Epic prizes and ‘elderly’ participants

It’s time for Bingo Night!

By Meagan McDoogall
STAFF WRITER

What do a trip to Disney World, a Wii Fit Plus, a Brett Favre jersey, a Flip video camera, a handmade queen-sized quilt and Casting Crowns tickets have in common? They are all going to be auctioned off at the Northwestern College Alumni Association’s 27th annual Gala Auction Saturday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m.

There are some things we see donated more often than others,” Aletha Beeson of the NW Alumni Office said. “But we usually get a variety of new things that are different and keep it exciting.”

The Gala Auction is the second largest fundraiser NW holds, and it is unique in that all of the proceeds go toward helping students with tuition. Senior Krystal Van Wyk, who is serving as an intern in the Alumni Office and will be working at the Gala Auction, said she was unaware of how effective the auction actually is to the NW Campus.

“I had no idea this event was so huge and how much it really does for carrying out our financial packages,” she said.

The proceeds of the Gala Auction directly affect students in easing tuition costs.

“So many generous people have given so much to this school to make it possible for almost anyone to attend NW,” Van Wyk said. “I was one of those people who thought I would never be able to come here, but because of the Gala Auction and the generous donations of businesses and other NW supporters, I was able to get an education here.”

Last year the auction raised enough money to give out $1,000 scholarships to 40 students. While every year is different, Beeson is confident that the auction will be successful in its 27th year.

Not all of the items being auctioned off this year are as extravagant and expensive as the Disney World package, airfare to Europe or the variety of golf packages. Van Wyk said that her favorite item this year was free Culver’s ice cream for a whole year, which is one of the items that could be affordable for students.

The coordinators encourage students to come and take part in the whole day of activities, such as the basketball games against the University of Sioux Falls at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and a family meal in the RSC at 5 p.m.

If the sweet items aren’t convincing enough, then at least come and see what happens when item 48 is being auctioned off,” Van Wyk said. “I feel like you won’t be disappointed.”

“Auction offers airfare to Europe, trip to Disney World

PHOTO BY JORDAN GAMMON
Dressing up for Bingo Night is almost as fun as winning the prizes, as seen by 2nd West Coly’s ‘elderly’ participants.

ConServe hopes to revive sense of unity with our campus community by offering the proceeds of our conservation to a non-profit organization of the students’ choosing.

“ConServe is an attempt to empower the campus to be more responsible with consumption of our resources and move toward becoming better stewards of this earth,” said SGA President Wes Garcia. “This initiative is service, conservation and sacrifice—the acknowledgement and reduction of use in an effort to help others.”

ConServe hopes to revive Christ-like understanding of environmental stewardship, compassion for the poor and a sense of unity with our campus community by offering the proceeds of our conservation to those in need.

SGA and Terra Nova have produced a list of ways to conserve including shortening shower times, turning off the lights whenever students leave their rooms, turning off computers at night and between classes, running classrooms on half the lights, turning dorm hallway lights off during the day, unplugging gaming systems between uses and turning down the thermostat.

Junior Jordan Gammon said, See “SGA” on pg. 2
Tragedy precludes competition: World’s fastest luge track proves fatal

By Lindy Figgie
Contributing Writer

No one ever thought defeat could come before the race even started. For Nodar Kumaritashvili of Georgia, it came the day prior, in a routine practice run for the luge competition at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada. After veering into the wall in the final stretch of the course, the rookie Olympian flew off his sled and into a support pole, dying shortly thereafter. In spite of the emotional trauma, Kumaritashvili’s fellow teammates weathered the storm, competing in their beloved teammate’s honor.

To prevent future unexpected tragedies, officials extended safety measures and adjusted the luge course; however, the race and schedule proceeded as planned with only minor delays. The luger was recognized in the opening ceremony as people everywhere grieved for his unanticipated death.

Despite the harrowing setback, the Olympics has brought equally well, once diagnosed with cerebral palsy, was the reseed Bilodeau pursued skiing instead of hockey.

On the women’s moguls side, Hannah Kearney won the first Olympic gold for the United States in the 2010 games. After a rough run at the Turin Olympics in 2006, Kearney redeemed herself, finally clinching her long-awaited prize.

In more familiar terms, it seems the Great Plains is not the only place suffering from disagreeable weather. Whistler, the site of the ski resort used in the Olympics, has had to postpone races such as the men’s super combined and women’s training and snowboardcross as well, due to detrimental conditions.

