Wacky, wise meet on stage

NW theater presents political comedy

Truesdells’ love blossoms in NW bookstore
**Of Montreal is sheer weirdness**

**MUSIC REVIEW**

**BY MATT LATCHAW**

Of Montreal should be in the dictionary under the definition of weird. They’re crazy, alter-ego weird. This band’s creativity, ambition and carelessness for anyone else’s ideas or opinions make Lady Gaga seem like a slightly more rebellious Rebecca Black. Of Montreal is out there, and their new album, “Paralytic Stalks,” takes this blatant disregard for normalcy to a whole new level. Avant-garde and experimental can’t come close to the sound in a music culture where anyone can do whatever they want. Even those crazy genres and styles have their own boundaries.

Nicholas Leither, a senior at NW, started to cut hair when he figured it would be cheaper to invest in a 30-dollar clipper than getting a 12-dollar hair cut every time he needed an update. He developed even more experience while working at camp this past summer when two friends needed a haircut before they attended a wedding. He didn’t have shears, but he did have a Leatherman, and gave it try.

“Mostly I do trims but every once in a while I’ll do something dramatic and cut major length off,” Noteboom said. “A lot of people are recently into the shorter and inverted look.” Noteboom has also had experience coloring hair for others.

“Every once in a while I’ll get a request for color, but if it’s not the basic all over color, there’s so many technical steps involved that it takes such a long time,” Noteboom said. “It can’t be a spur of the moment thing.”

Another student hairstylist, junior Charlotte Richards, remembers cutting her sister’s hair when she was young, along with trimming the hair off her Barbies.

“I’ve upgraded since then,” Richards said. “I started last year and kind of just taught myself.” Richards follows a basic formula for cutting.

“I usually just do a trim or some basic layers and then work my way up to taking off several inches,” Richards said.

Richards doesn’t charge a fee for cuts or styles, but sometimes her customers will take the garbage out or perform another chore to show their appreciation.

Nicholas Leither, a senior at NW, started to cut hair when he figured it would be cheaper to invest in a 30-dollar clipper than getting a 12-dollar hair cut every time he needed an update. He developed even more experience while working at camp this past summer when two friends needed a haircut before they attended a wedding. He didn’t have shears, but he did have a Leatherman, and gave it try.

“I must say, [the haircut] turned out pretty decent,” Leither said.

Leither’s tools have upgraded to include real scissors, and although no girls have asked him to do their hair on campus, guys request the occasional trim. The only favor he asks of customers is that the hair gets swept up afterward.

“As far as trends go, guys don’t really care about fashion, but I have seen the trend of mustaches become popular,” Leither said.

Leither, a psychology major, even imagined a possible future in the barber business.

He got some next level would be fooling around with the idea of going to school and opening a small town barber shop,” Leither said.

So the next time you need a cheap cut, check out the services of these and other on-campus barbers.

**Old ideas, new sound from Leonard Cohen**

**MUSIC REVIEW**

**BY KATH HENG**

“Old Ideas,” the first album made by Leonard Cohen since his induction in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2008, has shown that the old guy has still got it.

Age has treated him well. Unlike other old dogs of music putting out albums in their upper 70’s to prove they’re still alive. “Old Ideas” is adding something to Cohen’s legacy.

Cohen is often thought of as a songwriter first and singer second. His most popular song “Hallelujah” has been covered by countless artists, including Jeff Buckley and Rufus Wainwright, in what could be seen as a way to make Cohen’s amazing lyrics more accessible for listeners. The difference with “Old Ideas,” then, is the way in which the focus is taken off Cohen’s words and overshadowed by his mature and raw voice.

That voice has gotten smokier, more mellow and less easy to spread, making lines crack in places while other lines vibrate with sound. It’s the same kind of deep talking, half-singing he’s been doing forever, but age has refined the style to give him a Johnny Cash-like quality of singing. It’s the bluntness and honesty of singing without pretense or auto-tune, saying “here’s my voice, like it or not.” And, oh, we like it.

The lyrics are essentially composites of old themes, or ‘old ideas’ Cohen’s already sung about—religion, love, where we fit into it all. They’re humbling, with Cohen calling himself lazy and filthy, refreshing to hear from a man who has made it in this world.

“Sometimes Monet just needs to be worn.” - Senior Dan Sikkema on making the most out of the school week.

“One of Montreal’s own signature blend ranging from overworked, effects-laden falsetto harmonies in one moment to a growling yell in the next. The instrumentation keeps the norm of electronic drum beats, hyperactive bass guitar and twinking electric guitar. This time strings, horns, flutes and pianos are thrown into the blender of sounds. Layers and layers of sound fill each song to the brim with different voices.

The structure of the songs takes a turn right down Strange Street in this album. Right from the start, seemingly random noise gives way to spoken vocals and droning synths. After this beginning, the album sticks close to the band’s sporadic but pop-like structure. After four tracks, things start getting really weird. The final five songs range from easy-listening elevator music to the most cacophonous, structureless nightmare of a song in the album’s 13-minute conclusion, “Authentic Pyrrhic Remission.” Songs turn into totally different songs without warning or transition. It’s hard to know whether it’s all meticulously planned or carelessly thrown together.

Overall, this is a good album, although tough to listen to at times. Sometimes it feels like a chore to listen to, but other times, the complexity is a breath of fresh air in a world of simple pop music.

