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Veterans Day: Paying Tribute at NW

HONORING SACRIFICE FOR U.S. FREEDOM

KAYLEE BANDSTRA
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Over a hundred years ago, the “Great War,” or World War I officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919. However, the fighting ceased on Nov 11, 1918, which is why it is often said that the fighting ended “on the eleventh day, on the eleventh month, in the eleventh hour.” Explaining why Veteran’s Day is always observed on this day, even over a century later. According to the U.S. department of Veterans Affairs, the purpose of Veteran’s Day is “a celebration to honor American’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willing to serve and sacrifice for the common good.”

Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day as a day to celebrate the Great War veterans. “In 1926, Congress called for an

annual observance of the day,” according to uso.org. Over a decade later, Armistice Day was declared as a federal holiday in 1938.

After World War II and the United States’ influence in the Korean War, the word “armistice” was replaced with “veterans,” as to recognize all American veterans, and Nov. 11 has been recognized as Veterans’ Day since 1954.

The reason for celebration of Veterans can sometimes be confused for the reason of celebration for Memorial Day. Although both holidays are observed to honor our military, Veterans Day recognizes all those who have served, while Memorial Day recognizes those who lost their lives in their service to our country.

Veterans Day is supposed to be a day of reflection, not celebration, according to military.com. “Retired Air Force Capt. Rodney Haworth believes this difference in the way the holiday is celebrated is because ‘the military experience is [usually] something to which non-vets are



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH.COM
Rows of tombstones and U.S. flags symbolizes the veterans who sacrificed their lives to serve our country.

never exposed. ... The general public has [less understanding] of how serious the situation can become. However, it may feel appropriate to show gratitude to

our veterans during this time, but some veterans do are tired of how obligatory the “thanks for your service” statement may be. “Recognizing that most veterans

serve to fulfill an inner calling and sense of personal responsibility -- and not to seek fame and glory -- will go further than thanking them for their service ever

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Explanation of U.S. support for Israel

REASONS, RATIONALE AND IMPLICATIONS

JILLIAN SIMON
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

With increased violence comes increased attention; news outlets are reporting and conversations are happening. It is tempting to look at what is happening in Gaza and Israel in a vacuum, thinking what has been happening this past month is the full story, but the recent media does not tell the full story. When deciding how to act, how to pray and what to say, it is important to recognize that the recent war in Israel and Gaza is not unprovoked or unprecedented. Conflict between Israel and Palestine is a complicated, decades long history in which the U.S. has not been a ‘third party’ but a deeply involved international actor through monetary aid, U.N. power and national lobbying groups.

Long called the most special bilateral relationship, Israel has

received support from the U.S. for decades. The response to this war by the U.S. government is a mirror to the past of an “ironclad support for the state of Israel” since its creation in 1948. According to the USA Facts Organization, U.S. aid to Israel from 1951 to 2022 totaled \$317.9 billion, making it the largest recipient of American foreign aid since World War II. This U.S. monetary support to Israel towers over any other U.S. foreign aid. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) can be classified by economic or military aid; most of the aid the U.S. grants abroad is economic. However, between 1951 and 2022, Israel received \$225.2 billion in US military aid. In 2022, 99.7% of aid went to the Israeli military. It is clear through our expenditure and allocations, that the U.S. is funding the militarization of the state of Israel, building up one of the most powerful militaries in the world.

Another way that the U.S. supports Israel is through its



COURTESY OF NBCNEWS.COM
Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and United States President, Joe Biden, share a firm handshake.

power in the United Nations. The U.S. is one of the five permanent members of the U.N. who holds veto power. According to Al Jazeera, since 1945, a total of 36 UNSC draft resolutions related to Israel-Palestine have been vetoed

by one of the five permanent members. Out of these, 34 were vetoed by the US and two by Russia and China. These resolutions have focused on developing a framework for peace, calling for adherence to international law and

a call for Palestinian statehood and condemnation for Israel’s treatment of Palestinians. Only once has the U.S. not vetoed a proposed resolution relating to the support of Israel.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Artist Poppy's counter-cultural album

INDUSTRIAL AND INSPIRING MUSIC

TYSON BRAUNSCHWEIG
PSYCHOLOGY

Ever since Poppy first made her presence known on the internet, she has been known for poking fun at its culture and being critical of current events and modern issues. She is opinionated and unapologetic, and while this character first spawned in the short-form surrealist videos she would post on her YouTube channel, it eventually progressed into an emotional music career that has spanned many moods, themes, genres and topics.

Her fifth album, titled "Zig," sees her move away from the rock influences of her previous two albums in favor of visceral, aggressive industrial dance-pop tracks with a hint of metal and screamo influence. There are a variety of criticisms of modern cultural themes such as religion and politics presented in this album as well that complement the abrasive sound being consistently pushed throughout the LP.

