

Northwestern College, Iowa

NWCommons

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NW Students Fall in love with Fall

STUDENTS OBSESS OVER WONDERFUL WEATHER

CLAY BROUWER ENGLISH

Fall is just around the corner and as we look forward to the socially dubbed “spooky season,” campus begins buzzing from many different points of excitement. Although students do not often partake in trick or treating or dressing up in costumes, seeing costumed children often melts even our cold, college-aged hearts. Many Northwestern residents agree that it’s hard to have just one thing to look forward to in the fall season.

“Gosh, I don’t know if I can pick just one thing,” sophomore Mandi Rist said. “It’s a beautiful time of the year. On top of that, as the season gets colder, people get closer. Surrounding ourselves around fires, on hayrides or at football games. Sure, we get to change our outfits; but what’s more than that, is the changing of the season. I look around campus and see how God has painted the trees in hues of oranges, reds and yellows.

Reminding us that he is working in every season of life. Pumpkins, corn and apples are ready to be harvested as God always provides in a timely manner. Fall is a time of thanksgiving. Whether that’s on campus or at home, we get to gather around as brothers and sisters and give thanks. Thanking our Heavenly Father for every beautiful blessing that we don’t deserve.”

Using the term “beautiful,” the change in color seems to be a hot topic of interest among many NW students. The transition from lush green to a combination of orange, red and yellow as the season progresses is quite a sight to behold.

“I think the aesthetic matters a lot to me. Seeing the trees explode with color, listening to music that reminds me of fall, wearing different types of clothes, it all feels really great, Tyson Braunschweig claimed.

The transition from hot to warm and sometimes even cool weather is a personal favorite to some. Sweater weather often feels contagious, and people love how cozy they can be when the temperatures begin to



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH
Northwestern students are excited for books, coffee, pumpkin patches, flannels and crisp weather this fall.

consistently drop.

“I love it, it’s warm enough that I can break out my flannels; but cold enough that I don’t freeze. Fall is the best season. Jeans and flannels. Can’t beat that,” Hospers first floor Resident

Assistant Lincoln Siebert stated.

“I like how the weather gets cooler so it’s nicer outside,” Aleah Rees said. “I also like how the leaves on the trees change colors. There are also just fun activities to do like carving

and painting pumpkins, going to a pumpkin patch and going through a corn maze. Having the option to do things like that is what gets me excited for fall.”

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NGAGE Conversation About Sex

LET’S TALK ABOUT SEX, BABY!

KACEY ZICKEFOOSE YOUTH MINISTRY

“Myths are a way we try to explain the unknowns around us and the reason there are so many myths about sex & the body is because we do not talk about them” Elena Lee says. “Conversation is where growth starts and myths end,” Lee explains at the Women in Leadership meeting where individuals got together to debrief last Thursday’s NGAGE topic. NGAGE is an optional, monthly meeting that offers two Christian Formation credits for attending and that focuses on issues that matter, like this year’s theme: “Ideas in Conversation: Sex and the Body.”

On Thursday, Sep. 14, Dr. Branson Parler, a professor, pastor, and author, was the guest speaker and talked about his book, “Every

Body’s Story: Six myths about Sex and the Gospel Truth about Marriage and Singleness.” Parler focused on explaining the six myths of sex and the body: three from culture and three from the church. This culture tells people that 1) “You do you,” 2) “Your body is just matter in motion” and 3) that “Romance” will “complete us,” Parker says. He goes on to explain how the church tells people that 1) “You need to behave yourself” (legalism), 2) “You are not your body” (evil bodies), and 3) the sexual prosperity gospel, meaning that there is a pressure to get married so that one can have “your best sex life now,” Parker implies. Dr. Parler left individuals with the encouragement to “bring this conversation into the church” and to “believe there is something deeper and richer out there.”

Conversation is happening and one conversation took place in the Ramaker basement as the Women in Leadership leaders led

an open discussion on the matter. “I do not agree with any of it,” One individual shared and later commented on the “misogynist” nature of the Bible. Others came to the consensus that people need other people, a community, and friends. Individuals at this meeting discussed the question, “Is the verse from Genesis, ‘It is not good for man to be alone,’ referring to marriage or can it be applied to people in general?” Others commented on the significance of women being made from the center of men and what each one’s role is. People questioned whether an unmarried individual is incomplete, and what “disordered goods” mean. Others talked about the danger of “purity culture” and the story of a man attending a sermon where the preacher passed around a rose until it was “touched by everyone” and “beaten up” and asked the “repulsive” question, “Who would want this rose?”

