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Students dive into culture with SOS

CULTIVATING DIVERSITY,
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

OWEN KOLSTE
NURSING

Every summer numerous Northwestern students set off to various places around the globe. From Compton to the Philippines and everywhere in between, God's mission is a global effort to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to everyone. Our students get only a taste or glimpse of how God is working in and through people around the world. The purpose of the Summer of Service (SOS) program is that "The SOS seeks to prepare students to be culturally competent Christian servants in the world and to come alongside, assist and encourage those engaged in Christian mission," according to the NW directory. In total there were 17 Northwestern students who set off into the world to 10 different sites. Of course, every story matters and is important to how God is working in the world. But it is impossible to cover every story to

the extent it deserves. The student highlights that this article will include are junior nursing student, Laci Davenport's (trip to Southeast Asia, senior business major, Kyle Christy's trip to Compton, California and lastly senior elementary education major, Emily Kraft's trip to Thailand.

Davenport went to Southeast Asia to work with an organization called Pioneers. This program partners college aged students with their long-term team to minister to the community around them. Davenport states, "We lived in a dorm with a whole bunch of college students attending the university. We ministered and befriended the girls there, being one of the first Christians they had ever met." From this, one can gather how Pioneer's fits into the NW SOS mission statement. Coming alongside, assisting and encouraging those in mission and potentially new Christians. Davenport also grew tremendously in engaging different cultures and states. "I've learned that it is good to be curious and it is good to step into those conversations even if it may be awkward at first," she said.



PHOTO SUBMITTED
NW students ventured across the world, serving the mission of Christ, and embracing cultures.

All in all, her SOS trip to Southeast Asia was full of ministry, answered prayers and Christian witness to how God is working in this area of the world through Pioneers.

Kyle Christy and Abigail Blok

ventured to Compton, California to work with The City Church of Compton. They helped with various kid's camps, vacation Bible schools, service projects, leading Bible studies, preparing food on Monday nights

and being a part of God's mission in Compton. When asked about how he saw God working in Compton, Christy states, "The people in Compton live deeply communal lives.

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Embracing childhood creativity

ARE COLLEGE STUDENTS
LESS CREATIVE NOW?

KAYLEE BANDSTRA
PUBLIC RELATIONS

In preschool and Kindergarten, and perhaps even before that, our mentors encouraged us to use our hands to make things. Paper boats, paper airplanes, the fortune teller devices made out of paper. We used to make elaborate bracelets with our rainbow looms and start side hustles with the items made from colorful, patterned duct tape. Kids learned about chemical reactions by making slime with products that they stole from their parents. We read stories, and our teachers encouraged us to write our own.

But what happened? What happened to the colorful way of life and crafting and creativity?

According to the article, "We're All Getting Less Creative, and

Scientists Think They Know Why," humans have become busier. "In short, we're too busy and entertained for creativity to blossom," Jessica Stillman, the author of the article, wrote. "Gone are the days where childhood was largely spent in unsupervised rambles and imaginary play. And we're generally just as overscheduled and overstimulated as adults." There is also a lack of boredom in our busy lives, yet boredom breeds creativity. This makes sense as to why we receive amazing and amusing ideas when we go for a walk or take a shower. (Those were two examples that the article suggested.) Because of constant access to technology and the internet, people have less time to be bored, and thus, less time to embrace creativity.

Another reason people seem less creative today is because people wish to stay in their comfort zones. Creativity can be vulnerable: an art gallery, a piece of literature, a



PHOTO BY LILLIAN REITH
NW's Crafternoon club is a creative outlet for students to engage in arts and crafts activities.

theatre performance or a piece of music for all to see, watch and listen.

Being a college student with a busy schedule, it can be hard to

stay creative. Even if your major is involved in the arts, the class work may not feel like creativity to you. College students can make themselves busy, almost to

the point of burnout. According to blogger Chris Zaire in his article "How to Stay Creative When You're Tired, Burnt Out and Have No Ideas Left,"

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Heartfelt addition to indie rock genre

GLIMPSES OF HOPE THROUGH GLOOM

COLLIN VERSCHOOR
ENGLISH TEACHING

Indie rock singer/songwriter Briston Maroney recently released his second studio album titled "Ultrapure." This album has been long-awaited since his last album "Paradise" was released in the spring of 2021. The 41 minute-long album consists of 13 songs, exploring just about every emotion you could think of.

For those who were fans of the upbeat and fast paced songs featured on "Paradise," a fair warning should be given that "Ultrapure" is totally different. This record is defined by its slower ballads, and mellow and melancholic feel, while still holding true to Maroney's distinct style.

The greeting song to the album, titled "Intro," is a short 45 second preview that sets the atmosphere for the rest of the album with a heavy emphasis on the acoustic guitar as well as lyrics alluding to childhood. An interesting addition to this track that is spotted

throughout the record is the chirping of birds that can faintly be heard in the background.

Track two, "Body," was released as a teaser for the album about 5 months ago. This is one of few songs on the album that picks up the pace and favors more of a digital sound. Maroney's voice is slightly altered, leaving him sounding more like a robot. "Body" is a song that sticks with the listener as it deals with the finitude of people, recognizing that we merely inhabit our flesh, and once we die, that is all our body is. The inevitableness of human deterioration as time marches on inspires Maroney to "love like I might never get to love someone again."