**Key Tracks:** “Amen” “Come Healing”

**Campus Quotes**

“Sometimes Monet just needs to be worn.” - Senior Dan Sikkema on making the most out of the school week.

“Make them throw babies at you.” - Senior Dm Sikkema on entertaining the audience of RUSH.

“Sometimes I pretend my Mondays are Wednesdays, that way I can have two Fridays!” - Junior Taylor Hoekstra on making the most out of the school week.

“You’ve got fingers like ET—you could just go around fingering things.” - Professor Randy Jensen on Brian Brandau’s hands.

“Sometimes Monet just needs to be worn.” - Senior Ericha Walden on her Monet t-shirt.

Submit your own campus quotes, with context, to beacon@wnciowa.edu
Super powers match real-life drama in ‘Chronicle’: An action drama that portrays teenagers acting like teenagers

MOVIE REVIEW
By MICHAEL GUTSCHE

The basic premise of the new action film “Chronicle” is simple: teenagers develop telekinetic superpowers, and then actually behave like realistic teenagers.

They start by throwing things at each other and playing pranks. Their powers develop in strength and finesse, and eventually they are doing everything from lifting cars with their minds to flying around.

The characters are surprisingly compelling for being fairly typical high school aged protagonists—there’s the abused introvert, the popular guy and the conceited guy, who make for more than the normal hero-villain dichotomy.

The conflict rarely strays into the cartoonish angst that dominates teenage character pieces of late. However, once it escalates to actual, physical conflict, “Chronicle” presents some exceedingly good action sequences. It holds its own against every recent superhero movie and then some.

Of course, there is a bit of somewhat predictable behavior from the darker character. It is a traditional case of someone who’s been abused and never had any real power suddenly getting disproportionate amounts of power. This does not alienate him, and the side plot involving his sick mother and his abusive stepfather makes his side of the story all the more gripping.

What really makes the movie so worthwhile is its unconventional, grounded nature. There are no huge leaps of logic, vigilant escapades or schemes of world domination. They’re teenagers after all.

None of the characters ever really go far beyond believability, and even before they develop superpowers, they’re exceedingly average high school students. Everyone who’s been to high school can find someone who acts like these three teenage guys do.

While using the increasingly relevant habit of teenagers filming their lives for vlogs or posterity, “Chronicle” sticks to the “found footage” medium, cutting to other cameras in necessary, but always by from a specific angle. This enables them to do two important things: Make the film more intimate by narrowing the scale, and cover up some of the occasionally sub-par visual effects.

Regardless of the side budget, the movie has a well-put-together presentation, and is one of the best “found footage” movies, as well as one of the finest superhero movies to date.

Chronicle is a great character study, and despite the occasional cheap graphics, excellently presented and definitely worth seeing.

Rating: ★★★★★

Top 5 Super Bowl Commercials 2012
1. VOLKSWAGEN’S ‘SLIM DOG’
After struggling to fit through the doggie-door, the big dog begins a strict workout and diet routine. Once the dog gets fit, he is able to happily chase Volkswagens down the street.
2. M&M ‘SEXY AND I KNOW IT’
Ms. Brown-shelled M&M is getting accused of nudity. To win her attention, another M&M rips off his red coating and dances to ‘Sexy and I Know It’ by LMFAO.
3. HONDA CRV ‘FERRIS BUELLER’
Matthew Broderick, the now-grown-up star of the ‘80s comedy “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” retires famous scenes from the movie in the Honda ad.
4. DORITOS ‘MAN’S BEST FRIEND’
Dog gives owner a bag of doritos as a bribe to keep quiet about what happened to the cat. Classic.
5. E-TRADE ‘FATHERHOOD’
E-trade baby is back, and he’s got a new sibling still in the hospital’s nursery.

Clooney in Hawaii makes one of year’s best films

MOVIE REVIEW
BY KAMERON TOEWS

Alexander Payne’s “The Descendants” takes a look at the structure of family and the intrinsic bonds that hold all its members together.

This dark and wonderful drama painfully reveals the dynamics of families that, despite being broken and containing ugly things, still mysteriously hold together.

It provides a solemn yet beautifully written example of how every piece of a family can be fragmented yet recreated through communal obstacles.

When Matt King’s (George Clooney) wife suffers a tragic boating accident, he rallies his two wayward daughters together to cope with their bed-ridden mother. Tragedies with relatives and friends are always around the corner for the King family. It is difficult to not feel for Matt after the relentless beatings he takes as he keeps a disjointed family together.

Directed by Payne (“Sideways”), the film has been nominated for five Oscars, including “Best Motion Picture of the Year” and “Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role” for Clooney’s performance.

While delightful silvers of dry humor pop up now and again, the film is surprisingly dreary for having the gorgeous Hawaii as a backdrop.

Spectacular performances by George Clooney and Shailene Woodly (Secret Life of the American Teenager) as Matt King’s oldest rebel daughter hold the narrative together. The two make a great pair and bring their characters to life.

“The Descendants” has an array of lovable, supporting characters from a ‘head-bopping’ grandfather; to an early-developed, middle-schoolgirl; to a bashful, tag-along teen struggling with his own family losses. These characters are quirky and play mostly comical roles in the film, but are excellent additions to the story.