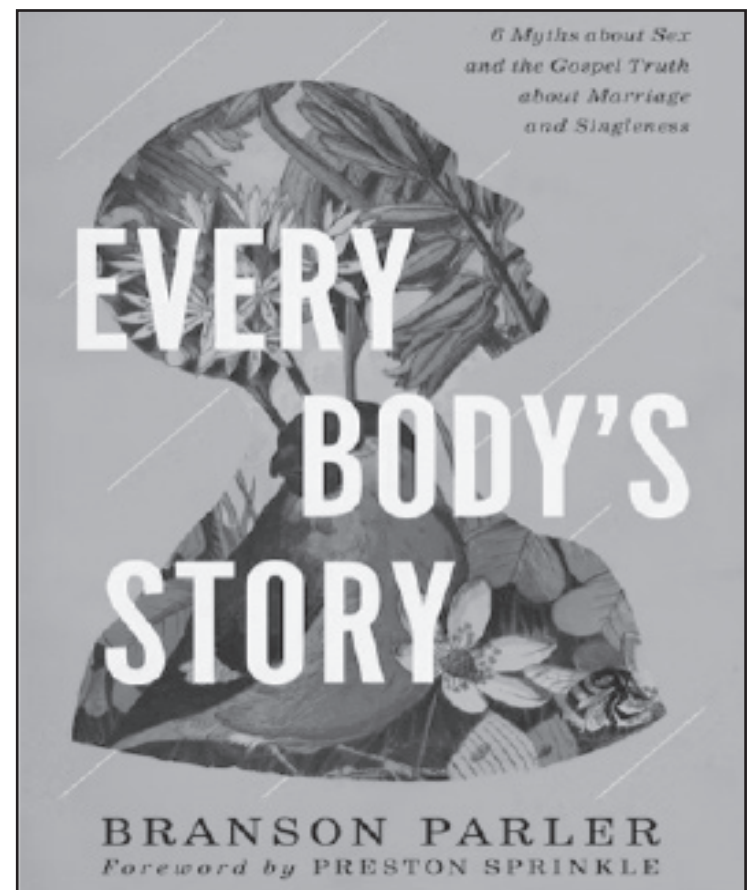


PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANSONPARLER.COM
Branson Parler, NW NGAGE speaker, shared his views on sex and the body.




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Rodrigo's perfect homage to girlhood

EMOTIONS OF AN EARLY TEEN

JESSICA NIBBELINK
PSYCHOLOGY

Olivia Rodrigo put her name on the map with her debut album "Sour." With her exploration of punk rock and y2k style, Rodrigo was able to show her ability of storytelling through music and creative lyrics and has continued this trend in her second album "Guts." She takes this punk, y2k aesthetic into her new album featuring more ballads and upbeat songs than seen on her previous album, while also focusing on a more thematic album.

Through "Guts," Rodrigo displays her ability to create a more cohesive album than her first, all focused around one common theme, girlhood.

Rodrigo pays perfect homage to girlhood through her second album. Through witty, creative, emotional and angst-ridden lyrics, Rodrigo paints a picture of simply being a teenage girl and all the things that come along with that, crushes, heartbreak, expectations, comparisons and, of course, embarrassment.

The first song on this album, "All-American B*tch" sets this picture up well. The song pushes this pressure to appear as someone who is complicit,

adaptable and appealing, a sentiment that many young girls find themselves slipping into. Rodrigo creatively depicts the expectations of young girls through a light voice and tinkly music with lines like, "I am light as a feather and as stiff as a board" showing the odd and unrealistic expectations of girls. To combat this sweet sound and soft lyrics, Rodrigo takes a dramatic turn in the song, showing her inner thoughts, feelings and angst. Even going so far as to show her "scream[ing] inside to deal with it" throughout the bridge of the song. Yet through all of this she ends the song with sweet affirmations, showing the dramatic mood swings and calming of emotions that girls everywhere relate to.

Rodrigo also features another relatable emotion on this album: embarrassment. In "Ballad of a Homeschooled Girl" Rodrigo depicts the world-ending embarrassment that comes with trying to act normal as a young girl. With lines like "Searching 'How to start a conversation' on a website" and "Thought your mom was your wife, called you the wrong name twice" she is able to encompass the uncomfortable, embarrassing memories of our early teen years with a fun pop punk ballad.

Though the embarrassment does not stop there. Her song

"Love is Embarrassing" goes into all the dramatic ups and downs of dating. In the song she says, "You found a new version of me, and I damn near started World War III" thought to be a jab at her younger self and her costar Joshua Bassett. Overall, this song is a playful depiction of reflecting on previous relationships with more.

Do not worry though, love is not just about embarrassment, but also in making questionable choices. "Bad Idea, Right?" one of the singles from the album, Rodrigo talks about going back to her ex in a moment of weakness. Though this upbeat humorous tune isn't the only song on the album featuring that theme. "Get Him Back!" is another example of Rodrigo going back to her ex, but with a slight twist. She uses a double meaning in this song of getting her ex back and getting back at her ex with lines like, "Wanna kiss his face with an uppercut/I wanna meet his mom and tell her her son sucks".

Though love is not all fun and games on this album, Rodrigo also goes back to her roots and features more emotional piano ballads. Songs like "Making the Bed" and "The Grudge" both reflect on heartbreak and the lingering feelings that it leaves. While "Logical" and "Vampire," the other single from the album, both touch on a manipulative



PHOTO COURTESY OF OLIVIA RODRIGO.COM

relationship with an older man. These deep, emotional songs all show what Rodrigo does best, storytelling.

Rodrigo also tells a story of a common pit fall for most young girls, comparison. "Lacy" focuses on comparing oneself to someone that they idealize. This comparison is on a very personal

basis, but Rodrigo also touches on comparison in general in "Pretty Isn't Pretty." Rodrigo touches on the social pressure that young girls face to try to be pretty, but not living up to it. A theme of not being enough is found both in this song and the last song on the album.

Rodrigo wraps up the album

with the ballad "Teenage Dream" which shows a sense of conclusion of her teen years, leaving her feeling like she has already hit her peak. She leaves listeners with the final thought "They all say that it gets better, but what if I don't?" and closes the book on her girlhood.