Unlike the living in the moment tone of "Body," many of the tracks involve Maroney looking back at the past or ahead at the future and recalling how life changes. "Breathe," the third track, is about wanting to grow and change but also reminding oneself to breathe and let the change come naturally, rather than staying stagnant waiting for it to appear. On the other side of this song "Sunburn Fades" is all about

what the future may bring. After detailing the emotions and growth found in his twenties Maroney closes the song questioning if the hard times will get better, and the listener is left without a clear answer.

A major theme across tracks seems to be a struggle with anxiety and self-worth. In track number eight, "Detonator," Maroney confesses his struggle with confidence. The song delves into new love and all the worries that come with it. The first verse conveys these emotions perfectly.

"Another sleepless night on the fact that you asked for advice / You've got an ex-boyfriend / And there it goes, my sudden confidence / I guess I let him win / 'Cause I swore to God I wouldn't let this in my head / Now you're just checkin in / You want the truth but it feels like a chance to slip"

Similar to track eight, track 11 "Sink;Swim" focuses on mental battles, but dealing fully with oneself rather than the influence of one's environment. Maroney sings of missing old friends and how people change, but it seems as if he believes change is something he struggles with. He sings,



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

"I heard that the fastest way to keep yourself in the same place / To worry 'bout the things you haven't done / I've been trying the best I can / To make sure I don't miss my chance / But I don't think that I'm the only one"

Even though it may seem as if the entire album is a

rainy, gloomy record, there are still glimpses of hope and love. Songs like "Chaos Party," "The Idea" and "Spring" all focus on finding someone you love and want to be with forever.

This second major showing of Maroney's cements him as a musician

with a range of sound and emotion. Maroney's heartfelt lyrics and care for his craft are easy to hear, and we can only hope to see more of him in the future.

★★★★★

Eerily plausible sci-fi story comes to screen

MOVIE REVIEW

AN EXPLORATION INTO AI

LOGAN THOFT
YOUTH MINISTRY

Our world is full of technology. It is part of our everyday life from transport and machines for manufacturing to the complexity of the zinternet. We are now living in a time where artificial intelligence(AI) is becoming more of a reality and not just an antagonistic force that we see in movies. All of this commotion with AI makes "The Creator" a movie that has some plausibility to it, despite being an entirely fictional story.

"The Creator" takes place decades in the future starting in 2055 when Los Angeles is wiped out by a nuclear explosion believed to have been caused by AI. The trailer for this movie sets up the humans to be the good guys while the AI and robots are the bad guys. However, as the movie goes on, fast forward to the year 2070 with America at war with AI. The line drawn between good guys and bad guys becomes blurred as the American military infiltrates an AI base where the robots are being housed by human villagers who have sided with them. Sergeant Joshua Taylor, the movie's lead, played by John

David Washington, is among the American soldiers sent into the village to terminate the "weapon" that can end America's war with AI only to find out that the weapon is an innocent, robot child, newcomer actor Madeleine Yuna Voyles, who is later named Alphie.

From the child's discovery comes the usual storyline where the heavily flawed protagonist, Joshua, finds a younger character, Alphie, and reluctantly takes her in. This storyline has now become one that we have seen many times before. However, unlike other films that have been released this year, "The Creator" still finds a way to stand out amongst its fellow science-fiction productions.

For one, the movie is beautifully shot and its visual effects are actually quite good. The crazier thing is that in a year where movies that are made with hefty visual effects are released, "The Creator" looks far better than the likes of "The Flash," "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" and "Fast X" to name a few.

Another positive is that it succeeds as a war film since there are high stakes for the characters. Again, in a year where multiple action films are released, most, if not all, the characters in most of these films get out of their conflicts

unscathed. "The Creator" manages to prove that no one is truly safe amongst this war between humans and robots as the first couple of battles see characters in Joshua's squad get blown up or gunned down left and right. Coming from Gareth Edwards, who is coming off of "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," mass character deaths might become a reoccurring story beat with his movies moving forward.

The big thing to come out of "The Creator" is the attempt at sympathy towards the robots. The movie explains that AI has grown so much from its creation by humans that they have developed emotions and have taken on human actions. We see robots as a part of the police force, robots acting in several shows and dancing in night clubs. There is even a mention that humans can "donate" their likeness to robots who want to wear human faces. Yet, we also see them partake in human religion through funeral ceremonies and mourning their own losses or visiting temples to see robot monks. There is a scene where Alphie is reading the Bible, specifically from Genesis 2:22 where Eve is created from Adam's ribs and is brought to him in the Garden of Eden.

A great scene from the movie is when Joshua and Alphie talk

about what Heaven is. During this conversation, there is an eerie parallel in which Joshua says that Heaven is a "peaceful place in the sky" before the screen shows the massive satellite weapon that America is using to rain fire down on AI refugee camps. Joshua then says to Alphie that "You have to be a good person to go to Heaven." Alphie makes an observation that she and Joshua are the same. She says Joshua can't go to Heaven because he's "not good" and she can't go because "she's not a person."