However, weather doesn’t stop the world’s athletes from competing. The Americans lead the medal count, followed by Germany, France, Canada, South Korea, Norway and Austria as the second week of the 2010 Olympics approaches.

Yegvgeny Plushenko of Russia will return in the men’s figure skating with hopes of maintaining his golden glory from Turin. Men’s and women’s curling, men’s speed skating 1500 m, and men’s and women’s hockey are also among the events still remaining. Read more at nwbc.com or check out vancouver2010.com.

Durham’s new film hits Orange City: Movie follows Iowaan basketball team

By LeAnn Johnson
News Editor

“Winning Favor,” a movie directed by Jamey Durham, Northwestern’s assistant professor of communications, will premiere on Friday, Feb. 19, at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. at the Holland Plaza.

“Winning Favor” is a family film based on the inspirational true story of a group of neighborhood friends in a small Iowa town.

While growing up, the boys play basketball together in driveways and tournaments. They eventually go on to play ball at different high schools. Both schools simultaneously produce state championship teams.

Despite the odds, the boys, their teammates and their coaches are inspired by a dream and guided by a mission. They learn the importance of friendship, family and community in helping to accomplish their goals.

The movie stars Matt Ashford from NBC’s “Days of Our Lives,” Bonnie Johnson from “The Great Debaters” and Candice Rose from “ER” and “CSI.”

Durham previously directed the award-winning film, “The Prairie Pirates,” which premiered in 2007. His wife, Donna, and Orange City resident Anita Bomgaars are the producers of the movie. “Winning Favor” was shot last summer in Orange City.

Although the Student Development Office’s discounted movie tickets will not be accepted for this movie, if students do wish to use their discounted tickets, they will have to pay the difference between the cost of the movie pass and the cost of the movie.

To learn more about the movie and watch the trailer, check out www.winningfavor.com.

Dudley ‘Amalgamate’s art, community

By Jenna Van Oort
Contributing Writer

“Amalgamate,” which means to combine or unite to form one organization or structure, serves as the name of Ian Dudley’s upcoming art exhibit. Dudley, a senior majoring in both art and writing and rhetoric, will present his show in the Te Paske art gallery from Feb. 22 to March 5 as part of the requirement for a bachelor’s degree in art.

Going off the word Russia, Dudley’s exhibit will feature ceramic tea bowls as a symbol of the integration of two different high schools. Dudley has been trying to achieve while in college at Northwestern. He said that the art show is his “personal attempt to reconcile the two.”

Dudley will try to achieve this integration of art and community at his public reception on Friday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. by serving tea in the bowls to all the people who attend. After the reception, the attendees will be able to keep the bowls.

Dudley chose to feature ceramic tea bowls not necessarily because it is his forte but specifically to experiment with the purpose of art as relationship-building—that is, to bring people together and to construct relationships and dialogue.”

“This is my own rendition of that reconciliation,” Dudley said.

The Barnstead, N.H., native called his decision to be an art major a “cruel twist of fate” with a complicated story, but he plans on graduating this spring nonetheless. After graduation, Dudley hopes to enroll in a graduate school to pursue his MFA in creative writing.

Forseeing his future career, Dudley’s ultimate goal as a writer and artist is to “learn the value of seeing,” which is the best way I can sum up my thoughts,” Dudley said.

The public is invited to experience “Amalgamate” in the Te Paske art gallery Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to midnight and Sunday from 1 p.m. to midnight.

SGA: Project benefits non-profit

Cont. from pg. 1

“I think this is a good idea, and I want to contribute by watching shorter showers and taking my use of water from day to day.”

The goal for this semester is to reduce campus consumption by 15%, making the estimated savings to be given $21,519.12. After the savings have been assessed, students, faculty and staff will have the opportunity to nominate a non-profit organization, submitting a short description of the organization and why it should receive the gift. SGA will send out an email to notify the campus when it is time to choose an organization.

The nominees will be reviewed, and SGA will pick some to be put up for a vote with the top five presented to the administrative council.

Garcia said, “My hope is for the money to stay local. Many students volunteer their time and talents in our area, and it would be great to see our community benefit from our efforts here on campus.”

Students can look for emails and advertisements around campus for more information and encouragement to participate in ConServe.
The Right to Reason: SSPs - Helpful or Harmful?

‘Short-term mission trips are a necessary evil.’