★★★★★

Blockbuster films gone from big screen?

HOPE TO COME FOR BIG-NAME MOVIES

BRAYDEN DIRKS
EXERCISE SCIENCE

"The Equalizer 3," "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3," "The Nun II," these are the movies showing in the Orange City theater currently. What do all three of these have in common? They're all sequels of movie franchises that aren't particularly popular or profitable. Why is it that these are the only movies in theaters right now? Moreover, why can we not see big name franchises on the big screen or highly acclaimed blockbusters and original movies? Fans of cinema and seeing movies come to theaters, and dwell heavily on the second question. However, there is great reason as to why the theater showings are different right now, and there's still hope to come for the upcoming big-name movies.

Although you may be looking for the next big one-hit wonder to come out soon, or the newest addition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe, or another fantastic Christopher Nolan movie; the season we are in right now is not a common one for movies like these to be released. Movie productions and eventual release dates go in certain waves throughout the calendar year, as

they are released on a date that they will gain the most profit. Due to this, movies are often released during Christmas season, Thanksgiving, mid-spring around spring and Easter break and the summertime. Why is that these are the "movie season" times? Well, it is because these are times when people are generally home and with family, and since going to a movie is highly accepted as good family time, more people will go meaning more profit.

Generally, movie theaters will want the movies they know will be highly profitable to be shown at these times. Hence why we often see Star Wars movies released in December or highly anticipated action blockbusters, such as "The Dark Knight," released in the summer months. Currently, it is not a time for big-name, profitable movies, such as "Barbie" or "Oppenheimer," to be in theaters as those chose the summer months to truly succeed. So, what does this mean for the many other months that aren't "movie season"? These times often get a few big-budget movies sprinkled in but are often clouded with lower-budget productions. In these points, Hollywood will rely on franchises, as we have seen in the last decade that those usually bring in great profit. These companies often try using these movies to bring lesser-known franchises more money, such as

the three in theaters now.

Along with determining the best weekend for optimal profits, movie production companies also methodically plan out how long producing the movie will take. To kickstart production, the director and their writers convene to outline the many intricate details in movie making. However, currently most companies have a shortage of writers due to the Writers Guild strike. The Writers Guild of America (WGA) has been on strike since early May, which has greatly affected release dates of movies set to come out in the next few years. It has even halted production of big-name movies, such as "Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse," as writers are protesting production sets. The other writers' union, the SAG-AFTRA has also been on strike since mid-July. This has prevented many original ideas from reaching production studios and has caused studios to rely on lesser-known franchises to still make some profit. Original movies have been affected the most, as production schedules and details have taken more time to create due to the uncertainty of writers.

Although not many big-name productions have come out during this time, the strike has still prevented many movies from coming out soon. For example, the greatly awaited sequel to

Denis Villeneuve's "Dune" was supposed to be released November 2023 and is now being pushed back to March 2024. This has disappointed many fans, but is fortunately not delaying releases by too much. Additionally, the writers' strike is predicted to be resolved within a month or so, which gives reason to believe release dates should return to as scheduled and big-name and/or original movies will return to theaters.

Despite the theaters being down in popularity currently, there are still great things to come within the next few months. "The Marvels" will debut on Nov. 10, the highly anticipated Ridley Scott movie, "Napoleon," will debut on Nov. 22, and "Wonka" on Dec. 15. Fortunately, Hollywood has still been providing theaters with great movies even amid the strike. Great originals are hard to come by with less writers, but as movie fans, we can come to enjoy the comfort and reliance we have in franchises. Finally, this break from original movies and big-name movies provides us with time to reflect on the great movies the summer brought us, for there were many, and what is to come in the wonderful world that is film.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LILLIAN REITH

NW's Just Jazz Combo: a timeless magic

COMMUNITY OF COLLABORATION

NICHOLE HANSEN
PUBLIC RELATIONS

In the brightly lit ambiance of a small coffee shop in Sioux Center, Iowa, lies a band where the rhythmic pulse of Josiah Troutner's guitar reverberates through the air echoing Ayden Chett's melody on the piano. As Angel Skippings' loud trumpet blares a fantastic melody, while Brandon Englin keeps the beat in the drums, Elena Lee's saxophone weaves its dark yet beautiful melodies as Olivia Lott belts above it all with an angelic yet jazzy voice. Within this wonderful experience exists a timeless magic that presents itself within the music of the Just Jazz Combo. Even though their music is beautiful, it is about much more than just instruments and vocals: it is about community.

This past Saturday, Sept. 16, the Just Jazz Combo from Northwestern College performed their first concert

of the year. They played at an event at the Fruited Plain in Sioux Center known as Pork n' Bands, where they were able to give a sneak peek at what exciting music the community can expect from them this year. Jason Lief, a professor of theology at NW, got the band in contact with the Fruited Plain to play at the event. Their first set list consisted of "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy" by Cannonball Adderly, "Fly me to the Moon" by Frank Sinatra, "Valerie" by Amy Winehouse, "Isn't She Lovely" by Stevie Wonder, "Kill Bill" by Sza, "Girl From Ipanema" by Frank Sinatra and "You've got a Friend in Me" by Randy Newman. Each song was played in a jazz style, even if the original version was not traditionally a jazz piece. Fans were especially surprised by "Kill Bill," as it is a very traditional pop piece. With all of this in mind, it certainly excites their fans to know what is coming in the near future for their favorite jazz band, although the band's past proves to be just as fun and exciting.

