Northwestern's latest theatrical production, "Man of La Mancha," will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. Directed by NW theater professor Jeff Barker, "Man of La Mancha" is a whimsical musical tale of Cervantes, a prisoner of the Spanish Inquisition.

While locked in a dungeon with a slew of other prisoners, Cervantes is put on mock trial. If found guilty, he will have to give up all of his possessions. As his defense, Cervantes recruits the prisoners to help him perform a play that tells the story of Don Quixote, a curious knight who has given up sanity for a life full of imagination, idealism and adventure.

Jackson Nickolay plays the part of Cervantes/Don Quixote. "He's sort of the orchestrator of the whole story," Nickolay said. "He puts on this fake bravado (as Don Quixote), but he really believes the ideas behind it honestly."

To mirror Cervantes' experience in the dungeon and the imaginative adventure he takes the prisoners on, the show's designers have worked to make the show a combination of the realistic and stylized. Designer Jonathan Sabo and his team accomplished this aesthetic by installing a "kabuki," a motorized machine from which strips of fabric hang and can be raised and lowered. The imaginative world in Quixote's mind is then projected onto this fabric.

Preparing for this musical presented the theater department with some unusual challenges beyond the setup and preparation. However, it also provided actors with an opportunity to add a vocal performance aspect to their acting regimen.

"Your singing voice is a more intimate part of you because we don't share it as often," said Rachel Hanson, who plays a prisoner and Aldonza, one of the characters in Cervantes' play. "People have more opinions about if it's good or not, and you have to learn how to keep your voice healthy without compensating acting choices. Aldonza's voice is pretty rough, so I had to learn how to do that without hurting my voice."

The theater department has teamed up with NW's music program to provide live music to accompany the actors.

BY LYRIC MORRIS
A & C EDITOR

Valentine's Day: a time for romance, cheesy gifts and high potential for awkward situations. While personally uncomfortable, such awkward romantic encounters provide for comical reflections.

Myles Anderson
It was freshman year of high school, and Myles Anderson's brother and cousin knew of a girl named Jessica from a neighboring town who wanted to go on a date with him. Anderson got her number from them, and they began texting. They talked for a few weeks until Valentine's Day was just around the corner. In one of their many conversations, they decided to meet up at a movie theater on Valentine's Day.

Anderson's parents, excited that he was going on a real date, dropped him off at the movie theater. Anderson bought one ticket for "Confessions of a Shopaholic" (her pick) and walked into the theater to find her if she was already there or save her a seat if she wasn't there yet. She never showed up.

See “Awkward” on Page 4
Tim McGarvey, a member of the music faculty, invited several students to participate in the pit orchestra. The musicians and actors only had a few rehearsals together, but members of both departments agree that things have gone smoothly.

“It’s all about timing,” McGarvey said. “What we’re doing has to relate to what’s going on onstage. It’s a give-and-take.”

The actors also met with Cindy Moeller, a part-time vocal professor in the music department, on an individual basis for training.

“Learning how to deliver a song is very different from delivering lines,” Nickolay said. “In speaking, you land on consonants; singing is about vowels.”

In both the spoken and sung passages of the musical, the language is antiquated but entirely understandable. The storyline is known for having a strong emotional impact on audiences.

“It’s about redemption and seeing forgiveness as Jesus sees forgiveness,” McGarvey said. “(Quixote) views everyone as completely washed clean.”

Hanson expressed similar thoughts about the spiritual themes of the play.

“It’s a good example of seeing the kingdom of God at hand, rather than that now everything’s bad and we need to wait,” she said. “We have to usher it in now. And it’s about seeing value in people.”

The show will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 14 and 15 and 20-22. There will also be an afternoon performance at 2 p.m. on the 22nd. All performances will take place in the Theora England Wilcox Proscenium Theatre. Reservations are required; NW students, faculty and staff members can reserve their tickets by emailing boxoffice@nwciowa.edu.
A bunch of old men searching for pieces of art doesn’t sound like an overly thrilling story, but “The Monuments Men” is emotional, exciting and satisfying.