Hawaii is the perfect location for a project like “The Descendants.” It offers lush jungles, pristine beaches, modern American cities and laid back residents—plus it allows Clooney to sport the typical Hawaiian floral-print shirt. There is something so fundamentally opposite about placing a broken, distrustful and crude family in such an unspoiled environment that it feels right and disturbingly raw.

It seems as though more and more families around the world are torn apart for different reasons, leaving its members feeling abandoned or helpless. This film strikes at the heart of this problem, forcing the audience to grit their teeth through it all: the vulgarity spewing out of a 12 year old’s mouth and the binge drinking habits of an unappreciated high school daughter.

Thankfully, the film allows viewers to leave the theater with hope for today’s families instead of a downturned silence.

This film comes surprisingly close to one of those offbeat independent movies where the importance of a good story clearly ranks higher than profit-making strategies for the filmmakers.

It is a breath of fresh and clean Hawaiian air from much of the other junk being shown on the silver screens and truly worth an intentional watch if the threat of tears does not bother you.

Rating: ★★★★★

To my husband of 2 months,
I am so glad that we are able to share our lives together. You are a loving, patient man of God, and I love you so much! Happy 1st Married Valentine’s Day - here’s to many more!

-Love Mrs. Toews

You! Yes, you handsome Coly boy...
I was so enchanted by your beauty that I ran into that wall over there. So I am going to need your name and number for insurance purposes. Even though we hardly talk I still think you’re a cool dude. I know you’re single and I’m single so I think we should hang out sometime. You’re so handsome that you made me forget my next pickup line, but the only pickup line you need is “Hi.” Contact me by e-mail:
LittleBittyPrettyOne824@gmail.com

So I am a pretty awesome chick who likes to just hang out. I love participating in sports, being in nature, watching action movies and listening to music. I am looking for a dude who can handle my awesomeness! The prerequisites for this position are being a gentleman, a funny guy and not needed but a plus is having some musical talent. If you think you are man enough to take on this position shoot me an email at:
Sophia_322@gmail.com
BY KATI HENG
A&C EDITOR
Following three intellectual students from their years at Brown University through their first year after graduation, Jeffrey Eugenides’ latest novel, “The Marriage Plot” presents a modern response to the Victorian tale of love.

The audience is introduced to the novel’s heroine, Madeleine Hanna, hung over and ashamed after a final night of partying, before her class of ’82 graduation. Despite the fact she’s just finished writing an essay on “The Marriage Plot” of novelists such as Austen and Wharton, Madeleine uses no wisdom in her own love life.

From there, the two boys vying for her love are introduced. First, there’s Mitchell, the good guy who’s been crushing on Mad since they met at a toga party freshman year. He’s been obsessing more and more over religious traditions and the idea that Madeleine belongs with him.

Then there’s Leonard Bankhead, the mysterious, wise and easy-on-the-eyes guy in semiotics class with Madeleine and Mitchell. Soon enough, Mad has fallen in love with him, setting aside her preferences for the neat and tidy for nights at his bachelor pad. Madeleine thinks she’s in love with Leonard, even when his personal problems start messing with their relationship. She sticks with him after graduating college, and past the point most girls would call it quits, ignoring advice from her mother, her sister, her roommates and Mitchell.

Set in the 1980’s, as the United States is just awakening to ideas of feminism, advances in pharmaceutics and punk-rock music, it’s possible Madeleine may be a few decades too late for the clean-cut, fairy-tale endings she read about in college.

Mixing philosophy, psychology, literary references and religious theories into the narrative, “The Marriage Plot” delivers not only plot, but commentary on the uses of education as well. The characters struggle to apply what they’ve learned at college to their post-graduate lives—from Madeleine’s rejection into Yale, to Mitchell’s tests of moral integrity—their educations seem to have failed to prepare them for the real world.

Here’s the first place where “The Marriage Plot” loses impact: While most find some menial job to scrape by on after college, only Leonard has any sort of role resembling employment. Mitchell opts to spend a year roaming Europe and India, while Madeleine lives off the wealth of her parents.

Besides their apparent richness, there’s little to like about any of the characters. Readers will struggle to find a character to connect to, or even a hero to root for. Even for a book about a literature major, “The Marriage Plot” is extremely heavy-handed with its references to famous authors. If references to Eliot, Barthes, or even Ballard or obscure Salinger novels seem intimidating, be warned.

Despite its lack of a hero, “The Marriage Plot” is readable to the end, if only to find out who will be sleeping with whom at the novel’s conclusion.

Rating: ★★★
Senior Dan Sikkema and sophomore Genna Valvick bend to the music in their performance of “The Golden Age,” choreographed by Aaron Appel and Aaron Bauer. It was a small group, but an energetic dance.

Junior Ryan Rydberg, sophomore Alix Baughman, junior Jacob Vander Linden, freshman Nicole Elbers and sophomore Michelle De Jarnette perform in the dance “War.”

Junior Mario Garcia declare himself “so dope” with a message on his stomach. Also pictured is junior Meg White.

Freshman Rachelle Cole and senior Heather Piatt perform in the dance “Seven Nation Army.” Heather and her sister Lynda Piatt choreographed the dance together.
Day of Learning provides opportunity to discuss diversity

By Joshua Klope

During college, almost any day is a day of learning. When we’re not learning about science, art or writing, we’re discovering new things about our fellow students, other cultures and God.