The combo had existed long

before saxophonist and Junior history education major, Lee, joined the Just Jazz Combo. She was recruited for a shared event between Dordt University and NW, called NCDC, to be the lead saxophone for the band. "Luke Van Peursem (a NW alumni) asked me if I would like to join for the competition," she stated. "I told him no and continued to tell me that rehearsals started that Wednesday." In the past, the band had only played for the donor banquet and NCDC, however they plan to play at more events, such as Pork n' Bands.

A similar story explains how trumpet player and music education major, Skippings, joined the band. Lee had contacted her, asking her if she was interested. She immediately saw it as a wonderful opportunity and joined. The Pork n' Bands performance was actually Skippings' first performance with the band. "I love the band because we all have different ideas," she explained. "It's cool to find ways to combine them



PHOTO BY NICHOLE HANSEN
Just Jazz Combo thrills audience at Pork n' Bands Concert on Sep. 16.

all." She explained that, when they work together, they get a product that they all are a part of. The jazz combo practices at least three times before each performance. However, these performances heavily rely on improvisation. Improv is music made up on the spot.

"We just have fun!" said Elena when describing improv. "It makes jazz jazzy!"

Greatest of all, the band relies on community to thrive. There is no leader or director for the band, as it is based on collaboration. It is very easy going compared to

normal symphonic bands and orchestras. They share a love for music without stressing about the logistics of it. You can find the Just Jazz Combo at any of their next performances, those being NCDC in November, or the Donor event coming up soon.

The Black V's 25 year legacy to Continue On

NEW MEMBERS READY TO LEARN AND GROW

COLLIN VERSCHOOR
ENGLISH TEACHING

After last year's celebration of 25 years since their founding, The Black V is back and with them are some unfamiliar faces. The Black V is a campus improv group that holds monthly on campus shows as well as several shows off campus. With 25 years of experience under their belt, The Black V has cast a legacy at Northwestern with several staff and faculty members being former members of the group.

This year The Black V added four new members. These members include freshman music education major Ben Geary, freshman biology major Ruth Zimmerman, sophomore graphic design major Nathania Smith and transfer junior youth ministry major Kacey Zickefoose.

Excitement throughout The Black V is at an all-time high, as new members are ready to grow and learn, and veteran members open their hearts to welcome them into the group. Junior social enterprise major Tabitha Thatcher was open to sharing her feelings, "The new members add a very different dynamic to the V. It has been exciting to already get to see each of their comedic strengths. I think this year we have a lot of energy and enthusiasm."

While talking to the new members, it is easy to see just the different dynamics they bring that Thatcher mentioned. Each brings their own reason for joining the V, that speaks deeper into who they are. Zimmerman had this to say about what encouraged her to join, "I heard about them from an alumni at my church (Mrs. Cone)! She said she went to every performance, and they were all super funny. I loved seeing them that first week of school! Improv games

are the best part of warmups, and this is a group that always does them, so I had to check it out!"

For Geary, auditioning for The Black V was somewhat pressured by his older sister, Emma, who graduated last year and was an enthusiastic fan of the improv group. "The biggest reason I auditioned was because of (healthy) peer pressure from my sister and others," said Geary, "but other than that I auditioned because I thoroughly enjoyed their performance during orientation weekend, and the audition seemed like a fun time, far different than any other auditions that include plenty of pressure and nerves." Zickefoose, who has no background in improv, sees The Black V as a way to learn and grow. She said, "Improv will be a challenge, but it is a cute little challenge to make failing fun. I want to get comfortable with failure and grow in cute little life skills, like public speaking."

These new members are now officially part of the history and legacy of the long-running Improv group which has changed over the 25 years since its conception. Sophomore psychology major Tyson Braunschweig currently sits as manager of the group, more often referred to as "the vanager." As the vanager, Braunschweig has access to The Black V archives, a set of binders full of games, notes and quotes written down during each performance. Braunschweig appreciates the rich history of The Black V saying, "It (The Black V) is exciting. You feel like you are a part of something greater than yourself, and every show feels like an act of service to those watching you as well as those who performed before you."

The Black V is excited to bring humor and joy to campus this year and provide a break to those who get caught up in the hustle and bustle that college can bring. So, if you are ever looking for a good laugh do not worry, because you will have ample opportunity to see a show from The Black V this year.



PHOTO BY TABITHA THATCHER
New Black V members pose, excited for upcoming semester of improv.

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Steggy Keggy Brings Magical Memories

RAIN AND ROOTBEER FLOATS

NATALIE HOFFMAN SOCIAL WORK

Steggy Keggy is a campus event that has been around for over 20 years. A time of laughter fun with friends and root beer floats. This year was marked by a Disney princess theme.

After waiting in the rain for several minutes participants waited to enter the event in the hallways of Steg for over an hour. The fun was worth the wait for several students.

Melanie McDaniel, a first-year NEXT student that experienced Steggy Keggy for the first time, and when asked if the rain put a damper on the fun, replied, "No we got out of it really quickly." McDaniel later went on to mention her favorite part of the event. "The theme Disney was great! I love how they adapted to make

it Northwestern."

The Disney theme which McDaniel refers to was executed wonderfully by all Steg wings participating.