Overall, "The Creator" is a standout addition to the 2023 film slate. Gareth Edwards and his creative team along with a cast delivered an astonishing movie with aspiring visuals, unexpectedly great parallels to scripture, and a storyline that is made richer and even more eerie with AI's current state in our society. While the humans in the movie deem robots as nothing "real," just "programming," we can't deny that AI has made the events in this movie eerily plausible with some decades left to go. Leaving this writer to wonder how long could it potentially take if the "programming" displayed on the movie screen becomes grim and truly "real."

★★★★★

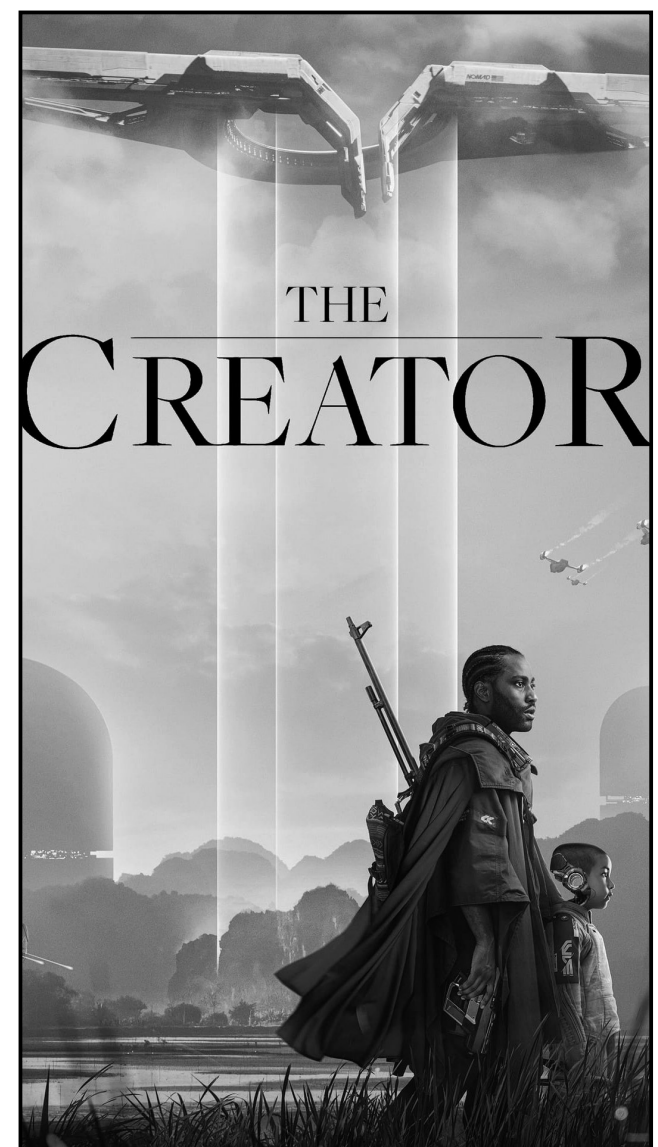


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MOVIE DATABASE

Show highlights friendship and whimsy

AN EXPERIENCE OF CHILD-LIKE WONDER

NCHOLE HANSEN
PUBLIC RELATIONS

A little boy wakes to a snowy scene of wonder and fear all at once. Realizing he may have lost something very important to his family, he sets off on a long adventure with his dog to fix the problem. Northwestern College's theater program brings light to this beautiful children's play, written by Charles Way and directed by Ethan Koerner, using the black box theater and the help of some very talented students.

A big part of the atmosphere of a play is the actors who perform. It is about more than just how they portray the character, it also says something about their genuine character. A great example of this is Reece Tyrrell, a junior software engineering major,

who plays Bjartur, the father, and the Fire Troll. Reece lights up the stage when he sets foot as the father in the play, and he had everyone giggling with his snores. Though he does such things with what seems like little to no effort, he comments on just how strange it can be preparing for a show. "It is a strange feeling preparing for a show. As we progress through our shows, the feeling of anticipation will eventually fade. This will be replaced with creativity in order to keep things new and fresh," he said in an interview.

Though he suggested that it can be stressful, there are parts that are very enjoyable, such as watching other peers perform. "My favorite part of the show is anything having to do with Madison DenHerder," he said. "Her chaotic style goes well with her personality and she has helped me understand different ways of going about theater."

Another actor who leaves a

lasting impact on any audience is Madison DenHerder. As a senior theater major at NW, she has taken many steps on the stages of the theater building on campus, however, there is something special and different about this one that stands out from the rest. She plays Titla the dog and mentioned just how much she loves it. In fact, she has done so much with theater it does not even scare her anymore.

"I have been in the children's show for the last four years, so I'm not as nervous as I could be," she said. "We have been rehearsing this show for months to perform for large groups of children, so I'm just ready for a crowd!" She also mentioned the dynamic of the dog and the boy. "This dog has been my favorite character out of all the plays I have been in. The dog and the boy create such a funny and sarcastic relationship. I just love it!"

Though the show is definitely fun for the cast

and crew, the audience is expected to love it just as much. Jessica Schulmeister, a sophomore theater major and the actress who plays Gullbra the sheep, thinks that the community will respond really well to the show. "It's fun, whimsical, and even touches deeper themes," she said. Lexi Squier, a freshman business administration and theater major who also plays the characters Rosa, the mom, and the Ice Troll also believes that the audience will react well due to the amount of work the actors put into it.

