposed to do. It gives Marvel fans well-developed characters and puts them right in the middle of incredible situations in which they stand for can be tested and tried. In the end, viewers are left hanging and ready for the next installment of the ever-growing Marvel universe.

Special guests to join Symphonic Band

BY IAN CARD

The Northwestern College Symphonic Band, conducted by Timothy McGarvey, will be performing a concert at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Christ Chapel. All 48 members of the ensemble and several guest performers will be featured in Friday's event. The concert doesn't have a specific theme, and McGarvey said the pieces selected will offer a wide variety for audience members. The selections include pieces from various genres and eras.

Several of the pieces will feature performances by some special guest soloists, including Tim Hillyer. Hillyer is the percussion instructor at NW, as well as an active professional performer. He will be playing a solo section in the song “Desi” by Michael Daugherty. The piece is meant to invoke the emotions and atmosphere of a nightclub from a James Bond film.

Another special performer will be Hannah McGarvey, a cellist and daughter of the director She and NW student Rachel Nyvestold will make up a small cello section to accompany the band on certain selections throughout the evening.

Dr. McGarvey has been conducting band at NW for 25 years. He said that every concert and band he conducts comes with its own experiences and is a journey of its own.

One piece that the band will be playing is "Symphony No. 3, Movement 3 'For Natalie,'" by James Barnes, which McGarvey said is a "notably expressive piece." Cello, oboe and saxophone solos give the piece an ethereal ambiance.

"It's powerful, emotional, it speaks to both the people listening and the ensemble," McGarvey said.

French horn player Britta Wilson also said that she found “Symphony No. 3” quite moving. It's one of her personal favorites. Wilson said she was excited for the performance because of the outstanding amounts of talent in the band this year.

Freshman tuba player Collin Ten Haken said that he is excited to be playing at the collegiate level to begin with. One of his favorite pieces selected for the concert is "American Overture for Band" by Joseph Wilcox Jenkins. It’s a piece that prominently features the brass section, so it’s little surprise he would enjoy it so much.

The ensemble will also be performing "Amazing Grace" as adapted by Robert Rumbelow, "Pacem — A Hymn for Peace" by Rober Spittal and "Sinfonia in Bb minor Op. 153" by Amilcare Ponchielli.

The music department has several performances left throughout this semester. There will be performances by the chamber orchestra, women's choir, percussion ensemble and jazz band, as well as several senior recitals.

The Symphonic Band trombone section lays down the bass lines of the pieces for the ensemble.
Publication has untapped potential

BY JUSTINE JOHNSON

Cardboard Magazine is in a complicated situation.

Initially a Northwestern-based blog, Cardboard Magazine has been gradually changing and improving throughout the past year. It has grown from a simple blog with a few hundred views to a magazine with an iPad issue and writers from colleges in multiple regions of the United States.

However, the problem is that despite all this, no one from NW seems to have heard about Cardboard or know who from this college actually writes for it.

In a sentence, Cardboard Magazine is completely student-edited, and its purpose is to reach other Christian college students. The editing staff is made up of NW students.

Currently, the staff includes Justine Johnson, Michael Simmelink, Nick Rohlf and Tyler Farr. All four were recruited by English professor Richard Sowienski, who advises the project via his publishing class. Johnson took the course three times and now works from outside the classroom setting.

Senior journalism major Michael Simmelink began writing toward the beginning of last summer.

"I think my first exposure to the magazine was from Tom Westerholm talking about it at the Beacon," Simmelink said. "Sowienski was also really pushing it in the couple of classes I took with him."

Nick Rohlf, who graduated with a history major in 2010, said that Sowienski first approached him about writing for the magazine at the beginning of the 2013 fall semester.

"I honestly didn't even know it existed before that," Rohlf said.

Rohlf is currently auditing the Publishing class for the second time. Since August, he has become one of the primary contributing writers.

Although the Cardboard staff has grown, the majority of contributions to the blog have been from a small group of NW students; most have taken either Introduction to Publishing or Advanced Publishing, both of which involve working on Cardboard.

Simmelink, Nick Rohlf and Tyler Farr. All four were students.