Students would begin by walking through the first floor, greeted by the women of First North who spun a wonderful NW adaptation of "Moana" with Chef Stacy Roberson being the heart of campus. First South gave a first taste of ring by spring jokes through "Frozen." Second South had an excellent rendition of "Mulan" that had participants roaring with laughter. Second North presented "Beauty and the Beast" with Gaston as a football player. Third North told "The Little Mermaid" story through a student who traded her tail for legs but would only remain human if she gained a ring by spring. The final wing, Third South did a splendid job with

a "Tangled" adaptation, going as far as to move furniture to make the tower. After viewing all the talented acts of the women of Steg performances, participants were invited to vote for their favorite wing while enjoying some rootbeer floats in the Steg lobby.

By the following morning the results were in. Second South's Mulan won the most hearts of students walking through. The real winners of this event though were the Steg women who worked hard to put this year's Steggy Keggy together.

Aliee Moquist, a second-year NEXT student and theatre major, got to play Sebastian the crab for Third North's adventure under the sea. Steggy keggy is one of her favorite campus events and this year was no different. "The people on my wing are so fun to be around



PHOTO BY NOELLE EBERT
Second South (Mulan) celebrates their victory as Steggy Keggy fan favorites

and everyone's really nice so it was just really fun to hang out with everyone and have a good time together," Moquist said. "My favorite part of Steggy Keggy was just hanging out with the girls on my wing and waving at everyone having a good time coming to this event."

Amber Millard, a social work major and

the resident assistant of Third North talked about her experience working with her wing to put the event together. "It was a bit chaotic, but that's what makes it fun!" Millard said. "I loved getting to know each girl better and seeing them use each of their gifts to celebrate something fun for those who came through Steg. My favorite part was

decorating. It was fun to see it all come together. I also loved how determined the entire wing was to make it look like we were under the sea!" The chaos was indeed prominent this year between the rain and general fun, but it all came together to give campus a fun time we look forward to every year!

Students embrace upcoming chilly weather

FROM PAGE 1

Not everyone shares the same excitement surrounding the season, and there will always be the people who are not as big of fans of the transitional season who look into the future.

"It's a good transition into winter, the best season!" Thomas "Fedora" Anderson noted.

Events are a big part of fall. The amount of activities that are fall exclusive just add to the excitement that comes with the enjoyment of the season. SAC is always looking for ways to enjoy the year and loves when season-specific

opportunities present themselves.

SAC is offering students the opportunity to take a community trip to Vala's Pumpkin Patch and Scary Acres on Saturday, Sept. 23. The first day of fall invites anyone wanting to celebrate the commencement of the season to hop in a vehicle and drive down to Omaha, NE to visit Vala's Pumpkin Patch. After the pumpkin patch the group will go to Scary Acres Haunted House. Keep checking your campus email for more events coming this fall.



PHOTO BY LILLIAN REITH
Orange City is getting into the fall spirit, displaying bountiful bunches of pumpkins.

Navigating the Gateway: Franken Fellows

PREPARING FOR THE WORK WORLD

NICHOLE HANSEN
PUBLIC RELATIONS

There you are, sitting in your dorm room, anxious for what is to come next. As you do your hair up to perfection and put on the best outfit you own, you realize you are missing just one thing. Where is your cover letter? Your resume? What do you even say in an interview? You begin to panic; what can you do? You head to your job interview, feeling okay about what may happen. However, you step in the sleek, professional room and completely lose all the words you had studied on the ride there. The interview begins and you wipe your sweaty palms on your slacks as you begin talking. Not too scary...or is it? Thankfully, on our Northwestern campus, we are blessed to have the Franken Fellows stand beside us as we take our next steps into the future. But how can they help

us accomplish this? What do they do? Who are they and where can you find them? All of this is found under the roof of our very own Career and Calling Center in Ramaker. Their job is to work alongside students to create professional documents. However, they also serve students by setting them up with career mentoring provided by different professors on campus. Some of this "mentoring" looks like walking students through their PathwayU results and what they mean, creating and polishing their resumes, writing cover letters for certain jobs or internships, preparing reference sheets, doing fake interviews to prepare students on how to articulate their skills and abilities to future employers, and create online profiles on certain sites like Handshake and LinkedIn. The Franken Fellows also take part in putting on different career related events for students to attend. Lindsey Jacobsma, junior accounting major and business minor, mentioned how she specifically

"work(s) one-on-one with students to make the process as easy as possible." She explained that this includes talking about past experiences and future goals to achieve the best possible professional documents and interviews. The Franken Fellows certainly take on a big role with helping students prepare. However, it is important to remember that they are still students as well. "I love getting to work with different people around me, but balancing the workload can be hard," Delaney Iseminger, senior accounting major and Franken Fellow, said. This year is Iseminger's and Jacobsma's first year as a Franken Fellow, but even through the stress, they expressed how much they love working with and for the students on campus. They get a special opportunity to build relationships all the while helping others achieve their goals. It can be a rewarding process to both sides of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC MARCOMM

The Franken Fellows provide services such as cover letter, resume, and mock interviews to NW students.

interactions Frank Fellows give to students. To find a Franken Fellow is easy - on campus or online. Students can find them on the first floor of Ramaker, specifically at the center table in the Compass Center during their work hours. They are there throughout each day for

students to drop by, however, it is also possible to make an appointment with one of them on Handshake. Overall, the Franken Fellows provide a great service to our campus life, as well as the future lives of NW students. Many students have used this resource and achieved

many great things from their interactions at the center. It proves to pay off when students spend their time learning how to do things related to their future career. With the help of our Franken Fellows, not one student should ever have to worry about a future job, internship or interview.