Though there are certainly many aspects of fun to the play, the entirety of it teaches a lesson: stick together with those you love and keep on keeping on, even when things are tough. The show will be performed Friday, Oct. 6th at 7p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 7th at 4p.m.



PHOTO BY SADIE DEJONG
Children's show cast members pose in costume.

Rend Collective comming to Raider Nation

COZY AND ECLECTIC, YET UPBEAT WORSHIP

HOPE WALLACE
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Looking for something fun to do with family and friends this weekend? Along with the football game, the showing of "One Snowy Night" and the Homecoming Dance, Northwestern will be hosting a concert this weekend put on by the well-known and loved band, Rend Collective. This event is open to the public.

Rend Collective is a worship band that has been popular for about ten years, and they are originally from Northern Ireland. They have released multiple albums throughout the years but are most well-known for their songs "My Lighthouse," "Build Your Kingdom Here," "You Will Never Run" and "Rescuer."

The concert, "Campfire: The 10th Anniversary Tour" will kick off the many festivities of NW's Raider Nation Celebration, the Homecoming and Family weekend on campus. The concert will be on Friday, Oct. 6 and will begin at 8p.m.

Tickets are going fast, so anyone who wishes to attend this awesome event should get theirs soon. If there are any tickets left on the day of the concert, prices will increase. To purchase general admission tickets for \$26, go to echoconcerts.com. There is a discounted price of \$20 per ticket available for purchase to NW students and faculty members in the Ramaker Center student life office. There are \$40 tickets available to purchase for early entry, as well as \$75 deluxe tickets, which include being the first one to enter the chapel, and a picture pass with the band after the concert. As of Tuesday, Oct. 3, there are still about 20 tickets available to purchase.

While talking with Lucas Heiberger, the director

of NW's Student Activity Council, he provided background information on the concert. "NW has had a ton of awesome bands come throughout the years," said Heiberger. NW is partnered with "Echo Concerts," a booking agent in the Midwest, which helps them get connected to worship bands that are going on tour and are looking for locations. For the past several years, NW has had the privilege of hosting bands such as Sidewalk Prophets, Newsboys, David Crowder, Phil Wickham, Audio Adrenaline and Skillet, just to name a few.

"For many years in a row, there was one concert every single year. COVID kind of killed that. The last one we had was Newsboys in 2019," said Heiberger.

Heiberger went on to talk about his excitement for such a talented and entertaining group to start up the concert tradition again. He said, "Hopefully it's a great concert and everyone will love the chance to worship together - fellow Raiders, community members and world-renowned worship artists!"

In their music, Rend Collective provides genuine worship, as well as entertaining, professional musicality. For them, worship is more than a song. It is a heart posture and a way of life. The name "Rend Collective" is inspired by the Bible verse Joel 2:13, which says, "Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity." The idea of rending one's heart means having an attitude of worship in all areas of life. This is something Rend Collective does an incredible job of doing and inviting people into during their concerts.

During this upcoming concert, the band hopes to commemorate the album, "Campfire," which was recorded live around a campfire in 2013 on a Northern Irish beach. The concert will consist of all the cozy and eclectic, yet upbeat vibes that are also present in the album that started it all.



THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

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Tim Tebow, Craig Groeschel talk leadership

LEADERSHIP AND FAITH

KAYLEE BANDSTRA
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tim Tebow and Craig Groeschel spoke at the Sioux Center Leadership IGNITE conference at Terrace View Event Center in Sioux Center on Oct. 5.

Tebow is a jack of all trades, known for his professional athletic career, his New York Times best-sellers, his work with the Tim Tebow Foundation (TTF) and his Christian faith.

When Tebow was in college, he played for the University of Florida, the Gators, as a quarterback. His name started to become known when he received the Heisman Trophy, a trophy given to the most outstanding college football player, as an underclassman in 2007. He won two more in the consecutive years.

He played for multiple teams in the NFL from 2010 to 2015 and 2021. From 2016 to 2019, Tebow played on multiple minor league baseball teams in the MLB.

Three of Tebow's books have made him a NY Times

Bestselling author: "Mission Possible: Go Create a Life That Counts," "This is the Day" and "Shaken: Discovering Your True Identity in the Midst of Life's Storms."

Tebow has written other books, such as "Bronco & Friends: Mission Possible," "Bronco and Friends: A Party to Remember," "Through my Eyes: A Quarterback's Journey" and "Know Who You Are."

The TTF's mission "is to bring faith, hope and love to those needing a brighter day in their darkest hour of need," according to timtebowfoundation.org. "TTF also has a heart to share the Gospel with as many vulnerable people as possible to help them know their inherent value as children of God." The TTF has ministries in "Orphan Care + Prevention," "Special Needs Ministry," "Profound Medical Needs" and "Anti-Human Trafficking + Child Exploitation."

Tim Tebow is an outspoken Christian, and one of his most popular ways of showcasing his faith was in 2009 in a game against the Oklahoma Sooners. During this game, Tebow wrote "John

3:16" in white on his eye-black, which led to 90 million people Googling the verse.

Keynote speaker Groeschel is the founder of Life Church, a church known for its digital presence and the creation of the You Version Bible App. Like Tebow, Groeschel is also a New York Times Best Selling Author. Groeschel also hosts a podcast called "Craig Groeschel Leadership Podcast."