The editing staff is made up of NW students. The editing staff is made up of NW students. The editing staff is made up of NW students.

"We need a bigger school," she said. "I love Cardboard, and it makes me sad to think that we don't necessarily have the resources to make it happen more than once."

As an alternative, Simmelink would like to see Cardboard move away from its class roots and become more like a business.

"We need to connect with other schools, get a print edition out, use the budget at those other schools to help make that happen," Simmelink said.

Simmelink said he knows this might mean turning over control to a larger group of people sooner rather than later, but he thinks it would be beneficial.

Amiotte said she has similar thoughts.

"We should find another school that is willing to partner in order to put in the necessary funds to make it work," she said.

Both on the blog and the app level, staff members are encouraged to find writers from other Christian colleges.

"I honestly didn't even know it existed before that," Rohlf said.

Rohlf said he likes this idea but thinks it is a bit unrealistic to expect success unless the outside writers are aware of the vision that the NW writers have nurtured.

"Most of them don't know what's going on, so they just submit pieces that don't really fit very well anywhere," Rohlf said.

Although some of the staff may be skeptical, Richard Sowienski says he remains confident that his magazine can reach its full potential while it is being run by a class of three at a school of 1,200 students. Consequently, he said he is afraid that Cardboard will soon die off.

Simmelink’s thought stems partly from a hiccup in the design process. After the first iPad issue of Cardboard went live last May, the main question on the minds of all the staff centered around finding someone to keep the app updated for the second issue. When the fall semester began, the publishing class worked its way toward putting the issue together, but time ran out and so did the students' availability to plan a magazine.

Simmelink expressed his frustration with the complicated nature of being a staff writer.

“It sucks doing all this work and just hoping that maybe someone will step up and design an app,” he said.

Abbie Amiotte, a junior writing and rhetoric major and former staff writer for Cardboard, was a part of the team when the iPad app went live. She said she thinks there is a place for a magazine like Cardboard, but NW is not the place for it to thrive.

“We need a bigger school,” she said. “I love Cardboard, and it makes me sad to think that we don’t necessarily have the resources to make it happen more than once.”

The most important thing right now is to get people to write for it and read the stories that are already there,” Rohlf said. “We just need more hits now.”

NW students can get involved in a few different ways. The Cardboard staff welcomes student blog submissions, which can be emailed to cardboardmagazine@gmail.com. Potential feature stories for the second issue of the iPad app edition are also welcome. Students can also read, comment on and share the stories that already exist.

Dorm diaper changing duties

From Page 1

Because they knew they wanted children and found out relatively early in the school year that they were going to have a daughter, they were able to come into the job knowing that they would be raising her in the dorm.

Although the Hamms knew what they were getting themselves into, there are always challenges that come with parenting, even more so that when parenting takes place in such a unique environment.

If anyone on campus has experience with the challenges that come with parenting on campus, it’s Kendall and Ashley Stanislav. Kendall is in his third year of serving as RD of the North Suites. He and Ashley have three children: Maddy who is five and a half, Drew who is three and Jack who will turn one on April 24.

Kendall and Ashley worked at Taylor University prior to coming to NW, and on Taylor’s campus, it was the rule — rather than the exception — for RD’s to be married with children. Stanislav said that getting a chance to see so many good models of families living on a campus was really helpful in establishing how they went about parenting.

The Stanislavs said that a few of the biggest problems come with issues of privacy and ill-timed disturbances. They said that since the front door of their apartment is right next to the dorm entrance, students have a tendency to walk through at inopportune times. They also said that poorly timed fire alarms are something to look out for.

Mainly because when three children five and under are awakened at three a.m. by a shrill buzz, it’s hard to get them back to bed.

Even though these issues are inconvenient, both couples said that they are minor in comparison to the benefits of raising their families on campus and the opportunities that arise from living in a large, close-knit community.

Both Dustin and Brittany said that returning to a home that doubled as a public place was daunting, but they said they see the potential it has to offer so much more in the future.