Conversations about sex

FROM PAGE 1

and how this story reflects the myths in the church versus the Gospel.

Conversation is happening. Questions are being asked. Julie Elliot has more relevant NGAGE topics planned for Northwestern students, such as: Theological and Pastoral

Perspectives on Same-Sex Relationships, a Student Q & A, and even a Marriage Panel. Next month's NGAGE topic is about Bodies & Belonging to God. It is planned for October 3rd and students are encouraged to be in attendance, but, even more than that, NW students are encouraged to "eNGAGE" in conversation about topics, like sex, that are important and needed to happen.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Topics of sex, relationships, singleness and marriage will be discussed in upcoming NGAGE panels.



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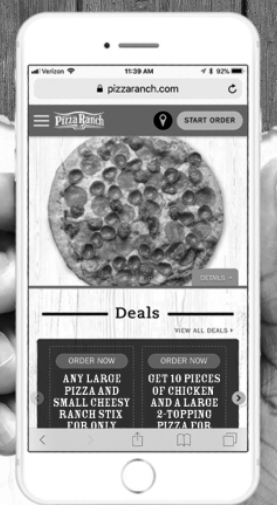
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HOT TAKES

Is peanut butter salty or sweet?

“Salty when paired with sweet things but only sweet-ish when paired with salty thing.”

“It has a hint of salt.”

“Spicy”

“Salty. Like the ocean.”

“Sweet”

“Peanut butter doesn’t exist”

Who broke the ice cream machine in the caf?

“The Black V”

“Probably someone in Hospers”

“PGC”

“Gershum”

“The football players”

“The ghost of kepp hall”

“Marlon Haverdink”

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 HOT TAKES!

It is indeed a phase, Mom



Elena Lee
History

Consistent with the adolescent experience, I entered middle school without a secure friend group or concrete sense of identity. I struggled to find people that I related to and felt like I could build friendships with. However, after trying to fit into many different cliques, I finally found the one group that made me feel welcomed, loved and seen: The Goths.

Clad in ripped jeans, band t-shirts and brightly colored hair, my friends looked like walking Hot Topic advertisements. Even though I chose to be friends with them due to their kindness and generosity, I immediately noticed the shift in attitude and increase in tension that accompanied having friends with piercings and heavy eyeliner. People crossed the street when they saw us coming. Teachers approached us with caution. My family debated intervening in an effort to find me more “suitable” friends. They were good people, but the world did not treat them as such. From a young age,

I began to see how stereotypes and “us versus them” mentalities influenced societal opinions and allowed harmful perceptions to foster.

The world saw their dark clothing and assumed they had personalities to match, which could not have been further from the truth. By creating friendships with people that looked and acted differently than me, I was able to deconstruct my stereotypical narrative that society had fed me about people who did not fit the mold.

Therefore, I have come to the conclusion that everyone should have goth friends. Or, if there are not any goths readily available, that everyone should strive to create connections with those who come from different backgrounds, lifestyles and ideologies. My goth friends allowed me to see the world in a way that would have never been possible if I had stuck to the same friends I had in elementary school. If I had judged them for their clothing and music choice, I would have fallen into the vicious cycle of stereotypes and narrow worldviews, and never have seen the world through the eyes of someone that society did not accept. The world becomes a kinder place when we seek to understand, not “fix,” those that are historically misunderstood and excluded.

The problem is, it is so tempting to choose friends based upon common interests and beliefs, which is not inherently wrong, but it leads to an

echo chamber and confirmation bias of what we already think and know. At Northwestern, it is easy to see how friend groups turn into cliques due to their shared activities and ideologies. Looking around at the Caf, one can identify the sports teams, theater tropes and dorm residents that sit together, usually at the same tables and at the same times every single day.

While this is comfortable and safe for us, we do not grow by surrounding ourselves with who we know. I can confidently say that my exposure and close friendship with my local goths had a profound positive impact on my life, one that I continue to carry with me whenever I am tempted to fall into stereotypes and judgment. The first step to loving our neighbor is to break down what we think we know about them, and put ourselves in their shoes – even if those shoes are black platform Converse. Especially if those shoes are black platform Converse.

A wiser way to spend flex money



Hope Wallace
Public Relations

Have you ever gotten to the end of a semester and realized you had only spent 30 of your 75 or 125 flex dollars? Maybe you grabbed a big group of friends and insisted on paying for whatever they wanted at the Hub because after all, you wouldn’t want all that flex money to go to waste! As someone who uses their flex money too quickly because of the absurd amount of oat milk lattes I get from Common Grounds, I have not yet run into this dilemma myself, but I have been the witness on many an occasion.

What if there were a solution to this problem? What if we, as Standout™ Raiders, could put our leftover flex money to a more noble cause than clearing out nearly all the ice cream in the Hub?

I spoke with a couple of my peers who are members of the Student Government Association (SGA) on campus - a group

that advocates for the betterment of Northwestern’s student body as a whole. After sharing with them my proposition to fix the flex-dollar-dilemma, they had some thoughts to share.