The first track on the album, titled "Church Outfit" is textured with aggressive, pounding drums and grinding industrial instrumentation accompanied

by a cadence and set of lyrics that sound as though Poppy is quite literally on a warpath that will end in her victory or her demise. This is the most obvious presentation of this theme out of any of the tracks on this album, but it vaguely crops up at various moments throughout the soundscape.

The third track, "Hard," was a favorite due to the extremely distorted guitar sound that can almost be mistaken for a synthesizer with a high resonance filter on it as well as the various creative instrumentation choices throughout the track's runtime. A standout moment on this song would have to be the screamo verse toward its back half and the explosion of loud instrumentation that comes with it.

"What It Becomes" and "Flicker," the album's fourth and fifth tracks, are both strangely beautiful. There is an omnipresent industrial influence throughout this album, but these two songs also had segments of very flowy vocals and classical composition that meshed well with abstract percussion in a unique fashion.

"Is + Os," the sixth track, features a phenomenal guitar solo towards the end of the record with a tone and playing style that does not often cross paths with pop and dance music;

this is more proof of Poppy's interest in creating something monumental and new for her listeners as well as herself.

"Linger," the eighth track on the album, starts with an acoustic guitar riff that feels similar to Metallica, but the beat drop combines this element with percussion and bass that is undeniably influenced by early electronic artists such as Burial. A pleasant surprise was the heavy drum and bass influence on "The Attic," the album's ninth track. The frantic style of percussion meshes with the factory-esque style well, but there are piano chords consistently present throughout the background of this song that give it a strangely emotional vibe.

"Motorbike," one of the more popular tracks of the album, has a more conventional dance-pop drum beat and some retro-sounding synths with a cool flow to the chorus that jumps from one thought to another at a rapid pace, but it did not hit as hard as some of the previous tracks. As is the norm with most well-crafted albums, "Prove It," the final track on the record, is wildly different from the rest of the project. It is incredibly bipolar, moving from emotional vocals and piano chords to a significantly faster chorus with vocoded and harsh singing similar to underground

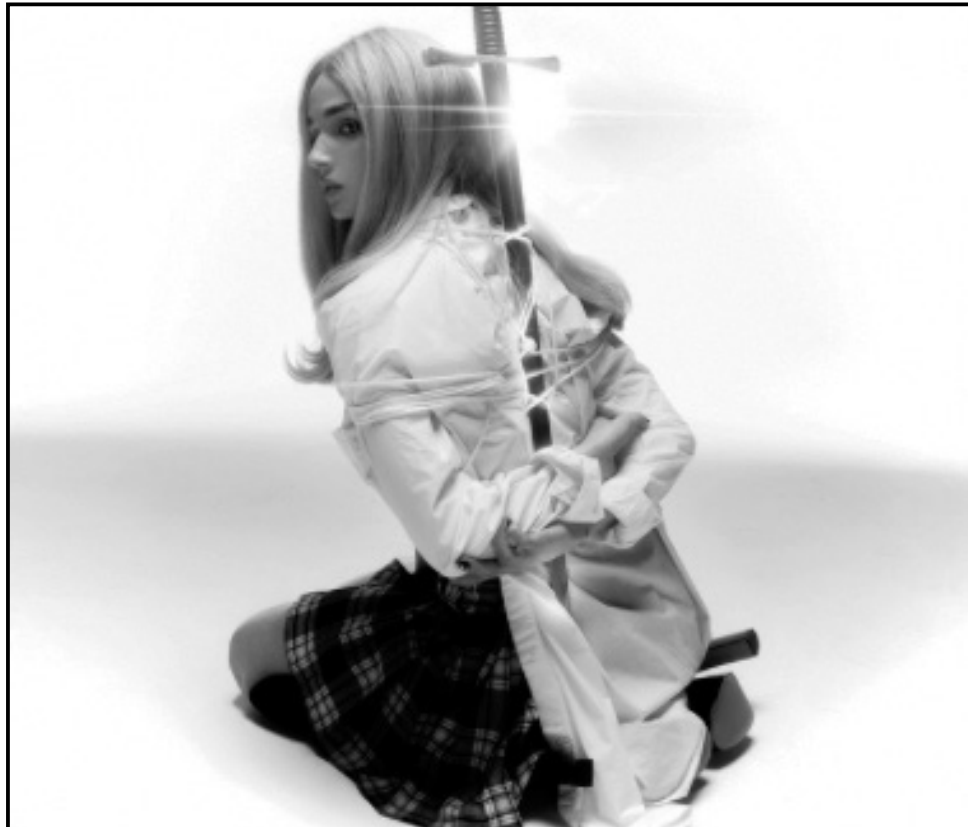


PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

hyperpunk tracks. Poppy also pulls a page from Pink Floyd's book at the end of this track, using the outro to blend into the intro song, "Church Outfit," to make the album feel like a perfect loop. This was a perfect example of tasteful experimentation morphing into a beautiful and chaotic work of art, a great way

to end a great project.