BY ALEIGH ASCHERL

“You’re so cute I could just take you home with me!” Upon hearing these words from his new American friend, seven-year-old Aaron sprinted home to ask his mom if he could accompany his new friend back to the United States to live with her. After an immediate “yes,” Aaron packed his bags and quickly made his way back to where his new white friends were staying for the week. “My mom says I can go!”

Of course we know that when we considered an invitation had no meaning behind it. But to seven-year-old Aaron it meant a way out of poverty. Aaron spent the rest of the afternoon with his head buried in his arms not wanting anyone to see how hard he was crying.

Unfortunately, this story isn’t one I made up to prove a point. It’s true. It’s because of stories like Aaron’s that I began referring to short-term mission trips as a necessary evil. You should know that I’ve been on several week-long trips and served for two three-month stints with a ministry that hosts short-term teams. Call me a hypocrite? Maybe. I marketed my first trip just like a week-long trip should be. “We’re going to lead people to Jesus and really just bless these poor people.” The money came rolling in. As I went on more trips I started to question the validity of what I was doing. It wasn’t until I spent two summers with a ministry that hosts week-long trips that my mind was made up. It is a whole different ball game when you see how harmful an overextended youth group, ready to save the world, can be.

Too often these trips can ruin reputations that ministries have worked so hard to establish in a community. Coming in with fierce excitement, they leave behind a wake of destruction that the ministries will spend the next weeks rebuilding. They come in ready to bring God to the people but fail to realize that God is already there. He was there long before you pulled up in your 15-passenger van and He will be there long after you head back home.

Don’t get me wrong, short-term teams are a necessity to a vast amount of ministries. Most ministries need the man power, volunteers, and the finances that these teams bring with them. But we should find ourselves being an encouragement and not a burden to those who serve in those places full-time. I think that a lot of the blame falls on us and the mindset that we have, or rather the one that we don’t.

In 1 Corinthians 12:2-3 the Apostle Paul says, “When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony of God. For I resolved to know nothing while I am with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.” If we go into these trips with the attitude of Paul we open up our minds to what we can learn and to give, ultimately, the only thing we really have to offer.

Aaron’s not saying that I am not saying that we should do away with short-term teams, absolutely not. As I mentioned before, they sustain many ministries. We do, however, need to make a conscious effort to redefine them if we wish for them to be effective rather than harmful.

Go on these trips ready to serve whole-heartedly in whatever ways you are asked and with an open mind, ready to learn whatever God has for you.

‘Prepare your minds to realize God is huge.’

BY JEFF REGAN

Throughout current popular Christian culture an idea has been surfacing that I believe needs attention. Short-term missions that the American church has lived by over the last century are something the American church has lived by over the last century are something that is now dying by. The thought originates from the outskirts of a few groups and cultures who have received a small portion of the thousands of teams sent every year. These crises insist that the trips do more harm than good and end up being a self-serving power trip for the adults and a vacation for the young teens that they bring along. Considering we are a college that promotes and helps fund over 20 of these trips yearly through SSPs, traveling ministry teams, sports teams and clubs, I believe it is an issue that we must face and decide where we, as the community behind the institution, stand.

I have experienced my fair share of short-term missions throughout my high school and college careers. Because of those experiences I cannot sit here and attempt to convince you that short-term missions do not hold potential for disaster. An energetic group of teens who see a culture or neighborhood in need can enter into a service opportunity with great intentions. They may, however, end up destroying the morale and self-confidence of the people they went to serve.

Should we blame the establishment of short-term missions for these few failures or the justified cries of a small percentage of those who received one of these teams? I say no. The problem lies in the mindset of those being sent and the preparedness of their hearts before leaving. If we enter the field with the mindset that we are going to save the poor that reside in those slums, that we are packing up God and bringing Him into a place where only darkness resides, then yes we will fail and do more harm than good. Before we leave our Christian bubble, we need to prepare our hearts and minds to realize that God is huge, and that He has already been at work in those places before we even knew they existed. We are not bringing God to the heathens or those oppressed by others; we have been called to meet Him there! If we can begin to strain for this mindset then we are readying ourselves to go out and love God’s people with the gifts, talents, open ears and loving hearts that God has blessed us with.

But I remind you of my first suggestion; we, as the community behind the institution, need to decide where we stand on this issue. So I suggest two final things. First, if you desire to learn more about short-term missions and the hearts we should enter into them with, open His inspired Word. Begin at Philippians 2:25-30 and read of a man named Epaphroditus. He was sent on a short-term mission by the church in Philippi to be blessed by, of all people, the apostle Paul himself. And secondly, I suggest you pick out a trip leaving in the next year and seek out those leading that trip to see what they believe about short-term missions and how they are preparing for their trip. And heck, sign up to find out firsthand how God is already at work in all corners of His world.