“We were talking about in SGA how it’s not very efficient or healthy to try and spend the rest of our money on things like Bubb’r and ice cream in bulk”, says Marissa Leraas, SGA junior class representative. “If we use flex money in the bookstore, the college is still getting money, it’s just in a different form.”

“Ditto”, says Maddie Loats, SGA senior class representative. Loats also brought up how it might be a good idea to have there be a set date where, until that point, students can’t use their money at the bookstore, but once that date comes, they can use however much of their flex money they would like to at the bookstore.

Something I discovered when researching is that Dordt allows their students to use their leftover flex money at their bookstore. Dordt uses the same Creative Eating program that NW does. Based on this information, I don’t know of any rules there would be against using leftover flex money at our bookstore.

I would even go as far to say that we should be able to use our flex money at the bookstore throughout the entire semester.

There are two main reasons I have for this opinion, the first being that it would allow us to represent Raider red more easily. This is especially true of freshmen or transfer students who come in without Raider gear and want to get something to represent their school proudly without having to spend more money than they need to. If this rule were implemented, there would be more Raider gear being worn, causing there to be more opportunities for current students to tell prospective students why they love NW.

My second reasoning is that often times, when a new semester is starting, students don’t have all the books they need for their classes. This could be for many reasons, but it is often because students are confused as to all the books they need for their classes. Should students be allowed to use flex money at the bookstore, this problem would not be nearly as big because students could have the books they need easily accessible to them.

I believe being able to spend our flex dollars at the bookstore would allow us to represent our school more easily and effectively. It would also save us money by allowing us to get our textbooks from the bookstore, and it would still benefit the college just as much, even if our flex money is going to a different store on campus!

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Tony Hoops as new Vice President of Athletics

NEW ERA FOR NW ATHLETICS

CLARA PAHL
ENGLISH TEACHING

Tony Hoops is the new vice president for athletics at Northwestern College. A graduate of Bethel College, where he also served as the athletic director for six years and the men's basketball coach for four years.

Other administrative achievements include multiplying both Bethel's fundraising efforts and booster club membership by a massive percentage. With all this work, it is naturally difficult to pull oneself and family away to take on the next challenge elsewhere.

Hoops has plans to bring the athletics department to new heights while emphasizing the

importance of mental health of athletes.

"The mental health epidemic of student-athletes is one that we will address much like concussions were addressed 15 years ago. I'll lead our staff to be a caring resource for our athletes first, caring and supporting from Biblical perspectives the way Jesus taught us," said Hoops.

He will be leading a study on a book for athletics staff by Jeff Duke, an expert on coaching. This work will assist coaches in having a holistic perspective in the development of student-athletes who often struggle with anxiety and depression.

Hoops plans to bring in a line-up of Christian speakers that will address this issue, as well as diversity, in workshops.

"We have an opportunity to enhance diversity within our athletic department both

on our staff and on campus. By doing so, we can all grow collectively together to live out the mission of Northwestern College."

Stan Johnson and Associates are the leaders of the NAIA and NCAA diversity initiative. Johnson will offer sessions at NW to educate students and staff. Big-name speakers and visions for the department will be partnered with a group of NW student-athletes, called student-athlete-leadership-team (SALT).

Other growth areas include the Raider Athletic Advancement Board, gameday student sections and marketing and social media.

"Our gift back to [God] is to use those to the fullest by bringing glory and honor to him being excellent in all that we do," said Hoops.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SONU GUPTA
Tony Hoops, VP for athletics, is fired up for his first year serving at NW college.

NW Women's Soccer Gains New Head Coach

PLAYERS HAPPILY WELCOME NEW COACH

KATE MCEWEN
SPORTS MNGMT-MEDIA/MRKTNG

Northwestern prides itself on the outstanding coaching staff it brings in for each team and they continue to do so in women's soccer. This past year, Kelli Herman, accepted the position as the women's head soccer coach. Being her first season coaching here, Herman has already made improvements to the team on and off the field.

"Being positively driven and high achieving, she brings an encouraging attitude to practice every day" said Evyn Eblen, about NW's new head soccer coach.

"Coach demands a lot out of us, but only because she knows

what we are capable of and wants us to succeed. She coaches hard and loves harder," Eblen adds.

Herman's experience as a high school soccer coach has equipped her with valuable skills and knowledge on how to be an excellent coach. In addition to her coaching experience, she played soccer for South Dakota State University and obtained a master's degree in sports and recreational studies. Her impressive background makes her a valuable asset to the organization.

Being approached by the past athletic director, Herman took time and prayer in deciding to accept the position. After visiting campus one weekend, she felt called to accept the head coaching position. "I visited campus on a Saturday after my

interview. There was spring soccer going on, so I was able to watch the players interact with the community and check the campus out. I sat on the campus green and prayed over the decision," Herman said.

Herman's goal for this season as the new coach is to "continue to build a culture around kingdom leadership while playing soccer." Herman makes it a priority to grow the team closer together and build a strong culture as she believes it improves the performance on the field.

"During the game, I try to just let the game run itself and coach in the moments needed on the field but address most things as players come off the field," Herman said.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY NWCMARCOMM
Kelli Herman, new women's head soccer coach, has vision for success this year.