But the upcoming Day of Learning in Community on Feb. 15 is set aside as a day to learn about unique topics outside of our current classes. It will consist of a number of different events hosted by a variety of speakers.

Students are looking forward to the broad range of subjects being covered.

“I love getting a new perspective on things,” said sophomore Meghan Thomson, a science major who plans to attend the “Neuroscience of Difference” event. Her family history gives her a special interest in the topic. “My grandfather was an immigrant from Hungary, so I love learning about people who are different from us.”

The neuroscience event focuses on people with mental conditions like autism and William’s syndrome, and will examine the differences and similarities they share with us.

“We have a lot we can learn from them,” said junior Amanda Hussman, a student leader of the event.

In her presentation, Hussman will show how a certain part of the brain connects us all and bridges the gap that mental disorders can create. “Even people with these conditions are children of God,” she said.

Junior Elisa Banninga is interested in the “Ebonics” event. Even after several years at Northwestern, she has been drawn specifically to this kind of topic. “Linguistics has been my favorite class so far,” Banninga said. “Anything about different languages fascinates me.”

Ebonics is a dialect of English specific to African-Americans. “During the slave trade, they were not taught proper English,” said Angelica Perez, a senior and one of the leading speakers. “So they began saying things that were considered improper.” This way of speaking became known as Ebonics.

During part of their presentation, they will even be using this dialect themselves. “We want to expose students to that kind of language,” Perez said. They will also focus on the role it plays on Northwestern’s campus.

The Day of Learning is meant to be a time when students can come together to learn about each other and hear new perspectives. It will start with a presentation in Christ Chapel at 9:30 a.m. and will end with an interactive discussion session at 2:30 p.m. in the RSC. Lunch will be available at noon.

Classes and other regular activities will be canceled to make this day possible. All students are encouraged to attend so that we can explore our unique voices together.

Jensen to speak about welcoming differences

By Brian Brandau

Marque Jensen lives in a Hmong neighborhood in northern Minneapolis, but he won’t be out of his element when he comes to visit the wide open spaces and predominantly Dutch community Orange City next week.

“The biggest draw for bringing Marque to campus for the Day of Learning was that he’s an Iowa native,” said Multi-Ethnic Student Counselor Rahm Franklin. “He’s got some great farm stories. And how we went from that experience to one where he is building bridges in the inner city. We thought he could really speak to our student body.”

Many students will recall that originally, there was not going to be an outside speaker for the Day of Learning in Community.

“We were pretty well set on not having an outsider come in,” Franklin said. “We wanted to be able to develop community within our community. … But [Jensen] was the closest outsider we’d recently dealt with who could speak to where NW is and where we’re going.”

For Jensen, the college campus was where he first encountered diversity of his own.

“Really in college was when I started being exposed to new ideas and people who really began to challenge and encourage me to see other pieces of the world I never really thought about,” Jensen said. “I had friends who were first-generation immigrants.”

Jensen said that he had many encounters with people from other cultures during and after his college years at Crossroads College in Rochester, Minn. He said that he remembered interacting with Hmong immigrants from Vietnam, listening to sermons by an African-American pastor the college brought in to speak and eventually garnering a close relationship with a resident of northern Mexico.

Through this close friend and a time of living in northern Mexico, Jensen acquired strong roots in Latino communities.

“At each point, my connections have grown,” Jensen said. “There have been many relationships that have allowed [me and my family] to move outside of our homes and how we see the world.”

Until recently, Jensen worked as the Program Director of Community Engagement at the Sanctuary Community Development Corporation in Minneapolis. It was in this capacity that he had his first interactions with Northwestern faculty and staff.

During training in August, campus Resident Assistants were taken up to Minneapolis to hear from Marque about how he fosters community in a rundown area of the city. According to Director of Resident Life Marlon Haverdink, it was this notion of community-building that they wanted to impart on this year’s RAs.

“Marque led a wave of discussions about the concept of becoming a ‘Beloved Community,’” Haverdink said. “Our hope was that his style of building community would be transferable to the residence halls.”

This concept of Beloved Community is an important idea for Jensen.

“I’ll be talking about Beloved Community, what it looks like, why we have such a hard time achieving it,” Jensen said. “Beloved Community follows that idea of Shalom from the Old Testament, a fair community, peaceful, … Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Gandhi used the term ‘Beloved Community’ often. It’s the biblical idea of people really connected.”

Both Franklin and Haverdink described Jensen as “authentic,” a quality that Haverdink believes is important when building community.

“Marque is genuine, hospitable and authentic. He can break down walls,” Haverdink said. “I hope he’ll kind of encourage, motivate and inspire students to think seriously about what is needed for students to live hospitably and welcoming to the people around them.”

Jensen will be speaking in chapel on Monday, Feb. 13, giving the opening address at the Day of Learning in Community on Feb. 15 and leading a seminar for DLC. He will also be visiting several classes and invites students who are interested in talking with him to contact him during his stay.
 Documentary honors Heemstra

BY KATE WALLIN

Unapologetic. That’s how one former resident describes the Heemstra community in the film, “It’s All True.”