Frank Stokes (George Clooney) convinces his superiors to allow him to take a team of art aficionados into World War II battlefields in an attempt to save precious pieces of art — such as “Madonna of Bruges” by Michelangelo — so that history and culture are not erased by the devastation caused by war.

The catch, however, is that all the young, able-bodied men are already fighting in the war. So Stokes gathers a group of unlikely heroes. Together, they find the stashes of art that have been hidden by Hitler and return them to their original owners. Along the way, the motley crew must overcome tragedy and pain.

The all-star cast alone satisfies the moviegoer’s sweet tooth and is a good pick for Valentine’s Day.

Second City’s alumni have gone on to do things such as movies, comedy shows and performances on Broadway. The group boasts alumni such as Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert, Bill Murray and many others.

Second City started as a small cabaret theater but has slowly grown into the powerhouse comedy theater company that it is today. Much like Black V, Second City bases its performances off of audience participation and does a combination of sketch comedy and improvised songs. While they were in Orange City, Second City did more than just perform; the troupe also led an improv workshop.

Students who missed the show — or simply want more Second City — should not fret. Second City posts videos of some of its comedy sketches on its website, secondcitynetwork.com.
Imagine walking through a crowded city in a foreign country. You’ve been there for a while but haven’t once heard your language. Then, a single word or phrase drifts through the people and, for once, you understand.

Language connects people in powerful ways, which is why John Paul (IP) Sundararajan and Audio Scripture Ministries, a Bible translation ministry, put in countless hours to bring God’s word to people in their own languages.

Sundararajan’s journey to this position took him halfway around the world from Bangalore, India, to Northwestern College. As a fourth-grader, he dreamed of becoming a medical missionary and worked toward this goal with tenacity.

As he approached high school graduation, Sundararajan said he applied to various medical schools in India as well as a teeny tiny private college halfway across the world because of family ties. In the end, however, due to financial reasons his best option was the place half a world away, NW. He said he was hesitant but went anyway. While at NW, he discovered that God had plans for him outside of the medical field.

Upon graduation from NW, Sundararajan decided to go to Western Theological Seminary. While there, he began leading a youth group that flourished more than he could have imagined.

Then, God put another twist in his plan. Sundararajan said he was called back to India, where his experience as a youth director wasn’t in high demand. However, there was a huge need for tech support. At that time, Audio Scriptures in India only had one floppy disk Bible and a room full of ancient and problematic computers.

“God, these people don’t need me, they need tech support,” Sundararajan said he remembers thinking.

But God had sent him, so he got to work.

There was a lot of work to do. All over India, families and tribes have their own languages, spoken only by those nearest and dearest to them.

When Sundararajan first arrived in the U.S., people would always ask him one question: “What language do you speak?”

“Well, my brother and I speak English to each other, but my parents speak a dialect only my family speaks,” Sundararajan would say. “If you speak this language, we’re related.”

This phenomenon creates an opportunity for God to become even more personal. Even though it can take 30-plus years to fully translate the Bible into another language, Audio Scriptures’ mission is to bring the word of God to people across the world in their own languages. So far, they have reached 26,000 families. For many tribes, this audio Bible contains the first—ever recording of their language.

Sundararajan said he loves what he does because he “gets a front-row seat to the greatest show on earth.” Then, after he has witnessed God at work, he comes back to the U.S., and travels to Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, Michigan and beyond to tell people what God is doing, and illustrate God’s work through powerful stories.

People often wonder if Sundararajan exaggerates his stories to make them more interesting, but the reality is, he said, “If I told you stories like they actually happened, you wouldn’t believe me. I have to distill it for educated people because they’re so skeptical.”

These stories hold great power, yet they are often so simple. One woman, kicked out of her house because of her faith, slept in the trees. During honey season, bears would harass her, but her faith allowed her to look at these creatures in the eye and say, “I know your Creator. You can’t hurt me.” Imagine being able to give this woman a Bible and seeing her face as she listens to God’s word in her own language.