Fantasy Football: New Beginnings and Traditions

FRIENDLY COMPETITION

COLLIN VERSCHOOR
ENGLISH TEACHING

The NFL is up and running, recently finishing week two and welcoming the start of week three. To some, this return means extraordinarily little, affecting no part of their weekly schedule. For others, this return has been long awaited, with people being eager to cheer on their favorite team. Fan interaction can look different for everyone. For the more casual fan, it could mean checking the score and catching a few games throughout the season. However, there are

occasions where a fan will make the game a part of their day, scheduling everything around it.

Whether a casual fan, or a more "involved" fan, there is one thing that most fans will take part in at least once: fantasy football. Fantasy football allows fans to put together leagues of their own, composing their teams of players across the 32 NFL teams. The goal is to have your selected players outscore your opponent's team, as you go up against different league participants every week.

Fantasy football leagues can be found all over Northwestern college campus. The men of Hoppers Hall choose to continue their tradition of having an in-dorm league.

Senior data science and statistics major, and Hoppers resident, Josiah Bonestroo stepped up to run the league after former commissioner Cole Ford graduated last year. The league has 18 participants, with each floor and class being represented. When asked what he enjoyed about playing fantasy football, Bonestroo said, "It's also a great way to have friendly competition with other guys in the dorm and just have a good time. Draft day is always fun to see everyone's reactions to their rosters and early predictions for the year."

In Colenbrander Hall, sophomore business education major, and basement ra, Nate Koole chose to start fresh and

create a league of his own. Koole said, "I personally haven't heard of a fantasy football league tradition in Coly, but this year every single guy on my wing is participating in our league except for one. A 95% turnout for a wing event seems pretty solid, so hopefully the fantasy football Coly basement league is just the start for years to come!"

Fantasy football, whether you are a superfan or not, is a way to get involved with people around you and connect in a unique way. If you are not currently playing and wish to, do not be scared to reach out and get involved or perhaps, start a league of your own.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH
Fantasy Football Kicks off on campus.

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Cultivating community through coffee

KWEKEN CO. COMES TO TOWN

BAILEY BROWN
SOCIAL WORK

Since the closing of Town Square Coffee House in 2021, many Northwestern students have frequented Brad's or Scooter's in Orange City or even traveled to Sioux Center for their off-campus caffeine needs. This college town has been lacking a cozy coffee shop with the right vibes for students to study and community members to connect.

Kweken Co. aims to fill that deficit. This new coffee shop, located just north of Windmill Park, opened to the public on Thursday, Sept. 14. Much anticipation had been brewing among NW students for the shop's opening since it was featured at the Welcome to the Neighborhood fair that took place a week earlier.

The word "Kweken" means cultivate in Dutch. Put together, the name "Kweken Co." means "Cultivate Community," which is what its owners and founders hope to create a space for.

McKenzie Kuiken grew up in Orange City and recently

moved back after living in Seattle for six years. She and her husband Michael have been working hard to bring their vision for Kweken Co. to life. They hope their shop can be a place where community is cultivated through coffee, coworking and events. All the choices made for Kweken Co. were guided by these intentions.

Kweken's espresso beans are from Coffea, a coffee shop located in Sioux Falls, SD that roasts their beans in-house. Along with having high-quality drinks, the Kuikens wanted to create an environment that is well-suited for coworking.

The shop is open until 8 p.m. every day so that customers can collaborate whenever it works best for them. The back section of the shop is designated to be a community coworking space. Eventually, people will be able to purchase a membership to have access to this furnished office space and all its amenities.

This new coffee shop has generated a lot of excitement among NW students, and many stopped by to check it out within its first week of business. Sophomore Julia Boller was among those who came. "Kweken is such a wonderful



PHOTO BY SADIE DEJONG

Several customers came to check out Kweken Co. coffee shop within the first few days of it being open.

touch to this Dutch town! We really needed another sit-down coffee shop to have for studying and getting together with people," said Boller.

There are also past and present NW students on staff at Kweken Co. Krista Gleason, a graduate of NW's class of 2023, serves as the community manager. "As a community manager... I have helped... with

some social media, website building, photography, ad design, etc.," said Gleason.

Senior Riley Hoff is a barista there. "I love working at Kweken because I love McKenzie and Michael's vision to bring people together through community space and good coffee. I like to grab coffee with my friends and loved ones, so it is so special that I get to help make that happen

for others, too," said Hoff.

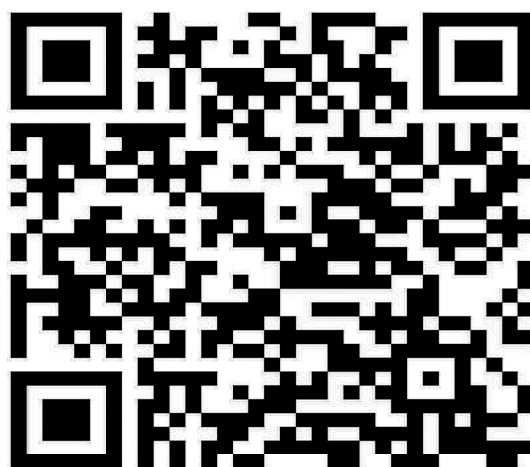
Gleason also enjoys being a part of bringing the Kuiken's vision to life. "It's so neat seeing people connect, enjoy the atmosphere and try the specialty coffee and tea. There really is a special community building here, and I'm excited to get a front row seat to what's going on here!" said Gleason.



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