The film—detailing traditions such as El Gato Negro, the fact that every Heemstra resident has a nickname and the annual Heemstra table around the five o’clock dinner hour showed an overwhelming consensus: they don’t think they’d be as satisfied with their residence life experience without the community traditions.

“They’re kind of scary at first,” said freshman Mark Van Spreuven. “But once you participate in them, they’re really fun.”

“I don’t know about the traditions yet,” said freshman David “Snakes” Green. “But I love the community.

The change is felt most by upperclassmen. “The fact that we don’t have our RD makes it a little different,” said Nathan “Dad” Mastbergen. “I think the traditions lose a little bit of depth. But there’s added meaning because they’re completely headed by students.”

Still, the change is promoting a new kind of community. Around fall break of this year, a group of men from Colenbrander set out for the Colorado Rocky Mountains. Originally an all-campus men’s event, Heemstra residents have been the only ones to participate in years previous.

“It wasn’t all Heemstra this year,” said freshman Brook “Ruffio” Stevens. “Mostly Heemstra guys. Some from Coly. And [Colenbrander RD] Ryan Anderson. I thought it was awesome.”

Over the course of 48 hours, they drove to Colorado Springs, took 45 minutes to rest, hiked Pike’s Peak and made it home in time for 7:45 classes on Monday.

“We didn’t take the trail, we just went up the mountain,” Stevens said. “It took us eight hours to get up and probably three hours to get down. It was the ultimate test of the mental will.”

It’s this mixing of traditions that will continue to define the Heemstra community in the years to come.

Sisters harmonize faith and family

BY TYLER LEHMANN

Most kids get told to stay out of the cookie jar, but when sisters Tamara and Jasmine Smith were kids, they got told to stay out of the “Buddha room.”

Northwestern senior Tamara Smith and junior Jasmine Smith have a father who is Christian and a mother who is Buddhist. When the sisters were young, their mother set aside a room for a shrine to Buddha.

“All we knew was that Mommy does her thing and it’s not right,” Jasmine said. “People at church and Mommy did her own thing, which was wrong.”

Tamara and Jasmine’s mother met their father when he was a naval officer stationed in Hawaii. Over his naval career, the Smith family lived in Guam and Washington before moving to Iowa.

“My dad was the head of the house, so he got the final say on our religion,” Jasmine said.

When their father was on duty abroad, Tamara and Jasmine occasionally accompanied their mother to temple services. Jasmine has fond memories of attending temple, recalling chanting monks, sprinkling holy water and eating delicious food.

On the other hand, attending church with their father was sometimes less peaceful for Tamara and Jasmine.

“One Christmas, the monks came and sprinkled holy water on our father with his head down,” Jasmine said.

On the other hand, Tamara and Jasmine have begun taking an interest in their mother’s beliefs.

When Jasmine visits her mother, she participates in prayers to Buddha. However, her goal is not to connect with the awakened one, but with her mother.

“By praying to Buddha with my mom, I gain a better understanding of who she is and where she comes from,” Jasmine said.

Jasmine also has a pamphlet of Buddhist scripture from her mother. She carries it in her purse to remind her of her mother.

“When it comes to religion,” Jasmine said. “My mom’s beliefs have given me a more universal perspective. It’s caused me to ask questions.”
Seim leads Raiders in road

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK

The No. 15 Northwestern men's basketball team scored the first bucket of the game, and never looked back in their 87-66 road victory against Mount Marty on Wednesday night.

NW is now one game away from a 20-win season, and is sitting third in the GPAC with a 12-5 record.

The Raiders came out firing immediately, and started out the game on a 18-2 run. They continued to put on the pressure throughout the first half, leading by as many as 43-24 with a few seconds left in the half before a buzzer-beater three gave the Lancers some momentum going into half.

NW refused to let the hosts have life, and continued to outplay Mount Marty, leading by as many as 35 in the second half. Every player in a uniform had at least eight minutes of action in the contest.

Senior Walker Seim continued his hot streak, scoring a game-high 18 points in only 17 minutes. Junior Ben Miller put in 16 points of his own and led the team in rebounds with eight.

Also scoring double digits were junior posts Daniel Van Kalsbeek (12) and Stu Goslinga (10).

NW, who led by as much as 17 at the midway point, dominating the paint with penetration and drawing trips to the charity strip. The Bulldogs couldn't buy a basket on their home court, and shot 36 percent from the field while going 2-11 from downtown.

Concordia slowly began to find their stroke and steadily chipped into the visitor's lead. By the time there were seven minutes left in the game, the host's had claimed an eight-point lead.

"Once we got the lead we began to relax a little bit," Hoegh said, "which is something we've struggled with all year. Once they got that lead, we kicked it back in gear and got it going again."

NW did not remain dazed and stuck with their game plan of attacking the rim, which helped them reclaim the lead with just over four minutes remaining.

Despite the impressive double-double by Seim, he was far from the only Raider to show up Monday night. Senior guard Jon Kramer went 10-15 from the floor and had 23 points of his own, which was one shy of his career-high. Leeper also added 10 points.

While the Raiders were not overly impressive in field goal percentage, managing only 45 percent, they did earn 45 trips to the free-throw line. They converted 67 percent of their opportunities there.

The trips to the line could be attributed to the many fast-break opportunities the Raiders had in the contest.

"We just got stops," Hoegh said, "we could run on them. They were out of position a lot, and that caused them to foul us a lot more."