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Awkward confessions of affection

FROM PAGE 1

Apparently, his brother and cousin gave him the phone number and made up Jessica from the beginning. As he approached high school graduation, Sundararajan said he applied to various medical schools in India as well as a teeny tiny private college halfway across the world because of family ties. In the end, however, due to financial reasons his best option was the place half a world away, NW. He said he was hesitant but went anyway. While at NW, he discovered that God had plans for him outside of the medical field.

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Kyle Cleveringa

For Valentine’s Day at school, candygrams were going to be sent out. As a senior in high school, Kyle Cleveringa wanted to have a little fun with it and play a joke on his physiology teacher.

He sent her a candygram asking her to go to prom with him, along with a cute poem about the classroom skeleton she broke. Knowing she wouldn’t take it too seriously, he thought it was the perfect joke.

Cleaveringa had her class the day the candygrams were delivered, so he and a few friends asked if she had received any. She tried playing it off by saying she got a few and not making a big deal about anything, but the boys knew what they had already happened.

After school, Cleveringa returned home to find his mom waiting for him. She told him they had received an email from the principal and they were required to go back to the school to meet with the principal. He started freaking out and telling his mom the entire story, how it was all just a joke.

“I was so nervous and instantly regretted the entire thing,” he said.

After his pleas and apologies, Cleveringa’s mom told him she was kidding about the meeting.

Unbeknownst to Kyle, his teacher emailed his mother to tell her that Cleveringa was a pleasure to have in her class and also about the joke. His mom then took liberty to take the joke and twist it back on Kyle.

Everyone got a good laugh out of it, and Cleveringa’s teacher even kept the candygram in a desk drawer for the rest of the year.

If you find yourself to be one of the unfortunate souls who gets trapped in an awkward situation, be happy. Your story isn’t published for all to see.
At Northwestern, Catholics are in the religious minority with only 6 percent of the student body coming from a Catholic background. Despite the fact that Catholicism and Reformation theology are both Christian traditions, the history between the two presents an interesting dynamic for NWC students who are Catholic.

On NW’s campus, Pax Christi (Latin for “peace of Christ”) is a club that offers a space for Catholics to come together to discuss their faith, learn and reflect on experiences. The club is open to non-Catholics as well, but the majority of attendees are students who come from a Catholic background. The club has 45 members; however, regular attendance at meetings is usually between 8 and 10 individuals.

It might seem strange to think that being on a Christian campus would present a challenge for Catholic students, but it can be a frustrating experience. Catholics often live out and express their faith in different ways from Protestants. This can result in ignorance and misconceptions about their beliefs.

Nayely Becerra, a student at NW, recalled an experience during her freshman year when a conversation during a D-group meeting turned to the topic of Catholicism. Some of the students attending the group went so far as to question the salvation of Catholics. These inquiries most likely came from ignorance, not hostility, but Becerra was extremely offended nonetheless.

Joleen Wilhelm is a Catholic and a member of Pax Christi who has been attending meetings since she arrived at NW. As someone who grew up attending Catholic school and immersed in the Catholic tradition, she said her transition into the community at NW was harder than she anticipated.

“I definitely took for granted being in the majority; I noticed that when I’m here I rarely do the sign of the cross,” Wilhelm said. The sign of the cross is something done in many traditions, not only Catholicism, but even so, it is a foreign tradition to many. Tena Jeppesen echoed Wilhelm’s comments; she said she doesn’t feel comfortable doing the sign of the cross while on campus. Jeppesen also shared experiences of some of the difficulties with attending church, specifically with the possible problems that arise when deciding where to go and whom to go with.

“Attending church as a group of students is a really big deal here,” Jeppesen said. Because of this, students can sometimes find themselves torn between two different communities — that of the Reformed majority with whom they’ve made many friends or those of their shared Catholic belief. Neither group intends to exclude the other, but when Sunday services begin, Catholic students at NW are faced with a choice that many other students don’t have to think about.