In 1996, Life.Church was founded by Groeschel and his wife Amy. Within the next few years, the church saw rapid growth, causing the church to expand to dozens of locations. "Life.Church has led the way in pioneering innovations for the global Church, including video teaching, multi-site locations, online church services, and more," according to craiggroeschel.com.

Life .Church pioneered the way for the You Version App. In 2008, the pastor of Life .Church, Bobby Gruenewald, founded the You Version Bible App, which has over 500 million global downloads. Groeschel's New York Times Best Sellers are "The Power to Change," "Lead Like It Matters"



COURTESY OF SIOUXCENTERCHAMBER.COM
Inspirational leaders, Groeschel and Tebow, spoke in Sioux Center.

and "Winning the War in Your Mind."

Each episode of Groeschel's leadership podcast is available on Spotify, with most episodes being under an hour long. According to Craig Groeschel Leadership Podcast page on Spotify, it offers

"personal, practical coaching lessons that take the mystery out of leadership."

Because of these two prominent people, the conference was sold out. Overall, the time for the conference spanned five hours.

At 1 p.m., the doors opened; 2

p.m., the event began, which included presentations from Groeschel and Tebow, plus a Q&A with the keynote speakers; 4:30 p.m., the event was moved to the Ridge Golf Club for a post-networking event.

Students embark on summer missions trip

FROM PAGE 1

They share life with each other and are a testament to what it means to care for your neighbors." Clearly, the deep fellowship and love for thy neighbor is evident of God working in Compton. This is a testament to why a summer in Compton on an SOS is filled with so much love, fellowship and desire for something greater. In addition, NW has an annual Spring Service Partnership program in Compton, so if any of this experience sounds enticing and you cannot commit to an SOS then maybe look into this. Last, but certainly not least, is Kraft's trip to Bangkok, Thailand. Kraft worked alongside a ministry called "Santisuk". Santisuk is a ministry connected with a

school that teaches mostly 13-50-year-olds English through Bible stories. When asked how God was working Kraft stated, "God worked so much this summer. It was so encouraging to see my students and their curiosity to learn more about God all through the stories we were able to share." Kraft did not only connect with her students in school but also was heavily encouraged to form relationships in her free time. Even though language barriers exist, the love of God is greater and the SOS trip to Bangkok was a reflection of God's love in and out of school. These are not the only SOS stories from NW students, plenty of others have had the opportunity to see how God works in all places.



PHOTO SUBMITTED
NW students Emily Kraft, Abbie Jo Segerstrom and AJ Schaefer spent their summer teaching in Thailand.

Sustainable shopping available in Orange City

HANDS AROUND THE WORLD

ELENA LEE HISTORY

In a world that runs on fast fashion, cheaply-made goods and single-use products, Hands Around the World provides a breath of fresh air through its dedication to fair trade and environmentally friendly practices. Located on Central Avenue, Hands Around the World is a staple of the Orange City community, as it has been in business for over 30 years and is entirely volunteer based. True to its name, the store features goods and art from artisans around the globe and offers local residents a chance to step out of their own culture and into the perspective of someone thousands of miles away. Every purchase supports sustainability and fair-trade markets.

Inside the store, one can find an assortment of goods and art, such as ceramics from Vietnam and South America, figurines from Peru, hand-woven items, tea and jewelry made from recycled materials. To obtain these items, Hands Around the World partners with artisans and farmers from different communities. This is a mutually beneficial relationship, as this gives the artists an opportunity to sell their products to a broader audience, and the Orange City community is able to better appreciate and support global trade and styles of craft from different cultures. Many of the artisans whose work is featured in the store are using their art to support their families back home or protect themselves from a life of dependency on others. According to Margo Vanderhill, store manager, Hands Around the World is also an outlet for female

empowerment, as the female artisans are able to bring income to the family instead of getting married at an early age. All artists are compensated for their work, and since the store is a non-profit, all extra profit goes back to them. In addition to providing a broader market, Hands Around the World also promotes sustainability by ascribing to fair-trade policies. Since many of the items found in store require plant-based materials, the creation of these goods can be very draining on the environment. To combat this, Hands Around the World gives supplies and money to grow the plants that communities need for their craft, so that they do not exhaust resources. Another example of this process is the store's gift of solar lights to different communities that do not have electricity, so that they are able to work in

the evening and use clean energy. This ensures enough resources for future artisans, and eliminates the difficult duality of working for a livable income at the expense of the environment, and instead allows them to create guilt-free art. It is incredibly tempting to rely on Amazon, chain stores and fast fashion websites for daily needs. Businesses have made it easier than ever to buy goods, which is great for students with busy schedules; however, this convenience has a cost. When we pay less for clothing and luxury items, the people who actually make them lose more. Shopping sustainably, such as at stores like Hands Around the World, provides students with the opportunity to take care of the environment and help promote fair working conditions and equitable compensation for artisans. Supporting fair trade



PHOTO BY NORAH BEEKHUIZEN
Hands Around the World offers a sustainable shopping.

policies shows exploitative companies that consumers prefer human rights and environmental sustainability over convenience. Students can join in the mission of Hands Around the World by visiting their store, which allows them to experience the beauty of different cultures, as well as the beauty of protecting the earth and the people in it.