NW will return to their home court Saturday and play last place Doane at 4 p.m.

Men's and women's track squads qualify five more events

BY DALTON KELLEY

The Northwestern track and field team traveled to Sioux Center last Saturday to compete at the Dordt Invitational indoor meet.

The Raiders made the trip a successful one, leaving with 22 top-five finishes among the team. Three more events qualified for the national meet automatically and two more qualified provisionally.

Junior Brandon Hammack thought those who have made it to the national meet are deserving and expects more to qualify as the season progresses.

"We've just have to keep our heads down and keep working hard," Hammack said. "The people that have made nationals are our elite athletes, and the rest of us are working hard trying to get there."

The women's side of the team will be sending three more events to the national meet, including senior Krystina Bouchard and junior Brianna Hobbs in the 600m, both finishing less than a second apart at 1 minute 37 seconds. Bouchard took second in the race while Hobbs finished in a close third.
**Sports**

**Raider women recover after dropping key game**

**BY TOM WESTERHOLM**

The Northwestern women’s basketball team went on the road Wednesday night and defeated Mount Marty 71-57. The Raiders improved to 13-4 in the GPAC, and 19-6 on the season.

Junior forward Kendra De Jong led the Raiders with 16 points and 9 rebounds, but it was the defensive effort that won the game for NW. The Raiders held Mount Marty to just 3-19 shooting from three-point range.

“Mount Marty has good balance in scoring on the perimeter and inside,” said head coach Chris Yaw. “It was a great opportunity for us to play another good team on the road.”

NW also owned a big advantage on the boards, out-rebounding the Lancers 43-27. Senior guard Kami Kuhlmann added 12 points for the Raiders, while freshman Karen Huston contributed nine off the bench.

On Monday, the Raiders lost a tough road game to second-ranked Concordia 76-62. Concordia went on a 16-0 run in the second half, from which NW never recovered.

“They didn’t do anything special [during the run] but make baskets when we didn’t,” De Jong said. “We were getting shots but we were not making them, and they were hitting theirs. We started being passive and just settling for the easy shot instead of attacking the basket.”

NW also turned the ball over 26 times, while Concordia had just nine.

“The turnovers had a definite impact on the outcome,” Yaw said. “I believe they scored 28 points off our turnovers.”

De Jong was more blunt with her observation.

“Turnovers are the reason we lost,” De Jong said.

In every other area we were matched evenly with them.”

De Jong led NW scorers with 12, while sophomore guard Kenzie Small chipped in nine. Sophomore forward Alli DunkeIler led the Raiders in rebounds with eight.

NW stayed close until half-time, leading at the break 32-29. The Raiders shot 50 percent in the first half, but cooled down to 43 percent in the second.

“Defensively we remained pretty consistent throughout,” Yaw said. “We did lose track of their shooters a couple of times in the second half. We also had a few turnovers that led to layups that we had no chance to defend.”

Concordia shot just 34 percent for the game, but improved to 44 percent in the second half. Concordia’s leading scorer dropped a game high of 27.

“This game is a good reminder for us,” De Jong said. “We need to continue playing together for each other and have passion for the game.”

The Raiders will look to rebound in a battle with Doane in the Bultman at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

**Single-game playoffs and truly crowning a champion**

**BY TOM WESTERHOLM & MICHAEL SIMMELINK**

You may or may not have heard, but the Giants won the Super Bowl.

Yes, New York has been crowned champions of the NFL world and now, like the sourdest of all sour grapes that I am, I must complain.

After 22 weeks of football, I don’t think New York is the best team in football. Don’t get me wrong: they earned the Super Bowl. They beat the Western Conference Cinderella story every game.

But what indications do we have that New York is a better team than Green Bay, San Francisco and New England? That they beat them in the playoffs? Please.

In a pressure packed game, one game mind you, anything can happen, like Aaron Rodgers playing badly, or Tom Brady giving up an intentional grounding safety.

Single game playoffs make it easier for less talented teams to beat more talented ones. Sometimes, this means that the best team in a single season doesn’t win the championship.

Dooms this bother anyone else? I have been able to say that the 2008 Celtics were clearly the best team in the NBA. They beat the best the Western Conference had to offer four times. They proved themselves to be the absolute best. Can the same be said for the Giants?

I understand the argument that predictable sporting events aren’t much fun at all. But shocking upsets should be just that: upsets. We always want to see David smite down Goliath, and in our culture of immediate gratification, we expect to be treated to a shocking Cinderella story every game. I hate this. The reason David defeating Goliath is a special story is because 99 times out of 100, Goliath crushes David with his pinky finger. If tiny guys with slingshots routinely defeated a nation’s mightiest warrior, it wouldn’t make for a good story.

That’s my biggest problem with one game playoffs: the upsets cheapen other upsets. They cheapen the story. The problem for the NFL is that they can’t go to a multiple game playoff system. The season would stretch too long, the players would revolt against having to play more games since injuries would skyrocket and the league would suffer. Plus, the average fan seems to enjoy the current system. I’m just registering my complaint: I don’t.

Of course, it could be worse. It could be the BCS.

**NW wrestling squad hits wall versus Midland**

**BY TOM WESTERHOLM & MICHAEL SIMMELINK**

On Thursday night, the Northwestern wrestling squad suffered a humbling setback against Midland, falling hard 42-0.