Madigan Maere also comes from a Catholic background and recalled a similar experience when arriving at NW. While growing up in the Catholic Church, she was surprised by the differences between the Reformed Church in America and Catholicism. She recalls being questioned about believing in idols and worshiping Mary.

Additionally, Catholic students face difficulty with things that most other students who come from a Protestant denomination take for granted. Catholics experience their faith in the context of tradition, law and Scripture. Although many Protestant denominations place more emphasis on Scripture than tradition, Catholicism makes sense of the Bible while concurrently consulting the wisdom of the church. This means that the ways Catholics experience Scripture reading and prayer is different from the way Protestant denominations experience it.

Both Maere and Jeppesen said they have experienced difficulty in classes or other situations due to the different way they interact with Scripture in their faith. Maere pointed out that Catholics traditionally aren’t heavy Scripture readers, and Jeppesen talked about being baffled by the scriptural knowledge of other students.

When it comes to the issue of prayer, Protestants often take a conversational, almost impromptu approach to prayer. This is different from the Catholic tradition, in which structured and liturgical prayers are used. Maere, Jeppesen and Chris Hausmann of the sociology department all said they’d had experiences of being uncomfortable when praying in an impromptu manner in a group setting.

“The danger is, we don’t recognize differences in the way we live out our faith and the way we pray,” Hausmann said. “If we don’t understand those differences it leads us to misinterpret them.”

The experiences of Catholic students and faculty members point to a need for greater honesty, deeper discussion and solidarity across denominations.

The differences between the Catholic and Reformed traditions are many, but they present an opportunity for growth. It’s important to celebrate similarities and understand the common ground that many denominations share. Equally important, is the need to know and understand the differences between them. Catholics cross themselves, pray differently and might spend less time memorizing scripture than some reformed denominations; however, it does not mean they are somehow worse off or less Christian than others. The Christian faith can be experienced and practiced a number of different ways.

“Part of coming together as Christians, whether they be Catholic or not, has to do with being honest with one another,” Hausmann said. “It is important to express and understand each others experiences.”

Many NW students who wish to attend a Catholic mass go to St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Alton, the Catholic church closest to Orange City.

For those interested in understanding how our differences in tradition and similarities in beliefs play into how we experience our faith, we can reach a position from which the experience might help us better participate in God’s kingdom — no matter what denomination we claim.
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Respectfully,
the Beacon staff

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Valentine’s Day vent

BY ELLIOTT JOHNSON

Student body, I have a question.

What in the world is the purpose of celebrating Valentine’s Day? Is it simply to see if you can find better tasting candy and an obnoxiously larger stuffed bear than the one you found last year? What do you think your significant other did with the one they received last year?

Personally, I think that Valentine’s Day is pretty stupid. If it’s supposed to be a day that you celebrate your relationship with your significant other, then shouldn’t Valentine’s Day be every day, or am I just asking too much? I am way more of a traditionalist.

Do you happen to remember Valentine’s Day back in the grade school days? When I was a kid, Valentine’s Day was my second-favorite holiday, next to Christmas, of course. My mom would take me to Walgreens or Wal-Mart and let me run absolutely wild in the aisles—shouting about all the crazy-awesome assortments of candy and superhero-studded boxes of Valentine’s cards.

There was a catch though: You had to make sure that all of your guy friends would think they were cool and all the girls would think they were “cute,” whatever that means. If you were lucky, which was code for “my parents have coupons,” you could get a girly one just for the girls in your class! (That wasn’t me.) You would stay up for what seemed like forever and write all your friends’ names on the cards and attach a piece of candy to it, as well.

Even if they weren’t really your friend, you still had to make them one so that they didn’t feel left out. Probably a good decision in the long run, but it seemed like mom was always wrong during that stage of life.

At the end of the school day, you would come home with so many Valentine’s Day cards and so much candy that you couldn’t help but feel loved! What in the world happened to that?