Poppy's complete willingness to make something completely new every time she walks into the studio is inspirational to artists. This album is for anyone looking to hear something they have never heard before, specifically those who are interested in industrial and metal

music. Poppy is one of many artists encouraging change in the modern era of music, and it is through inspirations like her that the next generation of artists will be able to change the way we go about raising the bar through experimentation.

★★★★

Much anticipated movie lacking direction

INACCURACIES AND PLOT HOLES

CLAYTON BROUWER
ENGLISH

Children's Entertainment is often required to be part of a package deal. Although parents love spending time with their children, they need time to let kids be kids on their own. Chuck E. Cheese's is a wonderful example of this business model done right through the use of affordable fun and many outlets of entertainment. The animatronics can be scary at times to young children due to their dynamic facial expressions and robotic movements. They often come across as creepy to adults for a similar reason. It was only a matter of time before someone visualized the robots into a grotesque horror. Scott Cawthon took it upon himself to be the one who bears this torch. On Aug. 8, 2014 the first installment of the "Five Nights at Freddy's" game franchise was released and instantly drew attention to itself. Nine years later, Blumhouse coupled with Scott to create and release

the movie by Oct. 27, 2023 just in time for Halloween.

The horror movie has received mixed reviews since its release due to the lack of true horror portrayed throughout the film and predictable nature of the movie. The movie was not generally scary and leaned more into the suspenseful aspect of horror. A lot of events happened offscreen which led to characters feeling like they were never in trouble. It seemed as if most problems could have been solved or avoided if the characters were less cryptic. Nobody spoke their mind and hinted at problems. For a franchise where jumpscare are one of the centerpoints of the game, there weren't many in the movie. Although there were a few cheap jumpscare where a loud noise was associated with an inanimate figurine, fear was often lost in translation and the movie was more like a documentary at times.

Lore is the topic of interest for most people who are diehard fans of the series. Alas, it seems to also be a sour spot in regards to the way the movie was handled and has left fans upset. Aspects of the

franchise's multiple games were used throughout the movie and the movie does not support the timeline that has been created throughout the years and has been generally agreed upon by the community to make the most logical sense. These inaccuracies primarily lie within the characters and plot lines which have been interwoven across multiple games in the film. People were looking to the movie for answers. They wanted to confirm or deny the early parts of the timeline that was patched together and rewritten multiple times, but were met with a confusing sequence of events. Combining elements from every game except "Five Nights at Freddy's 4" and "Sister Location" from the mainstream games adds up to a lot of confusing elements. To the people who knew nothing about the franchise prior, the movie was nothing spectacular but definitely should not be tossed aside. The ending leaves the audience asking questions. The final scene leaves both sides of the audience wondering where the next movie will go. Fans began speculating immediately while casual

viewers were confused with what was going on.

Playing into the hearts of the fans, many well-known figures in the "Five Nights at Freddy's" community made an appearance throughout the movie. These names include, but are not limited to, popular YouTubers such as Lewis "Dawko" Dawkins, Cory "CoryxKenshin" DeVante Williams and Matthew "MatPat" Patrick from the channel Game Theory. Markiplier was supposed to play the role of the security guard in the opening scene of the movie but unfortunately could not attend the shoot and had to be replaced. The willingness to provide cameos in a movie for so many people who have dedicated countless hours to breaking down the lore of this franchise is truly incredible to see.

Overall, the movie seemed to be lacking in direction. Let's hope the sequel digs the audience out of the hole of confusion they were left in as Matthew Lillard has confirmed he is on a three-movie contract.

★★★★



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MOVIE DATABASE

Theatre Professor shares story of grief

EULOGY TO BELOVED SON IN THREE ACTS

JACK MACGREGOR
THEATRE

On Oct. 31, 2023, Dr. Robert “Bob” Hubbard released his new book, “Scenes with My Son: Love and Grief in the Wake of Suicide.” Segmented into three parts, the book shares Dr. Hubbard’s memories of his son, August “Auggie” Hubbard. Dr. Hubbard recounts the euphoric joys and wrenching sorrows experienced throughout Auggie’s life. Honest and authentic, “Scenes with My Son” shares the reality of raising a child living with mental illness, high-functioning autism, suicidal ideation and ultimately experiencing the aftermath of their suicide.

Within his book, Dr. Hubbard writes his “scenes” in first person perspective and speaking in the present tense. “I hope it’s more visceral for the reader,” Dr. Hubbard said. He also uses a nonlinear timeline, jumping around events and memories from Auggie’s

birth, childhood, adolescence and adulthood to orchestrate to the reader who Auggie was.