Cultivating creativity

FROM PAGE 1

he states that some reasons one may lack creativity are: "too much work and not enough rest, stress from personal or professional life, a creative block that you can't seem to breakthrough and lack of motivation."

"I love curating Spotify playlists to create a very specific mood," Rose Hoogers said.

"I have one for everything." Hoogers and her friends "do puzzles and then we mod podge them." There are also chalk murals in her apartment. "Sometimes my friends and I will have spontaneous painting parties when we need a break," senior Bailey Brown said. "My friend Denny has a bunch of painting supplies, so on a random Sunday afternoon we set up in one of the study

rooms in Steg and painted away while chatting and listening to music." There are many options available for NW students to embrace creativity, such as creative clubs Crafternoon, and arts and humanities classes that focus on art, theatre and music.



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH.COM
Students find varying ways to stay creative amidst busy college schedules.



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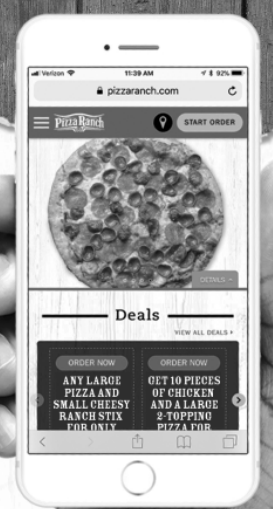
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HOT TAKES

IF YOU WERE A BODY PART IN THE BODY OF CHRIST, WHAT BODY PART WOULD YOU BE?

“The pinkie toe”

“The skin”

“The eyelashes”

“Heart”

“2nd left toe”

“The right pointer finger, or ring finger”

“The teeth”

“Fingernails”

“Wisdom teeth”

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE DISCIPLE?

“Judas”

“Peter!”

“Johnny Boy”

“I’m lovin’ James”

“Judas pre-betrayal”

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!

The corn is too tall



Joseph Callahan
Nursing

As an instructor for the Coldwater Foundation, I spend my summers leading faith integrated experiential education trips for kids ranging 10 – 17 years old. These trips run anywhere from 7 – 14 days in length traveling through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Superior National Forest. What this job has taught me is how to see my life and my faith in physical terms using the environment to create metaphors for learning. Once you start seeing the world through a lens of underlying meanings it is hard to ever go back. Even in the wilderness of Northwest Iowa, I see lessons in the land that make my days meaningful. Allow me to share a metaphor as of late.

The other night I was driving south on K64, looking east, admiring another beautiful Iowa sunset. However, as I reached the edge of town my view was quickly veiled by a wall of corn. What a misfortune that this prospering field should block my brief view of Heaven falling on the horizon. I craned to see beyond the stalks, but it was futile. The sky faded

to black, a moment of natural beauty came and went unseen by my eyes because of the abundance set before them. The corn was just too tall.

This experience forces a couple questions. What are the cornfields in my life that are blocking the sunsets? What are the things of abundance that are being set before brief moments of heaven touching earth? What are the good things that I have planted, cultivated and grown, that now shadow the things that are beyond this earth and this life?

Living for extended periods of time in a wilderness area has taught me how distracting the things in my life at school are. I live inside this bell jar of comfort. My faith chokes on the surplus of it all. It is a blessing to live here, where food, water, shelter, safety and care are easily attained. However, in this kind of environment, my faith feels like a club I subscribe to or a brand I wear. In the wilderness there is a different realness to faith. It is a raw dependence for physical security where it feels like much is at stake. I have come to know that faith is best learned and refined experientially with God being the best educator.

The Bible is riddled with instances of God bringing his people into raw physical challenge and fear to prove his faithfulness. Even Jesus teaches lessons this way. He lets his followers feel real fear, tension and doubt in situations where life seems at stake. In a lesser sense than biblical character or my peers, I have felt anxiety about safety, shelter and food in the wilderness that forces no other option

besides trust in the everlasting God.

The culture shock coming back to campus is that faith is talked about differently here. It is all in terms that do not feel tangible, when my heart is trained to see God’s provision in berries on portages or an hour of sunshine to dry my three days of rain-soaked clothing.

I think faith is meant to be lived in this tension of real dependence and trust more than it is to be talked about in academic terms or elegant prayers. There is wilderness ready to challenge and grow our faith all around. Not necessarily wilderness of mud and trees and bugs, but any space where the mirage of control and security is lifted. It is in these places where I find myself clinging to the hope of Christ and moments of Heaven coming down are no longer blocked by my insulating life. The places are not far, they are right here, it’s in Sioux City, Sioux Center, Orange City. There is a chaotic, messy world outside the lotus perfumed bell jar of Northwestern College. Just behind the towering cornstalks Heaven is touching Earth, where none of us are in control, where faith is clung to for dear life. It is there that my faith flourishes and I feel most alive in Christ.

My opinion for you is this: You should do things that make you uncomfortable. Go find a space where your only hope is that Christ is near. Find this place, set up camp and look for your peace to be sustained by the Lord. If you stay long enough, you will see small moments of Heaven dropping into the chaos, to be with us, beyond the insulating comforts that easily shadow them.

The importance of storytelling



Frances DeArmond
Theatre

Why are humans so drawn to telling stories? What makes them such an integral part of our culture? With all the labor rights movements happening in the entertainment industry (the recently resolved Writer’s Guild of America (WGA) strike, the ongoing Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists strike, the unionisation of visual effects workers, etc), the importance of storytelling in our society has been brought to the forefront of a lot of our minds.