Northwestern’s View

Northwestern College annually sends more than 200 students, faculty and staff in teams to serve with ministries in the U.S. and around the world. Spring Service Projects integrate faith, service and cross-cultural learning within a team setting that also allows for the involvement of faculty and staff. The SSP program benefits both the ministries and the students who serve. The efforts of a variety of ministries are encouraged, supported and helped in tangible ways. In addition, Northwestern students are challenged and strengthened in their faith as they see and experience the gospel being lived out in cultures different than the one in which they live.
Eating disorders awareness week: Gain a healthy perspective

BY SALLY OAKES EDMAN, Ph.D
WELLNESS CENTER DIRECTOR

Formal eating disorders present severe threats to the physical, psychological and social well-being of those affected. While fairly rare, eating disorders are overwhelmingly present among college students (anorexia is the third most common chronic illness among adolescents, and 95% of those who have eating disorders are between the ages of 12 and 25).

Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness, and we know there is a progression from media exposure to being dissatisfied with how one’s body looks, to dieting and then to increasingly pathological dieting. From there, 20-25 percent progress to developing eating disorders.

Next week is eating disorders awareness week. Take a few minutes to think about the messages you give to your self and your friends about body size and appearance. Tell someone you care about that they matter to you not because of their looks or their shape, but because they are funny, talented, caring, and made in the image of God.

More information will be available on table tents in Hub and cafeteria and on the table in the RSC mallway. A presentation will be given Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 7:37 p.m. in the Hospers lounge.

Students seek to turn the tables on poverty and injustice

BY HOLLY STEWART
STAFF WRITER

Nearly fifty Northwestern students attended the Faith & International Development conference at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan that was held Feb. 4-6. Led by Dave Nonnermacher, the students rode on a bus through the night to attend. The conference featured a unique group of talented speakers and activists, including Milton Amayun, Dana Bates, Ron Sider, Davis Omanyio and Leymah Gbowee, as well as representatives from a number of organizations.

“From there, 20-25 percent progress to being dissatisfied with how one’s body looks, to dieting and then to increasingly pathological dieting. From there, 20-25 percent progress to developing eating disorders.”

Many students felt the conference was a reminder of God’s love and compassion for the poor and oppressed. “One of the main things I learned was about justice and charity: God calls us to both, yet we cannot simply be caring for people’s short-term needs nor throwing money at them for our own type of ‘good Christian’ feeling,” said junior Janelle de Waard.

“We must be compassionate and we must be about justice. The leader of our small group gave the analogy of charity and justice like feet. She said it would be the most logical to walk forward, yet many people are hopping around.”

FRESHMAN JORDAN VERMEER echoed the thoughts of Cundy and de Waard: “The conference helped me realize where my passion is, in international development, in being on ‘ground zero’, not just giving my money to organizations.”

The opinion of most of the attendees was that it was a life changing experience, opening many eyes to issues around the world and here at home. As Cundy said, “This conference left me to ask new questions about my future and really think about what God is calling to do with my life.”

Senior Stacey Bernardo attended the conference for the second time this year. “I left the conference wanting to do more to help, even if it was simply spending less money on things that I didn’t need,” said Bernardo.

“I hope that people can begin to realize when they are buying and using more than what they need and I hope we can work on reallocating the resources of this world to make them more equal among people,” continued Bernardo. “Until this starts to happen, I believe that this problem will continue and most likely become worse.”

Students seek to turn the tables on poverty and injustice.
Northwestern's best dorm rooms 2010

By Emily Gowing & Anna Henke

As students on campus were rushing around making plans with their loved ones before Valentine's day, two students in particular were on a mission as they snuck around campus and peeked in dorm rooms to find out who had the sweetest dorm room on campus. Notes were scribbled down furiously as the habitants of ten dorm rooms rambled off everything cool their room had to offer. And after analyzing, critiquing, and contemplating, we can finally offer you a list of "The Top Ten Sweetest Dorm Rooms."