The eulogy to Auggie is written in three acts: “Beautiful Boy,” “The Family Monster” and “The Life After.” These acts all contain “scenes” depicting events of Auggie’s highs and lows, but also sharing moments of the Hubbard family wrestling with the aftermath of their child’s death. While getting engulfed in the pages, it’s difficult to ignore how deeply personal the events shared are. Scenes of Dr. Hubbard visiting his son in Sioux Falls’ mental hospital, Auggie’s academic struggles and familial dissonance put readers in a intimate knowing of Dr. Bob and his family. When asked about his openness in his scenes, Dr. Hubbard responded, “I wanted to keep Auggie’s presence alive in these stories. Auggie would have never tolerated a sugar-coating.”

On the last page of his prologue, Dr. Hubbard expresses his need to share Auggie’s life. “I never planned to write this book. I never thought I could, but it turns out I had to. For Auggie, and hopefully, for others” (p. xv). Students at Northwestern College are able to take a course

with Dr. Hubbard, called Theatre Experience. One of the central terms to the course is a theory called “catharsis,” which is making the audience feel strong, repressed negative emotion in order to purge it and make them feel better. Putting it into practice, that was the intent of “Scenes with My Son.” Dr. Hubbard understands that although it is not a balm for everyone experiencing death of a loved one, he, as well as many others, are drawn to stories about grief. “It makes us feel not so by ourselves.” “Scenes with My Son” is also a means to build empathy for those who have never experienced the pain of grieving over one lost by suicide.

Many of the themes the book revolves around carries weight, giving a candid, realistic picture of the grieving process. Death, anger management, mental health, unconditional love and hospitalization are some of the many subjects discussed by Dr. Hubbard. However, one reoccurring theme that saturates all the others is faith. In every high, low, mundane moment in remembering Auggie, Dr. Hubbard sees God. In the highs, he sees God’s goodness and holiness in the

moment. In the lows, he’s willing to admit his doubts about God’s sovereignty and goodness. Dr. Hubbard sees this as necessary to share: “I don’t think faith without doubt is very meaningful.” A moment in Act Three of “Scenes with My Son” opens a vulnerable thought where he is grappling with the hope of the Gospel in the midst of his inconsolable grief. When the heartache of missing Auggie comes and the promise of eternal life and reunion with the “cloud of witnesses” seems bleak, Dr. Hubbard asks God, like the father with his sick son in Mark 9:22-24, to “help [him] overcome [his] unbelief,” (p. 154).

There will be an excerpt book reading on Nov. 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Theora England Willcox Proscenium Theatre, including a discussion with Dr. Hubbard. The event will be followed by a reception with refreshments in the lobby where attendees can purchase “Scenes with My Son” and get their copy signed by Dr. Hubbard. Students are highly encouraged to attend the book reading. “In a way it’s their story,” Dr. Hubbard said. “It happened here on campus. I’m privileged to share because it’s a

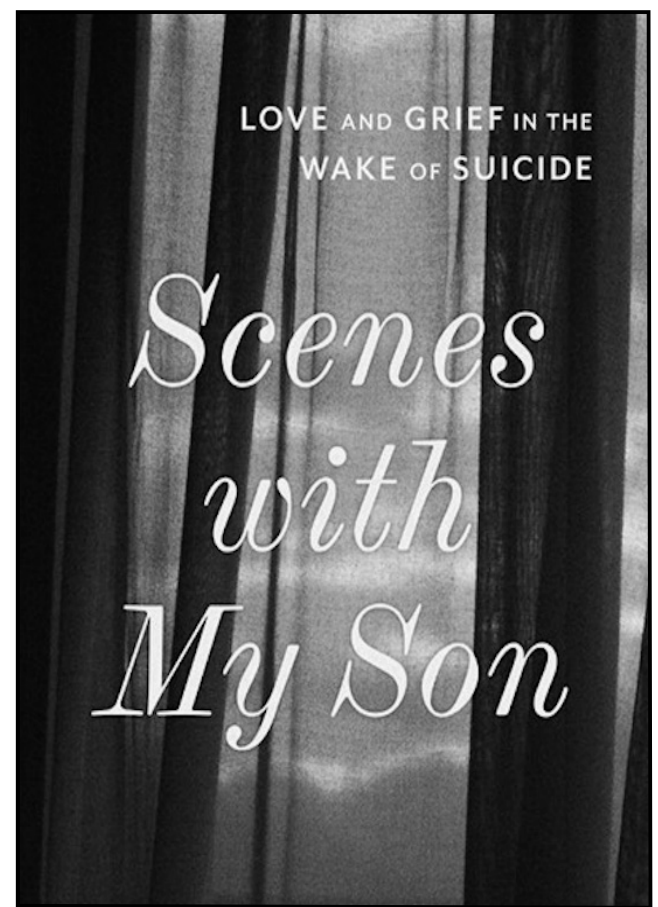


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Behind the scenes of Northwestern’s “Matilda”

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PROCESS FROM START TO FINISH

ASHLEY MONTES
TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION

The imagination of children is something fascinating, stretching the boundaries beyond our limits from creating stories to even levitating cups. The process of “Matilda” was all about brainstorming and being able to create a playground on stage with a childlike feeling through the guidance of the author, Roald Dahl. However, to many of us, being able to see a live stage production brought to life in just a few months is fascinating and we may even wonder: “How does this show production come to be and who are the creative masterminds that oversee this lengthy process?” There are many brilliant people behind the scenes, including Director Molly Wiebe Faber who chose this brilliant story.