Wait, I know. We are too cool now. Let me tell you something: if it was still socially acceptable at my age to hand out Valentine’s Day cards to everyone in class, I probably would be that guy.

Don’t get me wrong here. I’m not a “heartless jerk” who doesn’t believe in the power of love or anything like that. I’m a heartless jerk who believes that Valentine’s Day has become completely materialistic and doubles as a contest among couples to make their significant other look the best.

Various social media sites are filled from top to bottom with pictures of rings, cakes, cookies, candy and stuffed animals and sometimes, if you are lucky, the occasional, “Hey, look at us on this really expensive date” selfie. That stuff might be cool to the bystanding who logged on to see a video their buddy was talking about only to drown in a multitude of four-paragraph statuses and pictures of heart shaped chocolate boxes? No, thank you.


campus quotes

“My taste buds are just like, ok enough with the leaves!”
-Kati Kulpers on eating salad. Submitted via Twitter by @tracychappy

“A high five and a siop on the bit and the Gospel will move.”
-Chapel Speaker Matt Hulst

“Combining things together tells us more things about things.”
-Drew Schmidt on sound design. Submitted via Twitter by @jacobc476

“Please, I can pop a booty when need be.”
-Kyle TenHuizien commenting on his dance skills. Submitted via Twitter by @EmilyWohlers

Tweet quotes @NWC_Beacon

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Loving on the day of love

BY EMILY WALLACE

When people picture Valentine’s Day, two pictures come to mind: being sad, lonely and single or being disgustingly adorable with a significant other. There are a grossly large amount of Valentines Day survival guides, and I’m here to say there’s no need to survive Valentine’s Day. You can, in fact, enjoy Valentine’s Day, dare I say, love Valentine’s Day.

Obviously Valentine’s Day is society’s definition of the best day ever to be in a relationship. The guy in the relationship gets the opportunity to achieve the title “best boyfriend of the year” when he shows up with flowers, chocolates or simply the “year” when he shows up with flowers, chocolates or simply pulls a move from a classic 80s movie—something involving a lawn mower or a boom box. With months to prepare for this event, we all know that this is what they think about in their spare time.

But on the off chance that they don’t prepare the night before, they can always go for a Hail Mary and win their significant other a yellow cow from the claw machine.

The girl role in relationships is magnificent. Girls in relationships get presents, fancy dates and someone to kiss goodnight.

There is no downside to being a girlfriend on Valentine’s Day, and any girlfriend who says she doesn’t love Valentine’s Day probably received a claw-machine prize in the past.

Although Valentine’s Day is the day of love, it is not a day to mourn the lack of a significant other but rather to bask in the beautiful glory that is being single and free. Valentine’s Day is the one day you can go into your room, wrap yourself in a comfy blanket, inhale some chocolate and watch terrible movies without someone asking you why. People blindly assume it’s because you are upset when in fact, you just wish you could live this way religiously. Valentine’s Day is the judgment-free day for all who are single.

Being a single girl on Valentine’s Day means you save the hour and a half you would have spent getting ready and completely overthinking every outfit change and to invest that time on more important things, such as feeding your Netflix addiction. Single guys on Valentine’s Day relish the surplus of cash they can now devote to their Pizza Ranch obsessions.

Once you have eaten your way through your chocolate stash, made it through another season on Netflix and devoured the last piece of cheesy ranch sticks, the day designed for couples is actually the perfect day to go out with all your single friends. This is the day that separates all the single people from the taken people. So go out there, and find yourself another single person. This is the day for Ted to find his wife, for Beyoncé to find her Jay-Z and for Ron to find his Hermione. What a great opportunity for the beginning of your love story.