“We’re really excited to have her in the dorm, she’ll have lots of playmates and lots of people who love and care for her,” Hamm said. Seeing her grow up and interact with so many different people is a unique experience she’ll have.”
NW Cafe staff wages war on waste

BY ALI HABEGER

In the United States, 40 percent of our food is wasted each year, which totals to about $165 billion. Most of this wasted food will end up in landfills when it could be feeding people in need.

Schools, colleges and universities have a huge problem when it comes to wasting food. This has become increasingly true for Northwestern during the past two years, as can be seen from the data produced in studies done by the biology department during the past 10 years.

During the past couple of weeks, the environmental science and earth science classes have been conducting a study to determine how much food and beverage waste is occurring in the cafeteria. Beverage waste has stayed steady in the past two years at just under an average of three ounces per student per day, but food waste has increased on average 11 percent per student per day.

However, students aren’t wasting as much food and beverage as they used to before 2009 when they were allowed to use trays to stockpile their food and drink. But why the increase in waste? And what is the Cafe doing to help reduce it?

Chef BJ Whitmore said that the reason there is more food waste now than there was two years ago might be due to students self-serving. The staff used to serve most of the food to the students, but due to student complaints about the lines being too long, they now allow students to serve themselves, which means people often put more on their plates than what they actually end up eating.

Despite student complaints, Whitmore said that there was little difference in how long it takes to get through lines that are staff-served compared to lines that are self-serve. If anything, it actually takes slightly longer to get through the lines with the students serving themselves than when the staff served the students.

Whitmore also said that sickness is more likely to spread when students are serving themselves rather than having a staff member with gloved hands serving students. But students want their experience at the Cafe to be enjoyable and flexible to their needs and desires, and the Cafe staff does what it can to make that possible.

However, that doesn’t mean that the Cafe isn’t trying to reduce waste in any way it can — as many other school cafeterias have been doing.

One way that some colleges are making an effort to reduce the amount of food being wasted is by going “trayless” (eliminating the use of trays to carry food). This has greatly decreased the amount of food students waste as well as the amount of water used to clean the trays. Although dishes still need to be cleaned after every meal, far more dishes can be washed at one time than trays.

Another way to reduce the amount of waste is by redistributing. Some colleges and universities have started taking food that was cooked but left over at the end of the night to local shelters in order to help eliminate unnecessary food waste and provide for people who do not get the luxury of eating the same amount of food that NW students do.

Northwestern has taken similar steps to reduce the amount of food waste. Whitmore said that going trayless here at NW made a huge difference in reducing the amount of food, beverage, and water waste.

He also explained how the cafeteria now has a computer system that tells them how much food to cook for every meal based upon the usual number of people that show up at each meal. Its accuracy has allowed them to have only a small amount of food left over.

What they do have left over at the end of the night now goes to local families in need through a program called Zestos. Starting this year, students can come in at the end of the meals and bag leftover food to be distributed to families in need.

So far, these efforts have decreased the amount of food and beverage waste as seen in the graphs.

What is Sigma Tau?

BY ALEXIS GRAVES

Sigma Tau is a Catholic poetry sorority composed of Northwestern nerds—or least that’s the collective ballpark guess of current students on campus.

In reality, the Sigma Tau Honors Society is a little-known group on campus that is comprised of a selection of NW’s brightest students. Even though most students seem to be unaware of its existence on campus, this honors society has its first roots back in the 60s.

Almost five-and-a-half decades ago, a NW religion professor decided to create a group for the college’s top students because he believed NW academics would benefit from additional opportunities for fellowship and community beyond what could be obtained in their everyday college experience.

The current Sigma Tau faculty advisor, Joel Westerholm, described what Sigma Tau has been doing in recent years: “We tend to eat mostly; we fairly often have had supper at a local restaurant and then attended a campus event together like a play or concert. Occasionally, when the budget has been plumper, we have done trips to someplace like Omaha or Sioux Falls and attended a Broadway show.”

In the years following the induction of Sigma Tau to NW campus life, many clubs and campus groups were incorporated into the college’s academic framework. For example, the Honors Program was created a few years later with similar goals in mind.