Behind each inspiration, a deep love and passion for something needs to be have a motivation. Wiebe Faber, a professor in the theater department describes her deep love for reading by reminiscing of her childhood stating, “Books transported me to new worlds where I became all sorts of characters”. She also wanted to give the actors the same experience, by allowing them to feel like kids and it brings the audience for a ride. Creating a playground on stage creates a sense of playfulness all around the audience she also states “Theatre provides the same feeling of transportation that books do”. However, behind each great idea there is a big crew to bring this process to life.

In order to create a huge production on a stage designs have to be drafted up but, lots of intricate

design elements have to come in play in order to make everything fit just right. Ethan Koerner, the scenic and props designer for “Matilda” had a fun time choosing vintage props and furniture. Although along the way, he did run into a hurdle of obstacles. Creating a playing field for over 20 actors on stage and by creating a difference between practical vs aesthetical challenges creates a fine line between realistic and non-realistic. For many, being able to overcome these challenges can be a lot, but without fail, Koerner manages to overcome that challenge. How does he do it? Only he knows and everyone has their own tricks up there sleeves.

Every director always has a fantastic crew bringing all the elements, no matter how big or small, together. Even more importantly, a stage manager and assistant stage manager help oversee the process along the way. Madison DenHerder is the stage manager for this production and has been for past previous productions as well such as “Life Is A Dream.” For her, this process has been all over the place, but in the end comes together very nicely “bringing the picture to life.” With so many elements invested into this show, she describes one being the costumes saying that the costumes are really good and “brings the character to life.” She also adds that “Amber really popped off with the costumes.”

Although this is a very long, challenging process, the overall payoff in the end is worth it. From the beginning rough drafts, to being able to put on a full show in front of a large audience makes all the effort worthwhile. Wiebe Faber describes the show as a lot of fun, with humor for everyone. She states, “It has a lot of loud in your face moments, but also very soft touching moments”. The showings of “Matilda” are Nov. 9, 11, 16, 17 and 18.



PHOTO BY JACAK MACGREGOR
“Matilda” actors rehearse in the Proscenium Theatre.

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Students enjoy various activities in the cold

BUILDING SNOWMEN AND READING BOOKS

KAYLEE BANDSTRA
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Students have already experienced their first snow of the season, and they brought out plenty of winter coats, hats and mittens. The snow has since melted, and the temperatures have remained moderate, giving us beautiful weather, but more cold weather and fiercer snow is inevitable as winter approaches. If it has not snowed again by the time this article is published, this article may seem dated, but when you are in northwest Iowa, you are aware of how sudden these winter winds can sneak up on unsuspecting students.

Because of the impending colder temperatures, there is a lack of students on the sand volleyball court and fewer people are playing tennis. It may seem hard to be creative when the sun sets before eating supper, but being creative in myriad ways can

keep the seasonal depression at bay.

However, even though the cold weather may tempt some students to move south, fun is still available despite the colder temperatures. According to a blog called "Bucket List Journey," there are a variety of ways to keep yourself occupied during the upcoming winter season.

Making nice, warm drinks is a wonderful way to cozy up. A cup of tea, a cup of coffee or a cup of hot chocolate can bring smiles to many faces. Warm drinks can be simple to make, such as with hot chocolate packets and warm water or milk. A variation of teas is out there for you to try. The internet is full of creative ideas for creating warm drinks.

Even if the weather app shows you freezing temperatures, you do not have to stay inside. If the snow can be compacted to create shapes, called packing snow, students should let their inner child free and go build snowmen or have a snowball fight. If the snow is still soft, you can create snow angels.

Some students like to have a game night with their friends. Classic games that nearly everyone knows how to play are readily available in many dorms' lounges, such as Uno and varying card games. There are also some newer games that contain interesting quirks, such as Exploding Kittens, Anomia and Chameleon.

Northwestern student Ashley Montes is diverse in the ways she spends during cold winter days. "I mostly stay inside and sleep or I am at the gym," Montes said. "Sometimes I like to read a good book."

Other students enjoy outdoor activities. Ailee Moquist, a second-year NEXT student and theatre major, claims that she enjoys snowshoeing. "My family walks across the lake near our house," Moquist said.

Hope Wallace, a sophomore public relations major, enjoys "anonymous snowman building and snowball fights. I also like to watch Hallmark movies with my roommate."

Jack MacGregor, a junior theatre and public relations



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH.COM
Building a snowman is a classic form of snowy entertainment.

double major, also enjoys snowball fights and building snowmen. "I like to give the snowmen backstories," MacGregor said. "When I can, I also enjoy inviting people over to watch movies and have snacks."