The lone bright spot was senior Josiah Simburger’s 14-4 win at 141-lbs.

Junior Pedro Ruiz started out the meet with a 6-5 loss at 125-lbs.

At 165-lbs, Jesse McCann was in a high-scoring match-up, but fell 15-7.

Following him onto the mat was senior David Carter, who had the last best shot for a Raider win, but ran out of time and was defeated 3-2.

Senior Nic Leither found himself in an usual place after losing his 197-lbs. match 14-5, just his fourth blemish of the year.

Last Saturday, the NW team qualified another wrestler for the nationals at the Briar Cliff open, as freshman Tyler Schaeter placed eighth in the 157 lbs. class to punch his ticket.

Sophomore Ariel Bosque, another member of the 157 lbs. weight class, also performed well, placing second in the event.

“I felt pretty good this weekend,” Bosque said. “I beat a lot of kids I wasn’t supposed to beat. When you have nothing to lose, you kind of go all out.”

Bosque said the Raiders were pleased with their performances as a whole. “We only had one loss in our first round, so we did fairly well,” Bosque said. “A lot of guys said it was ‘Throw City,’ which was a lot of fun. We had six or seven throws. It was important for us to get some good mat time. It will be good to get a better seed at the qualifier.”

Several of Northwestern’s wrestlers rested, having already qualified, as the Raiders prepare for their qualifier match. But the Raiders won’t be resting on their laurels.

“We still need to work on bottom mat work,” Bosque said. “We tend to kind of do one move in a series of moves. That’s what we will be working on this next week.”

**PHOTO BY AMANDA SCHULD**

Senior Josiah Simburger battles with his opponent Thursday night in the dual against Midland. Simburger, wrestling at 141-lbs., was the lone winner in a rough 42-0 night for the home Raiders.

**PHOTO BY KATI HENG**

Freshman Karen Huston drives into the lane against Dordt on Feb. 1. Sophomore Sam Kleinsasser looks on for a potential rebound. The women’s team dropped their road contest to Concordia on Monday night before picking up a win at Mount Marty on Wednesday.
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V-day is what you make it

BY TANYA WOODWARD

What are you doing for Valentine’s Day? Is that a rhetorical question? Should I be doing anything for Valentine’s Day?

As a self-proclaimed unromantic, I’m not the most qualified to recommend activities for Valentine’s Day. I don’t know, it’s Tuesday—
dohomework. Watch a sappy chick flick. Wear red and pink; at least Hallmark had the sense to not make them opposites on the color wheel. Bake heart-shaped muffins. Wear a sombrero. Sing in a pentameter. Eat dinner at an over-priced, crowded restaurant. Mock the couples who “celebrate” Valentine’s Day by sitting across from one another and texting the whole time. Read my favorite book, “Pride and Prejudice”—it’s about more than love. Do what you normally do on Tuesdays.

You can take one of four stances to celebrate Valentine’s Day: (1) debate between giving chocolates or a teddy bear, (2) be courageous enough to make love on Valentine’s Day, (3) observe Cupid’s Day with “alternative” activities such as painting toenails or watching a “man” flick, (4) if you don’t care what the South Dakota, I really noticed that I was not white.

I have heard some people say that racism is not a problem and most people are now colorblind. That is definitely not true. Even little kids notice race. When I was in third grade, my school did a multi-racial Christmas program.

One of the characters in the play was the Kwanzaa child. I was the only kid in the school who wasn’t white, so it was almost implied that I would be the Kwanzaa child. The first time I ever sang in public, I sang the line, “I have what it takes to be a Kwanzaa child.”

As a little kid, I was constantly aware that I was different because of my skin color. One time, a friend and I were trying to fill out a form. I didn’t know what to put for my race because I was half black. My friend told me to just put white. It was a big deal for me. I didn’t know where I belonged.

It wasn’t until high school that I started to appreciate my “blackness.” I used to always keep my hair short so I would look like everyone else, but my freshman year of high school I started to grow my hair out. By my sophomore year, I he had a hair cut over a year, and I could pick my hair out into a massive fro. I also started learning to play the guitar from a man named John McNeal. John McNeal was a pastor who used to teach school in the South. John experienced racism because he was a white guy who was friends with black guys. He used to play guitar in a lot of black jive funk bands, and he still talks about guitar like a black guitar player. He always used to tell me, “You can’t come in my house and play the guitar like a white guy.”

John told me a story about a show that he played in an upper class white country club. As soon as his band walked into the country club, John could tell that the people were infuriated that a white guy was playing in a band with a bunch of black guys. They made the band wait in the kitchen until it was time for them to play.

“Don’t try to fit in and play the guitar like a white guy.”

This story brings to mind the Langston Hughes poem, “I too.” “I am the darker brother. They tell me to eat in the kitchen when company comes. I laugh and eat well and grow strong. Tomorrow I will sit at the table when company comes. Nobody will dare say to me eat in the kitchen then. I too am America.”

Racism is still a problem. If you haven’t seen it, you probably haven’t looked hard enough. Talk to black people who are living in metropolitan areas. Talk to the people who are getting profiled. Racism is a reality for these people.