However, one main component, the selection process, of Sigma Tau is what sets this group apart from other clubs or societies on campus. Sigma Tau is not something that someone can just join; members have to be invited. The process begins when the Registrar’s Office sends out an email to the entire faculty with all the names of the top 10 percent of the junior class by grade-point average. Out of that list, the faculty votes for 10 students they believe deserve to be a part of the Sigma Tau Honors Society. After the votes are tallied, the top 10 students — sometimes more if voting produced a tied tally count — are officially invited to join.

“I have put Sigma Tau Senior Honor Society on all of the résumés I sent out as I looked for jobs, and I assume that looks good to potential employers,” two-year Sigma Tau member Kiersten Van Wyhe said. “It’s also fun to meet with a few other high-achieving seniors on campus. They’re often students I’ve never met before.”

Although Sigma Tau has résumé-boosting qualities, it’s more than academic padding for graduate school applications and job interviews. Each year, after diplomas have been handed out, a Sigma Tau member gives a senior response. This member is chosen as the spokesperson for the group; in another round of voting, this time by the members, he or she was chosen as the student who could best do the job.

The Sigma Tau Honors Society recognizes students’ hard work and gives them opportunities to interact with each other under their shared umbrella of dedicated learning.
In Oman, we hiked Wadi Shab. Wadi, means valley or a water valley. There are Wadi’s all over because of the mountainous terrain. Wadi Shab is about a two-hour hike in and two-hour back out.

About half way into the hike, we all stripped down into our suits and jumped off a rock into the warm clean water that pooled in that area five feet below it. We swam for about 10 yards and then crawled back out onto the raised ground. The stones were smoothed over and shaded by the branches of date palm trees.

The breathtaking thing about Wadi Shab is that at one point, it used to be the home of a native village. All along the unmarked trail there are old ruins and still-functioning water ways. This one valley has cliffs and rock faces on either side and shrubs — the towering streams and pools and palms. This one valley has cliffs and rock faces on either side and shrubs — the towering streams and pools and palms. It was as if we had made a magical discovery of a place enchanted with such wonder. As we walked, I thought and reflected on what we so often read in the Bible, “Even though I walk through the valley of death, I got to thinking about all the different kinds of valleys there are in life. This one was a beautiful valley. One filled with adventure and excitement and good and faithful companions. And I began to think about how blessed we are to serve and be in communion with a God who is so faithful that he walks with us through that valley of death and despair and also walks with us through that beautiful valley of life. A God of faithfulness: O, how blessed we are!”

BY ALLY AUSTIN

Reason for the Lenten season

Lent: 40 days to give something up to get closer to God. That’s the staple definition, but it isn’t always the one people use when deciding what to give up. So often I hear of people giving up chocolate or pop or of others making the promise to workout every day. Has Lent become nothing more than a 40-day plan to diet and get fit?

In an article called, “Is Lent Relevant?” that was posted by Intervarsity.org, a campus ministry organization, the author discusses these things. This article talks about how the message that the world around us is portraying is much different from that of the Bible — big surprise there.

Society is telling us to be selfish beings, wanting and taking whatever we please. Jesus is calling us to be selfless creatures and to forget about personal desires. For me, a balance between the two is very difficult to find or maintain.

The article mentions that Lent is not meant to be an endurance test or a contest. It isn’t meant to see how much weight you can lose or how hard you can push yourself. Lent is a time to get closer to God. I would love for someone to explain to me how refraining from eating after 10 p.m. (which was my goal this year until I sat down to think about the reason why) brings me closer to God. Since I started wrestling with this, I have quit that goal.

For those of you giving up social media: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat for the bravest of souls — I commend you. However, don’t spend your time in the Learning Commons using a friend’s account or asking them to catch you up on all the gossip. It defeats the entire purpose of giving those things up. Let the drama be a thing of the past.

BY CALLIE NORDHOL

Taste the Bacon April 25

A not-so sanitary send-off

The Beacon you are holding is the last issue that will be created under my advisement. As most of my communications students know at this point, my wife and I are leaving Orange City at the close of this school year to pursue some new opportunities in Des Moines.