Mackenna Thurman, a freshman theatre major from Montana, likes "driving to the mountains, looking for Christmas trees. I enjoy the adventure," Thurman said. "I also enjoy reading in my bed by the window, watching the

snow and being with my cat. I also enjoy gift giving."

Lexi Squier, a freshman business admin and theatre double major, spends her cold days in a cozy way. "I snuggle up in a blanket, have a cup of hot chocolate, and

The Israel/U.S. "Special Relationship"

FROM PAGE 1

treatment of Palestinians. Only once has the U.S. not vetoed a proposed resolution relating to the support of Israel.

Lurking in the shadows is the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) which is a major reason for the U.S. continued involvement. They are a bi-partisan lobby that works to enact public policy, securing aid and passing legislation for continued support for Israel. AIPAC plays as a puppeteer, rewarding legislators who support its agenda and punishing those who oppose. AIPAC is a powerful organization whose impact is largely unknown to the public. The late King Hussien of Jordan explains, "The U.S. is not free to move except within the limits of AIPAC."

The explanations

for the unwavering commitment to Israel is nuanced. Due to their long-standing presence in the Middle East, the U.S. maintains their strong and consistent cooperation with Israel, shown to be their most reliable ally. Ideologically, the U.S. and Israel have similar agendas as it pertains to democracy, culture and values, religious roots and international concerns. With China's growing involvement in the region, Israel seems to keep the U.S. stuck in the Middle East, in threat of allyship with China. Additionally, many give the Holocaust as a reason for the necessity of an independent Jewish state. In the aftermath of WWII, the U.S. certainly feels a sense of responsibility for this establishment.

The implications of this special relationship impact U.S. foreign policy and

tax-payer expenditure. In the opinion of Marwan Bishara, senior political analyst at Al Jazeera, Washington has long revolved around the satisfaction of Israeli needs, encouraging peace and compromises. But ultimately, he concludes that, "in reality, unconditional US support has thus far hardened Israel's stance, radicalized its society and driven its polity towards fascism." No matter the intentions of U.S. support, the impact progresses militarization of the most far-right government Israel has seen, whose actions are internationally questionable at best.

National media presents a narrow view of the conflict rooted in political bias, which many believe leaves out the stories of Palestinians. As a result, empathy and justice are seldom



PHOTO SUBMITTED
A memorial at the Aida refugee camp of deceased Palestinian children, holding Israel and the U.S. responsible.

pursued. With a bi-partisan single story presented, citizens can choose a route with little critical thinking, following the general consensus of

U.S. politicians. The U.S. involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has deep implications, not only the Middle East but American

lives as well. American citizens have a deep responsibility to research, seek justice and act politically. Americans are not the only ones affected

FEATURES 15

What does Monsma's office contain?

PHDS, PRANKS AND OTHER ODDITIES

JOSIAH TROUTNER
WORSHIP ARTS

Fanatic, socially conscious and a fun-loving prankster, Scott Monsma's office decorations exactly match what you might expect of the conniving sociology professor. However, what you may not have expected is for him to be a fanatical recumbent cyclist, something made evident the moment you walk in the door by the mural his daughter painted for his birthday dedicated to his passion.

According to Monsma, it is his way to relax, listen to some podcasts and get into nature. Fifty miles is a good day on the bike, but he's comfortable clocking upwards of one hundred on a weekend trip.

Socially conscious, his office contains photos from his student trips to the Sultanate of Oman,

along with student and faculty art instillations on subjects of equal rights, consumerism and identity. A PhD and fourth-generation teacher, you might be surprised not to find Monsma's own diplomas proudly displayed around his office walls, but according to him, they are just some papers validating the real work of his PhD, and they are probably sitting in a filing cabinet somewhere. However, you will see displayed his grandmother's eighth grade and Calvin College diplomas which are ornately beautiful family relics and tactile reminders of the cross-generational impact of teaching.

As you might have guessed by his disinterest in his own diplomas, Dr. Monsma has an interesting relationship with physical possessions. His office is clinically sparse, and I do not think you'll find a professor with fewer books. This is not because he is not well read, just

that everything is digital nowadays, so why own it on paper? "It's just stuff," Monsma said. "It's all just stuff. Stuff owns us. We don't own stuff, and I don't want to be owned by it." For that reason, what he does keep is sure to have a story or memory attached. Maybe its story is self-explanatory (like the ducks in a row, marching across his end table), but others are gifts and baubles from students, art pieces, snarky post-it notes and even an old coffee cup (and relic, I guess) from defunct coffee shop Town Square, with a haiku scrawled across the side.