After being single and loving Valentine’s Day there is always the aftermath, which is nearly as good as the holiday itself. All the stores have mountains of heart-shaped candy on sale, those cheesy love-themed movies go straight to DVD the day after, and the survivors of blind dates come back to tell their tales. So go out there, love the day of love, and ignore all those haters.
Women split contests, look to Concordia

BY KYLE STANEK

The women's basketball team traveled to Mitchell, S.D., last Wednesday night and was upset by the Tigers of Dakota Wesleyan. The final score was 97-76, and the Raiders dropped to 14-3 in the GPAC, 22-3 overall.

The Tigers picked up right where they left off after the half and improved their lead to 61-45 five minutes into the second half. They never looked back from there, and increased their lead to as much as 75-50 with nine minutes left in the game. The Raiders went on an 11-4 run with five minutes left but never got any closer.

The Raiders shot almost 42 percent from the field and were held to 14-28 in the GPAC and 22-2 overall.

DOANE NO MATCH FOR RAIDERS' SECOND HALF

The women's basketball team rolled last Saturday and defeated the Doane Tigers 77-56 in the GPAC match up at the Bultman Center. The Raiders dominated the season series against Doane and improved to 14-2 in the GPAC and 22-2 overall.

Northwestern went back and forth with Doane for most of the first half until the Raiders took a six-point lead with less than five minutes left in the first half. The Raiders traded a few baskets with Doane after that and ended up closing the first half with a 31-24 lead.

Northwestern came out of halftime on fire and blew the game open on an 18-3 run seven minutes into the first half. During that run, the Raiders made multiple defensive stands and Doane was held to zero field goals during the run. Six different NW players scored during that run, and they safely controlled the rest of the game.

Small had 21 points to lead a quartet of Raiders scorers. Senior Samantha Kleinsasser scored 19 points and dominated the boards. She pulled down eight rebounds, and barely missed posting her ninth double-double of the season. Engebretson added 15 points, and Hutson also added 12 points.

“We played really consistent on both ends of the floor,” Hutson said.

Hutson said head coach Chris Yaw was extremely happy about their performance on Saturday and had few negative comments to say to them after the game.

The Raiders will travel to Seward, Neb., on Saturday to battle seventh-ranked Concordia at 2 p.m.

Raiders in slump, play-off hopes waver

BY JORDAN DYKSTRA

On Wednesday, the men’s basketball team fell to Dakota Wesleyan 102-85 at the Corn Palace in Mitchell, S.D. The loss puts NW at a 14-13 record for the season with three conference games left to play. Northwestern is currently eighth in the GPAC.

The teams battled at an even pace in the first half, and Dakota Wesleyan took a 47-46 advantage into the break. Northwestern was up 44-36 at one point when the Tigers mounted a run to take a lead at the halfway point.

In the second half, the Tigers never looked back after tying up NW 56-56. The tigers scored 55 points compared to the Raider’s 39 points in the second half.

“The Corn Palace is a tough place to play,” Leeper said. “They played really well defensively, and we gave up too many easy baskets down low and too many easy looks at the three-point.”

The Raiders were led in scoring by sophomore point guard Joey Habtemariam with 18 points on 8-17 shooting. Freshman post Jordan Baker scored 17 points on 7-11 shooting.

Senior guard Zack Leeper recorded 13 points, senior guard Rob Gill added 10 points.

As a team, NW shot a respectable 44 percent from the floor. However, the team’s problems came on the defensive end, where the Raiders allowed Dakota Wesleyan to shoot 52 percent from the floor and also from three-point range.

“We definitely have to play better defense and to come out with more intensity on that side of the ball to be successful,” Leeper said.

Last Saturday, the Raiders hosted Doane and fell 81-71 to their conference opponent. Northwestern shot a season-low 31 percent.

“In college basketball, you can't dwell on the past,” Leeper said. “All you can do is take it one day at a time and push through the tough times.”

Leeper scored a game-high 26 points and went perfect 10-10 from the free-throw line. Junior guard Tyler Goldston was the only other Raider in double figures with 13 points.

The Raiders will return to action on Saturday with a trip to Concordia to face the Bulldogs. The game will begin at 4 p.m.