Most Homey

The decoupage door of Fern 216 invites its occupants into a warm and calming room, with its hues of purple, blue and green. Subdued lighting softens the atmosphere of the space, as the fish tank bubbles soothingly beside the classy wall decorations. Freshmen Rachel Van Corp and Karina Smidt have divided their room into three spaces: the living room, the office space and lofted beds. Other homey touches of décor include an office space and lofted beds. Other homey touches of décor include an office space and lofted beds. Other homey touches of décor include an office space and lofted beds. Other homey touches of décor include an office space and lofted beds.

Most Artsy

Heemstra Radio echoes from the artsy home of Heemstra 313. Sophomores Andrew Stam, Nicholas Leitner and Tyler McKenny have succeeded in making their room warmer and less stark than most male dorm rooms, with its newspaper covered walls and delicate vintage chandelier. Men's ties curve the windows and personal artwork decorates the space in a homey, eclectic sort of way, while still maintaining a masculine atmosphere. A large and bubbling fish tank welcomes visitors, while a stuffed wolf alarms them—lurking under the couch loft dubbed "the love nest."

Best Vintage Vibe

With Norman Rockwell calendars covering, yes covering the walls of Fern 231, the vibe Senior Beth Mouw is attempting to portray in her room is "delicious organized chaos." It has been cleverly mastered along with two rocking chairs for relaxing and studying, a fish named Luis and a golden lamp named Evelyn. While walking to the car onlookers can spot Mouw's room from across the street and know exactly where Waldo is found.

Clean and Refreshing

Fern 325 is like a fresh breath of spring with its bright colors. Though LeAnn Johnson apologizes for its messiness, the room is nearly spotless. There is a distinctively girly theme to the room; not only are there flowers, but also polka dots and babies. Johnson and roommate Greta Hayes have dressed up their closets with silky curtains in varying shades of blue, and their house plant "Franz" dwells on the top shelf of LeAnn's desk. The girls have a vocabulary word each week, archived in fluorescent note cards on the far wall. They also have a "Bucket List" framed on the wall, including goals for cleaning and community.

Most Quirky

Hospers 216 is cluttered in a very kind of way; it's something of a cross between the Burrow and Bohemian boutique. Junior Anne Philo and sophomore Ericha Walden can have an owl theme. Sewing and art projects are scattered and hung around the lived-in space; a beautiful piece with fabric rosettes and button clusters hangs from the top bunk, and “Sylvester” the sculpture perches atop their home-constructed shelving unit, in which a tea set and a hermit crab hold residence. Old-fashioned hats adorn the shelves and walls, further enriching the quirkiness of their homespun environment.

Best Use of Space

Just like a child's playground, Heemstra 9 hosts a fort that wraps around the entire room. This enables Jared White and roommate Bob Latchaw to enter their room and never touch the ground. That is until they feel the need to slide down their slide. That’s right, a slide in a college dorm room. It may be poorly lit like the entire hall of Heemstra, but using Beatles flags as light covers sets the mood. Juniors Jessica Hooper and Katherine Hielkema have attempted to recreate the beautiful outdoors with glow in the dark stars and to Watchmen. This room appeases the call of way; it's something of a cross between the Burrow and Bohemian boutique. Junior Anne Philo and sophomore Ericha Walden can have an owl theme. Sewing and art projects are scattered and hung around the lived-in space; a beautiful piece with fabric rosettes and button clusters hangs from the top bunk, and “Sylvester” the sculpture perches atop their home-constructed shelving unit, in which a tea set and a hermit crab hold residence. Old-fashioned hats adorn the shelves and walls, further enriching the quirkiness of their homespun environment.

Entertainment Center

The most striking feature of West Hall 105 is the Nintendo "Cruis'n World" arcade game. Hats hang on the antlers next to the game and posters decorate the walls. Juniors Will Schroeder, Alex Menning and Phil Hegeman also have three love seats and three-man stacked beds. The other focal point of the room is their plasma TV, in a self-constructed entertainment center, which also houses “Leslie” the statue. They have a coffee table between the love seat and TV, on which sit their computers. Their fish, “Peter”, “James”, “Lawrence” and “Will’s illegitimate,” overlook the scene from a bowl on a shelf of the entertainment center.

Calling on Constellation

Why keep your sleep time restricted to four walls when you could rest peacefully under a starlight sky? Juniors Jessica Hooper and Katherine Hielkema have attempted to recreate the beautiful outdoors with glow in the dark stars and low in the dark skies. Juniors Jessica Hooper and Katherine Hielkema have attempted to recreate the beautiful outdoors with glow in the dark stars and low in the dark skies. Juniors Jessica Hooper and Katherine Hielkema have attempted to recreate the beautiful outdoors with glow in the dark stars and low in the dark skies. Juniors Jessica Hooper and Katherine Hielkema have attempted to recreate the beautiful outdoors with glow in the dark stars and low in the dark skies. Juniors Jessica Hooper and Katherine Hielkema have attempted to recreate the beautiful outdoors with glow in the dark stars and low in the dark skies.