Many advisors who find themselves in situations similar to mine take time during their last issue to wax poetic about how much they love their staff, share warm and fuzzy stories about their time with the paper or encourage the campus community to appreciate its paper more.

But I think I’ll serve the people of Northwestern better by taking something of a different approach. Consider what follows to be a public-service announcement.

Women of NW, pay heed. In the two years I’ve spent at this school, I’ve noticed a disturbing trend that should be of concern to you. In public bathrooms throughout campus, young men are taking care of their business, flushing it down and then bidding adieu to the loo without so much as glancing at the sink. In other words, the young men you borrow pens from, hold hands with and occasionally even kiss have a disturbing habit of never washing their hands.

Before I go any further, I should admit that I have no statistics to share with you. I don’t keep tallies during my stays in the stalls, but I can tell you this for sure: I witness a lingering jetlag.

BY DAVEY LOGAN

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

BY ALLY AUSTIN

In Oman, we hiked Wadi Shab. Wadi, means valley or a water valley. There are Wadi’s all over because of the mountainous terrain. Wadi Shab is about a two-hour hike in and two-hour back out.

About half way into the hike, we all stripped down into our suits and jumped off a rock into the warm clean water that pooled in that area five feet below it. We swam for about 10 yards and then crawled back out onto the raised ground. The stones were smoothed over and shaded by the branches of date palm trees.

The breathtaking thing about Wadi Shab is that at one point, it used to be the home of a native village. All along the unmarked trail there are old ruins and still-functioning water ways. This one valley has cliffs and rock faces on either side and shrubs — the towering streams and pools and palms. This one valley has cliffs and rock faces on either side and shrubs — the towering streams and pools and palms. It was as if we had made a magical discovery of a place enchanted with such wonder. As we walked, I thought and reflected on what we so often read in the Bible, “Even though I walk through the valley of death, I got to thinking about all the different kinds of valleys there are in life. This one was a beautiful valley. One filled with adventure and excitement and good and faithful companions. And I began to think about how blessed we are to serve and be in communion with a God who is so faithful that he walks with us through that valley of death and despair and also walks with us through that beautiful valley of life. A God of faithfulness: O, how blessed we are!”

BY ALLY AUSTIN

Reason for the Lenten season

Lent: 40 days to give something up to get closer to God. That’s the staple definition, but it isn’t always the one people use when deciding what to give up. So often I hear of people giving up chocolate or pop or of others making the promise to workout every day. Has Lent become nothing more than a 40-day plan to diet and get fit?

In an article called, “Is Lent Relevant?” that was posted by Intervarsity.org, a campus ministry organization, the author discusses these things. This article talks about how the message that the world around us is portraying is much different from that of the Bible — big surprise there.

Society is telling us to be selfish beings, wanting and taking whatever we please. Jesus is calling us to be selfless creatures and to forget about personal desires. For me, a balance between the two is very difficult to find or maintain.

The article mentions that Lent is not meant to be an endurance test or a contest. It isn’t meant to see how much weight you can lose or how hard you can push yourself. Lent is a time to get closer to God. I would love for someone to explain to me how refraining from eating after 10 p.m. (which was my goal this year until I sat down to think about the reason why) brings me closer to God. Since I started wrestling with this, I have quit that goal.

For those of you giving up social media: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat for the bravest of souls — I commend you. However, don’t spend your time in the Learning Commons using a friend’s account or asking them to catch you up on all the gossip. It defeats the entire purpose of giving those things up. Let the drama be a thing of the past.

BY CALLIE NORDHOL

Taste the Bacon April 25

A not-so sanitary send-off

The Beacon you are holding is the last issue that will be created under my advisement. As most of my communications students know at this point, my wife and I are leaving Orange City at the close of this school year to pursue some new opportunities in Des Moines.

Many advisors who find themselves in situations similar to mine take time during their last issue to wax poetic about how much they love their staff, share warm and fuzzy stories about their time with the paper or encourage the campus community to appreciate its paper more.

But I think I’ll serve the people of Northwestern better by taking something of a different approach. Consider what follows to be a public-service announcement.