If there's one thing you know about Dr. Monsma, it's probably his aptitude for pranks and puns (in his words, "it's about quantity over quality"), and to no surprise, his office matches this love, going as far as to have a "pun intended" sign greet you at the door. Strewn across bookshelves are mementos of old



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM
The quantity of decor in Monsma's office is top quality.

pranks, rubber hands, the OCD action figure, an end table with an outhouse (which you'll just have to investigate for yourself) and a jar of "the ashes of problem students". All these jokes are not to call Dr. Monsma's personality flippant, but neither is he self-serious. "I take a

lot of things very seriously, but I also love humor," Monsma said. "You can take humor seriously."

With his thoughtfully principled life and completely singular aesthetic, Dr. Monsma is a man with an ethos ripe to be imbibed. With love for nature,

meditation, social activism, personal minimalism, a healthy balance between humor and composure and an office to match it all, he establishes himself as a fixture of Northwestern's faculty. So, get out there and give one of your professors a visit! They are treasure

Honoring American Veterans

FROM PAGE 1

than thanking them for their service ever could," according to military.com. "Relating to your veteran over your mutual pride for and love of this nation and her people will convey your gratitude for their service in a personal and meaningful way."

Not one veteran is the same. Not all veterans have experienced the same events, and if it was the same event, they may not have experienced that event the same way. "Even within the same unit, each service member will have a different experience -- some painful, some triumphant and

some both," according to military.com. "Making assumptions about a service member's experience can do more harm than good, so make sure to approach your conversations with care."

There are lots of ways people and communities have honored our veterans. In Orange City, there is a veteran's memorial park located just east of campus. "The Veterans Memorial Park in Orange City, Iowa, stands out from many memorials as it lists wars and conflicts people have forgotten about or heard about," according to stonegrouparchitects.com. "Names of the Veterans from the

Orange City Area who have died or served are listed in six marble pillars according to the wars or conflicts they were in and the branch of service in which they served."

NW student Ashley Montes appreciates our veterans. "To me, it is not something that I viewed in my life, because I do not have any family members who have served, but I do think that it is very important to show respect towards people to have served in the past," Montes said. "It takes a lot of time, dedication and sacrifice. I find it very honorable."



PHOTO SUBMITTED
NW student, Annika Snow, serves on the Air National Guard.



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WHAT IS THE BEST BOY DINNER?

“A gallon of milk straight from the jug”

“Chicken and rice”

“An entire calf”

“Rotisserie chicken”

“Chicken. Rice. Broccoli. Yum Yum Sauce.”

“Anything at the Iowa State Fair.”

“Mac & cheese and hotdogs.”

“3 silces of pizza, a bowl of cereal, two drinks (water and either soda or juice), fries, some fruit, and if you're feeling up to it maybe some dessert.”

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!

Is it really not that deep?



Thea Angelee Davis
Graphic Design

“Thanks /they-ya/, have a great day!” My eyes immediately lit up as I heard Lora from The Hub say these words. The genuine warmth in her friendly voice was evident, but it was honestly her pronunciation of my name that resonated with me, especially because I had never taught her how to. It may have been a small thing, yet it meant the world to me, and I still think about that little moment today.

The mispronunciation of my name has never been a stranger to me. Back in my native country, my surname was constantly misread as /dah-vis/. After migrating here to the United States, I hoped to leave those experiences behind—until people started calling my first name as /thee-ya/. Now, it has become a pet peeve that I've learned to shrug off because I hesitated to correct people.

After all, it's “not that deep,” and it's still my “name”... right?

However, as I remember these encounters, I begin to realize and reflect

on the significance of names and the profound impact they hold.

First of all, our names are not mere labels. They are essential to shaping our identity and individuality. For instance, my name means a lot to me because it embodies the beauty of my bicultural identity—with my first name being of Filipino origin and my surname representing my American upbringing.

With that, intentionally taking the time to correctly pronounce one's name is not simply an act of politeness. When we make an effort to do so, we can acknowledge and honor people's identities. Although it may appear insignificant to some, it actually holds a huge power to show respect and consideration—a way to let a person be seen and heard and give a striking message that “you matter, and your identity holds value.”

In addition to that, learning to pronounce names also shows a genuine interest in knowing people. It demonstrates a sincere curiosity in understanding a person beyond our assumptions and preconceived notions. It allows us to recognize that we all carry unique experiences behind us. As a matter of fact, some people may even have very fascinating stories about why they were named as such! I've discovered a lot about my friends' backgrounds simply by asking about their names.

Therefore, through this conscientious effort to ask and know how to say their names according to their preferences,

we are able to approach people with a willingness to learn about their true selves. It is a meaningful gesture that communicates our interest in building a relationship.

In our world filled with diverse identities, our names hold a deeper significance than what we may think. A name is more than a mere combination of letters—it is a vessel of a person's identity and unique stories to tell. That being said, as we navigate through complex human identities, it is quite common to feel overwhelmed by the number of differences we each bring to the table. Knowing how we can best appreciate or celebrate them may feel like a challenge. However, maybe we could just begin with the most basic step: the seemingly simple act of learning how to pronounce a name. And perhaps this tiny step would then become a bigger leap in creating a more inclusive community—a world where everyone feels seen, heard and celebrated for who they truly are.