Sweetest Statues

West Hall 311 welcomes visitors with a CD-covered ceiling, and a corner dedicated strictly to guitars and musical instruments. Turn around and you’re certain to see a samurai standing erect in the corner near the window. As with any room in West Hall, the arrangement of furniture makes for tight living quarters with a relaxing vibe. But seniors Cody Raak, Caleb Kester and Matthew Skelton will welcome any visitor with a smile.

Most Random Objects

Hospers 10 has never seen so many movie characters or wild animals at the same time. Freshmen Sarah Kugler and Amber Amundson have dedicated an entire corner of their room to stuffed animals from random movies or mini-statues of cats, llamas and pigs. On top of the corner of random objects, the walls and ceiling of Hospers 10 is covered in posters of movies and bands from the Beatles to Watchmen. This room appears more than your eyes with the ever-present smell of coffee. Tying all these together makes a room that matches the personality of the young women who inhabit it.

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“tropical” percussion. It’s so good a balance of the old and new.

There’s also a great deal of vocal nostalgia. I see an ongoing similarity between the lead vocalist (John Paul Pitts) and the distinctive voice of The Shins. He’s also Rivers Cuomo (Weezer) on “Twin Peaks,” between the fausetto of an early bridge and a crescendoed outburst at 1:20. “Catholic Pagans” is similar, and then adds some of his immaturity. But, despite influence, I don’t mean to infer that his is an unconfident or dependent character. To me, the anemic “Swim” is proof that he’s not a reserved cheat.

They have hidden all kinds of texture in these ten tracks though. Pitts has cited the influence of several sonic pioneers, including The Pixies, My Bloody Valentine and Dinosaur Jr.’s 1987 influential “You’re Living All Over Me.” Raw tracks like “Harmonic” and “Anchorage” are especially indebted to what he mentions, and to Pinkerton. But even the other tracks, drenched with chord progressions, are crowded with electronic space. I’m sure the recording adds some of that thickness, but it’s better for it. The effect is very tidal.

From what I’ve read, these guys don’t surf. Frankly, it doesn’t matter. You can group them all with those beachy pop. There’s all the jangles and twang. But, as Weezer demonstrated in 1994, there’s also something in the sandy grain—the sounds harmonically-circular pop forgot. “Astro Coast” reminds us of the good in returning to shore.

**Fiction:**

Please send in your suggestions for plot twists and characters to beacon@nwciowa.edu

**by Josh Doorenbos & Kevin Wallace**

Sheila’s red notebook was puzzling. For most of its pages it was her Gen. Psych. notes, but for one page it became obscure, vague.

It’s been two weeks and two days since she died and James can’t stop thinking about her. Something was going on, and ever since the Memorial Service on Tuesday, he has been especially troubled.

There was a prayer service in the chapel on that Tuesday. The campus chaplain and a local pastor came to speak and pray about the pain of loss and grief. They honored her life and prayed for her surviving family.

After the service Audra was waiting in the chapel lobby. “I need to talk to you.”

She brought him to a practice room.

“I didn’t see you in there.”

James said, sitting down on a piano bench beside her. Audra was tall, lean and strong, like a rock climber.

“Yeah.” She looked down at the ground. “I really didn’t want to be hugged and prayed for. I couldn’t take that, so I waited in back after it started.”

“I understand,” James looked down at the ground, “So what did you need?”

“What was she talking about? When she—” Audra stumbled over her words, “You spoke to her before she died, what was she talking about? Did she suspect… I don’t know…”

“You don’t think it was allergies,” James said.

“I—” Audra stuttered, “I don’t know.”

“I don’t either,” James said.

“Did she say anything?”

“No.”

They sat in silence for a long time, both afraid, both uncomfortable with the situation. Northwestern isn’t a place for murder, death, mystery—it’s a cloistered world, a world away from those things that the rest of the world deals with.

“So do you think she suspected anyone was trying to kill her?”

“No,” James lied. “At least she didn’t say anything if she did.”

Audra exhaled deeply, “What a terrible way to end my junior year.”