Women of NW, pay heed. In the two years I’ve spent at this school, I’ve noticed a disturbing trend that should be of concern to you. In public bathrooms throughout campus, young men are taking care of their business, flushing it down and then bidding adieu to the loo without so much as glancing at the sink. In other words, the young men you borrow pens from, hold hands with and occasionally even kiss have a disturbing habit of never washing their hands.

Before I go any further, I should admit that I have no statistics to share with you. I don’t keep tallies during my stays in the stalls, but I can tell you this for sure: I witness a lingering jetlag.

BY DAVEY LOGAN

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
Raider staff set to retire

BY WILL NORRIS

At the end of the semester, two key Raider athletic staff members are stepping down from their positions after years of dedication to Northwestern athletics.

After 14 years with NW, Barry Brandt will relinquish his title of athletic director. Earl Woudstra, currently the assistant athletic director and a professor of kinesiology, will assume Brandt’s title next fall. For Brandt, this decision was years in the making.

“I’m 67 years old,” Brandt said. “Two years ago, I talked to President Greg Christy about retirement and how the college was feeling. Together we looked at a retirement date. The timing makes sense.”

Brandt described his time at NW as a blessing and said he thought Raider athletes competed in a God-pleasing way.

Van Horn competes in two events in rodeo: goat-tying and breakaway.

Goat-tying is an event in which the contestant rides a horse at full speed out of the gate. Once the rider crosses the flagger, the timer is started. The rider races toward a goat that is staked in the middle of the arena. Then the rider jumps off her moving horse, runs toward the goat, flips and ties three legs together. Once the goat’s legs are tied together, the timer stops, and that mark is how the contestant is placed.

The second event that Van Horn competes in is called breakaway. The breakaway event consists of the competitor racing out after a calf, the competitor ropes the calf and as soon as possible, jumps off the saddle, ties the calf and then gets back on the horse.

When people picture a sports team, they normally picture a group of people in matching uniforms, a coach and a pep band before they go out onto the field.

For sophomore Erin Van Horn, her team is just her. Northwestern has a rodeo team, a one-woman rodeo team.

Van Horn was born into a rodeo family. Her dad participated in rodeo when he was in college, and Van Horn was raised on a ranch. She attributes her interest in the rodeo to that.

“Growing up on a ranch, it was something my whole family was involved in,” Van Horn said. “Plus, in the practice arena, we grow so much closer together. Sometimes, my siblings and I had to compete against each other, but at the end of the day, we can still congratulate each other.”

Two years ago, when Van Horn applied to colleges, she hoped to attend NW but was concerned about the lack of a rodeo team, so she talked to the school about starting a team.

“The college has been great at helping me with rodeo, and they have been supportive,” Van Horn said. “I still can’t believe I get to do this while at NW.”

Although NW has been supportive of Van Horn’s dream to rodeo on a collegiate level, she is still not on athletic scholarship and trains herself.

“I try to practice every day (in the) summer, spring and fall,” Van Horn said. “I get up early to go down and feed the horses in the morning, and then at night I go out and practice and feed the horses again. She is keeping her horses on an acreage on the edge of Orange City.

She doesn’t have a coach on campus. Van Horn said, “I consider my dad my actual coach. I like to call my dad after my runs to be able to talk through things with him.”

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For Kenny Keely Bracelin, picking up her seventh win in the first game and improved to 7-6 overall. She gave up only three hits and one earned run in the seven innings she was on the mound.

Bracelin also struck out seven batters and did not walk any Defenders.

At bat, the Raiders totaled 10 hits and were led by senior Alex Price, who had three hits to go with three RBIs. Junior Jillian Klenhesselink and sophomore Clare Ipema also had two hits, and senior Lindsey Remian added a three-run homer.

More sports coverage online

• Baseball squad on seven-game hot streak after ranked win on Tuesday
• Men and women’s golf places third in respective events; Malenke earns top-three finish for men
Old Factory has new future

FROM PAGE 1

"Everyone wanted to buy it, but no one had the money," said Steve Mahr, future chief operating officer of The Old Factory. "Richard and Rola approached me and said that if we were interested, they'd work with us money-wise."