Storytelling is, first and foremost, a path to connection. Some would argue that it’s this drive for connection that makes us human. This need for connection is driven, in part, because we are naturally social creatures. Therefore, we are always seeking to understand one another. I once had a professor tell my

class that you could never hate a person once you knew their whole story. His reason being that people build empathy through being exposed to narratives that are different than theirs. It is through this that one can find, not just differences, but similarities between themselves and other people. When people notice just how similar they are to each other, it makes it easier to come together and work towards a common goal.

Storytelling is also how we pass down knowledge in a memorable way. It provides the much-needed context and reasoning for how and why we do what we do. That context gives knowledge, meaning and a purpose. It is one thing, for example, to rattle off statistics from a report of what happened on 9/11. It is quite another to read a firsthand account of someone who was there that day. The latter gives insight as to how truly devastating the event was.

Storytelling is necessary in exercising our imagination. Through this creative process we can dream up fantastical situations with even more fantastical solutions. There are innumerable ways people have been inspired to invent or improve things by some sort of imaginary rendering explored in a story. Just look up “inventions inspired by Jules Verne”

and you’ll be thoroughly surprised!

Storytelling is a good way to explore hard topics in a safe way. There is a lot of darkness that exists in this world, and the best way to shed light on certain powers is to talk about them. Some would argue that exposing people to the more unsavoury aspects of life is encouraging. I disagree. With exploration comes knowledge, and with knowledge comes understanding. And it is with understanding that we can better protect ourselves against the darkness that creeps into our lives.

Storytelling and humanity go hand in hand. You can’t really have one without the other. This has been proven true yet again with the resolution of the Writer’s Guild of America strike. With the threat of A.I. taking over their jobs, writers went on strike. It’s been a long 146 days of getting the company executives to understand that it’s not perfection that people are looking for in a story, they are looking for connection. And that is something that is uniquely human.

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NW's tennis teams defeat Mount Marty

MATCHES END WITH TIE-BREAKER

LEANDRO COSTA
BUSINESS ADM/
MARKETING

At the beginning of the week, the men's tennis team put up a great battle against Mount Marty, a conference rival already known by Northwestern's players.

The boys powered through the late-night match and came up with a solid victory of 5-2 overall.

It was the fourth out of five commitments they have on a short 2023 fall season.

The match, despite the score, was decided on the wire, having four of its singles matches going to a third set tiebreaker.

This was a peak moment for tennis players, requiring

full concentration and decisive power, costing the match if not played at a high level.

"Winning matches like these gives you extra motivation to keep working harder and better. Coming out in the end with a positive result, even when your body and mind are not there, that is rewarding," said Leandro Costa, a sophomore and one of the team captains.

"And being able to count on our friends and family, having their support and the Raiders' energy hyping the team up was amazing. We hope to see that more and more," Costa said.

Men's Tennis Head Coach Monte Tilgner gave his analysis on the encounter, stating "The first four singles matches, being played at the same time, all went down

to a tiebreak to determine the match after each of the first two sets were split. I was very proud of how all the guys rallied behind each other and really showed a lot of grit in their matches," said Mr. Tilgner after a watch worthymatch.

The women also played MMU and swept the girl's side with a strong 7-0 result.

Fall season is not over yet for the men's team, hosting another home match on Wednesday against the D2 from Sioux Falls, the Augustana Vikings, at 5:30 p.m.

Check the tennis team's Instagram page for more updates and content, at nwcmtennis.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MATEO FLORES
Tennis players are down and ready to start the match.

Busy Saturday ahead for NW student athletes

GOOD ENDING FOR HOMECOMING WEEK

NICHOLE HANSEN
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Homecoming: a time for joyous cheering in stands and celebration all around. This upcoming weekend, Oct. 7 in particular, brings this joyous attitude and celebration straight to the small town of Orange City, specifically to Northwestern College. With this comes an elaborate list of games and players who are excited to spend the weekend doing something they love.

The homecoming games taking place on Saturday include men's and women's cross country at Briar Cliff, varsity and junior varsity volleyball at Hastings,

men's and women's soccer at Midland, and a home football game against Hastings.

Although not every sport being played on Saturday is in Orange City, certain team members are thrilled to be on the field. "It's a bummer that our game is away for homecoming," said junior women's soccer athlete, Grace Dahl "but I'm still very excited to be with the team and play hard against Midland! Go Raiders!"

Grace, however, was not the only college athlete to express her excitement in playing for homecoming. Junior varsity volleyball athlete and sophomore at NW, Hailey Van Dyken, said that she's "looking forward to playing two great teams in Nebraska and staying with the team overnight to grow closer together." Though the football

game typically brings the biggest crowd, the excitement is high all over campus to see if NW will come out on top of each opponent. In fact, the athletes are not the only students on campus excited about the games.

"I'm very excited to cheer for the football team with all my classmates, peers and friends!" said sophomore elementary education major, Meredith Sundberg.

It is safe to say that the stands will be full this Saturday, no matter where teams are playing. The teams appreciate everyone's support and cheering and cannot wait to see you on the field or in the stands.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY NWCATHLETICS
The Red Raider football team runs onto the field, ready to tackle a win.