That was Tuesday. On Thursday, James couldn’t put down Sheila’s red notebook. At the top of the page was the phrase, “Tell Rahab I want to see her.” What the heck was that supposed to mean? The next line was “1988, 1993, 1999, 2010.” The next, Tuesday, February 2.

“Fiction: week 3 of the NW mystery”

**by Jordan Langer**

**Contributing Writer**

In the last decade, alternative music has gained complexity. It’s delicate, full of trinkets and tricks, orchestras and orchestration. It’s more frantically intricate than it’s ever been, and you either like that or hate it.

It’s nearly forgotten the lo-fi, DIY strands that kept things even during the 90’s—let alone the democratic, fierce personality of 70’s punk. But the current still moves, even if it’s in small, unseen ways. Last year saw the rise of small venue acts like Japandroids, Girls and Cymbals Eat Guitars, which revived some of that classicism and conventionality. They remember where we’ve drifted from: Pavement, garage rock, and a few good lessons from the grunge guys.

Oh, and Weezer’s (RIP: 1994-1996). Yes, we’ve missed their naïve take on that whole time.

But rising Floridians, Surfer Blood, are functioning in that same role with their recently released “Astro Coast.” It’s refreshingly guitar driven, with its fair share of standard chords. There’s a certain rever, reminiscent of the time. But there’s enough shiny, buoyant melody to meet the demands of post-Barack music trends. These usually come in Vampire Weekend guitar mimics or, on rare occasion.

**Ride the 90’s New Wave**

by Jordan Langer

**Contributing Writer**

The film was produced by Orange City residents Anita Bomgaard and Donna Durham. It is Durham’s second film as producer. Northwestern College Communications Professor Jamey Durham, who directed the award-winning film “The Prairie Pirates,” is also the director of “Winning Favor.”

Showtimes are listed below.
**Venti latte, no foam and a tall decaf yuppie?**

By **Sarah Kugler**

*Contribution Writer*

“We buy things to say something about ourselves,” claims Bryant Simon in his book *Everything but the Coffee: Learning about America from Starbucks.* In these pages, he analyzes Starbucks’ rise from a small, independent location in Seattle to the global coffee giant of today. Simon dismantles the chain piece by piece in chapters with names like “Real Coffee,” “Predicatability the Individual Way” and “Not-So-Green Cups.” Each discusses a specific attribute of Starbucks, analyzing its emotional appeal and detrimental impact. This careful dissection reveals that, despite our “hope to purchase our way to happiness and salvation,” Starbucks is just as calculated as any other corporate shill.

Among the many topics discussed, the way Starbucks caters to “the individual” caught my attention. Starbucks customers are people who think for themselves and know what they like. With IKEA-style furniture and natural tones of brown, green and red, Starbucks suggests independence from the mainstream (think McDonald’s-style sparsity and bold colors). Rather than settling for a cookie-cutter cup of BK Joe, you selected a more sophisticated drink. Walking down the street with one of their trademark white and green cups makes a statement about you: you know your coffee, and you have money to spend on such “luxuries.” The music Starbucks plays also contributes to this image: not obscure enough to turn off mainstream listeners but unique enough to suck them in. Choosing chill tunes by Bob Dylan or Coldplay, Starbucks sells the perception of taste. If you drink Starbucks, clearly you know your coffee and your music.

*Starbucks has become as much a symbol of status as anything else, an accessory to a specific public image.*

The **Full Moon Turns Red**

By **Meagan Young**

*Contribution Writer*

As the full moon rises over a Gothic mansion set in 1892 Blackmoor, England, people have reason to close their doors to a rabid “Wolfman,” who roams the land with blood-thirst. Ripping through towns in an old English countryside, “The Wolfman,” sends echoing howls to disturb the tranquil night air. These bombarding howls appear throughout the movie as foreshadowing for a ravaging bloodbath that occurs at every dreaded full moon.

As Lawrence (Benicio Del Toro) is traveling through Europe performing Hamlet with a theater company from America, he receives a letter from Gwen, his brother Ben’s fiancée (Emily Blunt). Her desperate words convince Lawrence to come home due to the slaughter of Ben, even though he has not seen his father since the death of his mother earlier in his childhood. Before Lawrence arrives home, the talk of the town is focused on the mysterious cause of Ben’s strange and horrible death. Lawrence, also curious as to the reason of Ben’s expiration, decides to track this mythical beast which launches the plot into action, finally. The rest of the film is spent displaying the savage detachment of limbs and occasional flinging of organs. You can be sure to experience a stomach churn when the number of death scenes take over the entire end of the movie.