Although the new owners will keep a similar goal of integrating community and business, many changes are in store for the shop. These changes will be put into affect throughout the rest of this school year and summer, and the shop will officially debut its renovations in the fall.

First, the shop will have new hours, including time in the evenings. Soups, salads and sandwiches will be available during lunchtime, and weekly breakfast specials will be offered. Craft beers and wines will be stocked. The upstairs will be closed during regular store hours, but will be open for special events. The lower level of the shop will be renovated, including the addition of cement bars, booth-style seating, interactive chalkboard-paint walls, soft seating and small crawl spaces for children.

"People might like to be alone, but they come to a coffee shop to be alone together," Mahr said. "This way, there's a variety of spaces all in one."

In addition, the shop will begin holding a wider variety of special events. Though Mahr said the owners are open to "anything and everything," some ideas for the near future include wedding rehearsal dinners and receptions, quiz nights, writing workshops and film screenings.

"In April, we're making a big deal out of NaPoWriMo (National Poetry Writing Month)," Mahr said. "We want people to come in and write haikus on the wall, and I'll have a typewriter set up on the counter selling poems. And we'll have a (Poetry) Slam on the 27th."

In addition to the Sowienski's vision of community, the Mahr's and Arteche's will carry on another legacy from the shop's namesake. "We will keep the name The Old Factory during their new hours, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. and 7 p.m.-10 p.m. on weekdays, and until midnight on weekends.

This is not the first prank to be pulled in the chapel, but members of the administration said they hope it will be the last. Elliott said that in the near future, surveillance cameras will be installed in the chapel.

"All of the newer buildings on campus have surveillance cameras in them, so it was probably time for the chapel to have them installed anyway," Elliott said.

Elliott said she did not foresee any changes in the hours the chapel is left unlocked, but she is concerned that pranks can easily cross over into something more serious.

"Does the prank cause damage to college property?" Elliott said. "Is it disruptive of college programs? Does it require staff members to exert more labor than they would have had to? These are the lines that distinguish a simple prank from a serious one."

Pew prank breaks boundaries

BY SARAH WEDEL

Sometime between midnight and 8:30 a.m. on Friday, April 4, Northwestern's chapel sanctuary was pranked. It isn't clear right now how the students involved gained access to the chapel.

"We haven't pushed how (the students) got in because it wasn't the most crucial issue," Dean of Students Julie Vermeer Elliott said. "We were more concerned with the damage that was done and with the domino effect the prank had on other members of the campus community."

The prank was discovered on Friday morning. Students had unscrewed the brackets that hold the pews in place and, in the front half of the chapel, had turned pairs of pews to face each other. In the back of the chapel, they had angled the pews from the center aisle toward the walls. Many of the pews' brackets were broken and the screw holes stripped.

On Saturday, the maintenance crew called in the pew-manufacturing company to assess the damage to the pews and to give an estimate of how much repairs would cost the school. The administration is still waiting for an estimate from the company.

After the prank was discovered, the administration's first concern was to find out who was involved.

"This is a small campus, and you hear a lot of things," Elliott said. "It didn't take long to put together what happened and to have a substantial list of names."

In the beginning stages of the inquiry, a few names consistently kept coming up. The administration talked with these students and told them they should encourage everyone else involved to email Elliott and confess their involvement in the prank. So far, 19 students have come forward, but no names are being released by the administration.

Elliott, Director of Residence Life Marlin Haverdink and President Greg Christy will meet with the students next week to inform them of their contracts. Elliott would not comment on what form of punishment the students will receive.

Pairs of pews were turned to face each other in the front half of the chapel.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Chapel

Monday
Chaplain Harlan VanOort

Tuesday
Pastor John Thompson

Wednesday
Celebration of Holy Week

New Old Factory Hours:

*Current gift cards are only valid until Monday, April 14

• 7 a.m.-5 p.m. and 7 p.m.-12 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays

• Daily during store hours

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Prof. Richard and Rola Sowienski celebrate with the new owners of the Old Factory the Mahrs and Arteches.