Wrestlers dominate home meet

BY ISAIAH TAYLOR

Northwestern College wrestlers faced off against Waldorf College and York College on Wednesday at home. Northwestern dominated both matches by 25 points or more.

In the first contest against York, junior JL Mayo led the team with 17 points in his match. Senior John Lynch, juniors Richard Ortiz and Zach Fishman and sophomores Randy Null and Josh Treybal each won their matches. Fishman won his match on a winner by fall, based on the time of fall of the opponent. Freshman Andras Lukacs-Farkas and junior Forrest Marks won by forfeit.

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Open forum to open dorm hours

BY ALEXIS GRAVES

On Thursday, Feb. 6 a forum was held in Christ Chapel to discuss the quality-of-life surveys that were distributed in the dorms. The forum was brought up because the surveys indicated some student disapproval of the current times for open dorm hours.

Dean of Student Life Julie Vermeer Elliott and Director of Residence Life Marlon Haverdink were there to answer questions the students had and to listen to what the students had to say.

“(The students) had an opportunity to hear why we have the policies that we do, and we got to hear from them about what they did and didn’t like about the current policies,” Elliott said. “This forum was a way to elaborate on the results of the quality-of-life surveys.

“On the surveys, you tend to hear the extremes, either the people who are really happy or the people who are extremely unhappy, and there are often a lot of viewpoints that don’t get expressed in the comments,” Elliott said.

There were approximately 50 members of the NW community who attended to listen and voice their opinions about dorm hours.

“I wish there would have been more people there so we would have had a better cross section of campus, but for the people who were there I think it was a great conversation,” Haverdink said. “We heard great feedback from students and also got a chance to explain and answer questions.”

The two main topics discussed were the visitation hours and the lack of 24-hour areas or places for groups to hang out in. The current visitation hours haven’t been changed in 15 years.

At the forum, there was a theme of wanting to change the current dorm hours to allow for earlier hours in the afternoon.

Many of the students suggested that visitation hours be opened up at either 2 or 3 in the afternoon. “I want to look seriously at opening the dorms earlier,” Haverdink said. “It seemed like it was something that the students wanted.”

The other topic was the possibility of creating more locations on campus that would be open after the dorms close. Right now, there are limited places for students to hang out in groups after hours other than the residence life lounges.

“The idea (of more 24-hour areas) has come up periodically but wasn’t really front and center for us, but now it is something we want to look at and consider,” Haverdink said.

The visitation hours forum helped the students learn more about the current policies NW has and voice their opinions.

“We want students to be satisfied with their experiences at Northwestern,” Elliott said.

Ramaker renovations on schedule

BY DAVID LI

After the new Learning Commons opened, renovations on the old Ramaker Library began. Ramaker has been undergoing renovations since last October and is being transformed into a new student center.

It is unknown at this time what the official name of the renovated Ramaker building will be. The purpose of the new and improved building will be to foster student life and spiritual formation.

What is known is that the building will now become home to the offices of Student Life, Campus Ministry, International and Intercultural Services, the Career Development Center, Global Education, Service Learning and Student Activities Council. Other departments on campus will use the space left behind by these relocated departments.

One department that will make use of the vacated offices is the kinesiology department.

This department will move from its current location in the Bultman Center to the offices in the Rowenhorst Student Center left behind by the Student Activities Council.

Some of the more specific features to look forward to in the remodeled building include a larger Red Room (originally located in the Franken Center), four large lounge areas on the first floor, new bathrooms and entrances on the north and south sides of the building.

The renovated Ramaker will provide students with a place to gather in larger groups. The second floor will be mainly composed of offices along with a conference room and a large open space that has yet to be designated for a purpose. For now, the basement will act completely as storage space.

Lesage confirmed that the $4-million project is scheduled to be completed and open by July 15.

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PHOTO BY SARAH ODOM

Victoria Stokes and Kerri Boeke attended the open forum held last Thursday discussing student quality-of-life on campus.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The renovated Ramaker will feature entrances on both the north and south sides of the building.