With the constant suspense of dissonant chords and building music we are, after being dragged through the mud with the “overkill” of slaughter scenes, exposed to the twisted truth behind the deaths that have been occurring. Overall, I thought the plot was creative and suspenseful, but the gore of the movie ruined the actual story line. As I looked around at my fellow viewers before the movie started I realized that it was myself and one other woman pathetically anticipating what kind of fantastic adventure “Wolfman” would be. I felt out of place, since all the rows ahead of me were lined with guys who anxiously awaited the human mutilation and destruction of mankind. In preparation for Valentine’s Day, “Wolfman” reminded me why I focus on love instead of death.
Red Raider Sports Shorts: by Heidi Hildebrandt

Three more qualifiers, two school records for track and field

Athletes do their part in Haiti relief

SPORTS EDITOR

On Tuesday, Jan. 12, a devastating earthquake hit the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Soon, the eyes of the world were fixed on a people already struggling to survive as they begin to face seemingly endless challenges.

Here in the U.S., Mike Melillo, a baseball player from Elon University in North Carolina, couldn’t just sit back and watch the events unfold. Practice and classes kept Melillo from being able to physically travel to Haiti, but an idea began to take shape. Melillo decided to contact colleges, asking NCAA baseball players in the area to donate at least a dollar to the Red Cross for earthquake relief in a project called “Pinch Hit for Haiti.”

Junior Drew Nonnemacher had the same feelings as Melillo, searching for a way to do his part. So he contacted the commissioner of another NAIA conference, who in turn forwarded the information to all of the NAIA conferences in the nation.

The Elon athletic website is keeping track of the donations with a map showing the contributions from each school. Currently, athletes have donated $16,982 for Haiti through this project.

“I really wanted to help in a way, and I knew we could not go down to help physically, so I was super excited when I heard about this Pinch Hit for Haiti,” Nonnemacher said. “It is really cool to look on the donation map and see that Northwestern College made an impact.”

What can you do?

College sports fans are encouraged to donate as well. To join the project, visit www.redcross.org and donate any amount using a credit or debit card. A page with a tracking number and donation amount appears. On this page, athletes are encouraged to spread the word to as many student-athletes and fans as possible.

The Red Raider track squads finished up their regular season last Saturday, Feb. 12, at Dordt. The team added three new national qualifiers and broke two individual school records in the final show before the GPAC meet.

On the women’s side, junior Stacey Dietrich beat the provisional qualifying mark in the women’s 55-meter hurdles, running 8.76 and placing second. Fellow juniors Corrie Fautsch and Kara Den Herder also qualified provisionally. Fautsch placed third in the 600 with a time of 1:39.93, while Den Herder threw 49’1.75 to place fourth in the weight throw and break the Northwestern school record as well. Sophomore Danie Fry threw 40’4.25 in the shot put and established a school record as well. Sophomore Danie Fry threw 40’4.25 in the shot put and Jarrett Johnson placed fourth in the long jump with a throw of 42’7.5.

Men’s basketball falls short in two games

The Red Raider men’s basketball team lost to a pair of ranked teams this week, starting with Hastings last Saturday, 79-93. Freshman Daniel Van Kalsbeek scored 20 points to lead the offense, while senior Ryan Hoogeveen scored 17 points and nine rebounds. Senior Brent Dunkelberger earned his second double-double of the season.

Hastings College snapped a five-game winning streak for the Red Raider women last Saturday, Feb. 13. Senior Randa Hulstein registered her fifth double-double of the season, netting 16 points and pulling down 11 rebounds. Freshman Kendra Dejong had 14 points and four rebounds, while junior Beck Hurley added 13 points, eight rebounds, five assists, and four steals. Northwestern shot 42 percent from the field, while Hastings made 50 percent.

The fourth-ranked Raiders came back with a vengeance and walloped for women’s basketball

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Dakota Wesleyan on Wednesday, 102-49. Every NW player scored in the game as the Raiders reached 100 points for the fourth time this season. NW shot 59 percent from the field, led by Hurley with 20 points. Sophomore Kamily Kahman added 19 points, while Dejong and junior Kristin Neth scored 13 and 11 points, respectively. Dejong and Hulstein pulled down six rebounds in the game and Hulstein dished out seven assists.

Next up, the Raiders host USF in the last regular-season game on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m.

Four more qualifiers, two school records for track and field

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