Saying that racism isn’t a problem lacks empathy. To ignore a brother or sister who says it is a problem is a slap in the face. It’s offensive because we can’t see the issue from someone else’s point of view. I couldn’t say to a woman that sexism isn’t a problem. I wouldn’t know for myself. There are a lot of inequalities, and I shouldn’t disregard someone’s statement because of my lack of knowledge.

America is far from being colorblind. A few years ago I was hanging out with a girl who said, “My dad would be so mad if I brought a black guy home.” She was caught completely off guard that I was offended by that statement.

Racism is so deep-seated in our culture that it doesn’t even realize that I might be offended by what she said. It would be untrue and offensive to say that America is colorblind.

We need to acknowledge that racism is a problem. We shouldn’t concentrate on it all the time or bring it up in daily conversation, nor should we strive to become colorblind.

Racial difference brings with it some good comedy and stories. I think it’s important to appreciate that.
Bingo wins bike

BY NATE JOHNSTON
OPINIONS EDITOR

Bingo night is one of Northwestern College’s many quirky and unique campus events.

This tradition gives students the chance to don elderly attire and enjoy an evening of bingo. Last year, the SAC took the competition to a new level by offering several big prizes.

“Bingo night is a night when all your wildest dreams come true,” said junior Nathan Mastbergen, who was one of the winners from last year’s bingo night.

An unsuspecting Mastbergen had given up hope of winning when he returned from the restroom in the middle of a game of bingo. He realized that he was only a few numbers away from a bingo. Mastbergen ended up winning the round and became the proud new owner of a LoveSac bean bag chair.

Although Mastbergen enjoys bingo night for its unique atmosphere, he admitted that the prizes enhanced his evening.

“Everyone gets really into it so that makes it fun, but when you win, the level of fun goes up a notch,” Mastbergen said.

Mastbergen’s bingo night prize has proven to have a lasting impact on his college experience.

“It’s a nice, comfortable piece of furniture for D-groups, lockdowns or just hanging out,” Mastbergen said. “It’s very good for naps, and it’s in a great place to jump off the top bunk onto.”

Mastbergen also admits that although some people have suggested that the LoveSac would be a draw for women, it has not had that effect.

Like many other students, Mastbergen has big plans for this year’s bingo night.

“I am a firm believer in doing everything to the best of my ability, so I’m in it to win it,” Mastbergen said.

Another success story from last year’s bingo night comes from sophomore Janet Pitsenberger, who won a yellow tandem bike.

“I didn’t realize at first that they had called my number,” Pitsenberger said. “I was close to a bingo and I was anticipating it. It took me a second; then I ran up in my old-person costume and heard that I won the bike and was very surprised.”

Like Mastbergen, Pitsenberger was pleasantly surprised by winning such a big prize.

“I was very in shock because I never won anything,” Pitsenberger said. “I was super pumped because of all of the prizes, I knew the bike was the one I would most likely use and thoroughly enjoy.”

The yellow tandem bike, which has become well known on NW’s campus, has been enjoyed by Pitsenberger as well as many other students.

“I’ve loved riding it, and I’ve let a lot of people borrow it. A lot of people have gotten use of it on campus,” Pitsenberger said.

Pitsenberger plans to attend bingo night again this year and is excited to dress up and have fun with friends.

At 9 p.m., Friday, Feb. 10, students will line the RSC mall area dressed like baby boomers waiting for their chance to take home one of the many alluring prizes of bingo night. Prizes include a Casting Crowns concert, a voucher, a Kindle Fire, a Black Hills, a $200 textbook and more.

Submit Events
Submit your campus happenings and events to the Beacon for inclusion in the very public setting of the Cafe.

West and Heemstra Date Night tradition lives on

BY GILLIAN ANDERSON

West and Heemstra Halls are preparing for their annual date night. Even though many former Heemstra residents now live on the third floor of Coly, they have managed to keep up this tradition.

This year the group will be going to a hockey game featuring the Sioux City Musketeers versus the Des Moines Buccaneers.

“We usually go to a hockey game,” said junior Nate Johnston. “We usually scream our heads off.”

Amber Maloney went on Date Night last year with Nathan Mastbergen.

“It was the first time I’d been to a hockey game so that was exciting,” Maloney said.

While most of the guys choose to ask girls who are their friends or girls who they are possibly interested in going out with, this isn’t always the case according to junior Abe Klafter.

“It can also be a man date,” Klafter said.

He will be going to the game with his roommate.

While most couples attend the hockey game, the date night is not completely planned out.

Some couples choose to go out to eat beforehand separately or in groups.

“It is better to be in a group of friends and to meet new people,” Johnston said. Residents ask their dates in a variety of ways. Fresman Ignacio Higuera asked his date in the very public setting of the Cafe.

“It was just a spur of the moment kind of thing,” Higuera said. “I was extremely nervous. My heart was pounding really fast, but I think it was because of the adrenaline. The whole thing just feels like a dream; not because it was magical, but because I can’t believe I did that.”

According to sophomore Kori Heidebrink, for some girls who are dating West residents “it was just assumed” that they would be asked. This will be Heidebrink’s second time participating in date night.

“I attended when I was a senior in high school,” Heidebrink said. However, for many students, like junior Bekah Mabrey, this will be their first time attending.

“I am most excited to watch the hockey game,” Mabrey said.

Date Night will take place Saturday, Feb. 11.