Athletes of the week: Volleyball and soccer

JUNIORS ARE LEADERS

COLLIN VERSCHOOR
ENGLISH TEACHING

As we approach midseason in most fall sports, our student athletes are fully committed to their respective sports. Throughout each of Northwestern's fall sports rosters, several students have stepped into leadership roles, whether that means supporting fellow teammates or being an outstanding player.

On Oct. two, two athletes were recognized for their outstanding performances during not only the past week, but throughout the

season.

The title of American State Banks Raider Athletes of the week was given to Jazlin De Haan and Stan van den Beld.

De Haan, a junior physical education major from Orange City, has had an exceptional season. In the Raiders win against #6 Viterbo (Wis.), De Haan racked up 27 kills, a new career high.

This personal best paired with an astounding 25 digs helped De Haan notch her eighth double-double of the season.

This caliber of competition appeared for De Haan again on Sept. 29, despite the close loss.

In the nail-biting five

set battle that ensued against #11 College of Saint Mary, De Haan recorded 24 kills and 19 digs.

Taking things outdoors, van den Beld, a junior accounting major from the Netherlands, has had an excellent season on the pitch.

During the men's soccer team's impressive 6-0 win over Mount Marty on Sept. 26, van den Beld walked away with an assist as well as a goal of his own. Again, in the Raider's match against Jamestown van den Beld scored the lone goal off of a corner kick.

Not only was van den Beld awarded Raider Athlete of The Week, but he was also recently bestowed with the honor

of Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) offensive player of the week. As of now van den Beld has the second most goals in the GPAC with eight goals.

There is still much of the fall sport season left to play and we all hope to see Raider athletes shine in whatever way that may be.

If you would like to see the volleyball team continue their impressive and successful season, you can watch them in their next home outing on Wednesday, Oct. 11 against Morningside.

The men's soccer team can be seen back at home on Saturday Oct. 21 against Hastings.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWCATHLETICS
Jazlin De Haan cheers after NW volleyball team scores against opponent.

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Escaping routine to reflect on identity

ALL CAMPUS RETREAT RECAP

REAGAN SCHOLTING
BUSINESS ADM/AG
BUSINESS

This past weekend, Northwestern students headed to Hidden Acres Christian Center for the annual All Campus Retreat. They left Friday around 5:30 p.m. for a weekend full of worship and a ton of fun and did not return until Sunday around 12:30 p.m. Students were encouraged to use the weekend to grow in their relationships with Christ as well as create new relationships with others.

Over the weekend, the focus centered on "Defining our Identity: Wholeness." Pastor Kurt Bush led three sessions throughout the weekend and was accompanied by an incredible time of worship led by Gavin Higgins, Jack MacGregor, Ally Ringsby and Lizzy Linser. Pastor Bush's sessions were focused on identity: who God says you are versus who we default to thinking we are, shame: the voice that tells us lies about who we are and what we are to do and alignment: knowing who we are in Christ and our purpose.

Time was also dedicated to small groups as well as solitude to

reflect and dig deeper into those sessions. In these moments, NW students were able to embrace the silence and sit in God's word while deciphering the personal significance of each sermon and finding ways to apply them to their everyday lives.

"Taking the time out of your day to slow down and sit in stillness can really help relax yourself and your way of life," said Claire Pierce, a junior elementary education major.

The remaining duration of the weekend was spent hiking, swimming, late-night paddle boating and playing games. A fan favorite was the campus ministry rendition of Capture the Flag known as Capture Mark in the Dark, featuring a multitude of glow sticks. The fun continued around the campfire, where students gathered to enjoy each other's fellowship, eat some s'mores and worship in song.

The Campus Ministry team worked long and hard to put this weekend together so that students would be able to escape routine and focus on God and themselves. Food, lodging, location, speakers, worship and transportation were all important when it came to planning this year's All Campus Retreat.

Kristin Brouwer, the director of discipleship, and the Campus Ministry Team had an initial



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Students capture a selfie before driving to Hidden Acres Christian Center for retreat.

goal for all who attended to grow in their relationship with God and each other, and it seems as though that was accomplished this past weekend. NW Students gave nothing but positive feedback

on this weekend away from reality. When asked if they would recommend students to go in the future, there was a clear answer. "Yes, go," said Ethan Natelborg, a senior public relations major.

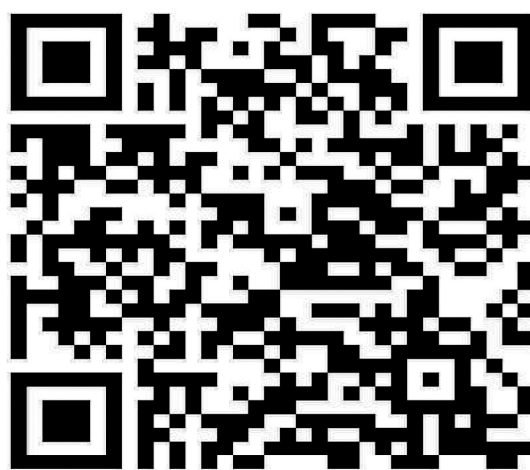
"It is a wonderful opportunity to develop friendships, get out of your comfort zone and there is so much opportunity for growth. Take advantage of it."



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