A moniker of the male lifestyle



Tyson Braunschweig
Psychology

Every man has had the experience of opening up his fridge and finding three of the least compatible ingredients he could possibly conjure up in his mind sitting on its shelves as his only option for a meal that night. Rather than shutting the fridge and giving up, however, every man has also had the experience of letting out an exasperated sigh and doing his best to create a moderately edible meal out of these three ingredients. When a man does this, he is taking part in the iconic cultural experience known by the world as “boy dinner.”

The official definition of boy dinner is “any low-effort meal a guy eats for dinner,” but it is so much more than that. Some examples of standout boy dinners include a sandwich consisting solely of unseasoned microwave ramen noodles,

one entire loaf of bread, oatmeal composed of a vast array of abstract ingredients, the classic bowl of rice with chicken and broccoli and potato chips with beef jerky. These dinners are usually washed down with beverages that are equally as lazy and unhealthy as the dishes themselves; some examples of popular boy dinner beverages are Mountain Dew (specifically Baja Blast), whole milk, any Arizona-brand canned drink and tap water.

My personal favorite boy dinner experience would have to be the time I took leftover fried rice and liberally poured a combination of soy sauce and Terry Ho's Yum Yum Sauce over it to make a soupy mixture, and it was quite honestly one of the better meals that I have eaten at two o'clock in the morning.

Boy dinner spawned in contrast to the popular TikTok trend known as “girl dinner,” which can be characterized as similar to boy dinner due to how little effort is put in, but girl dinner often takes the time to make the meal look at least somewhat presentable (see Lillian Reith's recent opinion article for more information on girl dinner). However, boy dinner is quite literally food on a plate or food in a bowl, and that is all the more formality that you're going to get.

When asked for his thoughts on boy dinner, Clay Brouwer made the important distinction that Pringles can make any boy dinner at least ten times better. When asked to elaborate on this, Clay said that “a single one of those Pringles Snack Stacks can turn any array of food into a tasty meal.”

While I agree with this sentiment, I believe that boy dinner is something to be done in moderation. Boy dinner is known for not having much differentiation between meals, and those who regularly partake in boy dinner often find themselves eating the same meal anywhere from three to four times in the same week.

Too much boy dinner in someone's life can lead to the drastic deterioration of one's physical and mental health due to how little nutrition usually comes from these meals as well as the aforementioned potential for repetition of the same few dishes. As stated earlier, boy dinner is an iconic part of the male experience, but there is so much more to the male experience than just boy dinner. Have some fruits and veggies every once in a while; they are good for you.

Editor's Note

The opinions published both in print and online are the opinions of the authors only. Beacon staff members do not necessarily support the opinions expressed in this section. Research and editing (other than formatting) of articles is the responsibility of the authors rather than the editors.

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the Beacon staff

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Raider volleyball ranked first in NAIA

THREE NATIONALLY RANKED PLAYERS

CHEYENNE SCHMIT
BUSINESS ADM/
MARKETING

Northwestern Volleyball has led a season with plenty of accomplishments.

One of those said accomplishments is the team getting voted first in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) coaches' poll for the third time since the start of the program.

The poll takes place several times throughout the regular season and the past two times that the poll has been taken, NW has ended up as number one.

The team has moved up the rankings in the NAIA coaches' poll from fifth place

in the preseason poll.

They have also moved up the NAIA rankings in previous years, where they have finished in eighth place in the past two years.

"Winning a volleyball conference title in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) is very hard to do with the quality of teams in our conference. Our team has been a very closeknit group all season and have been great encouragers to each other all season long," said Coach Van Den Bosch.

The team is also in good standing in terms of their overall win ratio with 24 wins and two losses.

They had the first round of semi-finals on Wednesday, Nov. 8 and NW won, which secured their ticket to the championships.

They also have a few

leaders on the team including sophomore Zavyr Metzger, senior Macay Van't Hul and junior Jazlin De Haan.

Metzger currently leads the nation in blocks per set with 1.95 and is second in the nation with 164 total blocks.

Van't Hul is second in the nation in blocks per set with 1.41.

De Haan is the league lead in kills per set with 4.72 as well as fifth in total kills at 373.

"We are excited to continue to work hard as we prepare for the national tournament," said Coach Van Den Bosch.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC MARCOMM
NW volleyball players huddle on court, discussing their next play.

Women's basketball season with strong start

LOOKING TOWARD NATIONALS

KATE MCEWEN
SPORTS MGMT/MARKETING

Starting out the season strong, Northwestern Women's Basketball had two big wins this past weekend at a tournament in Chicago, Illinois. They are currently ranked fifth in the conference for the pre-season poll.

Competition will be constant this year as most teams are made up of senior talent. The team will also have their toughest non-conference roster with teams who competed in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) tournament last year. These teams include IU-Northwest, Mayville St, St.

Mary and Dakota State.

As challenging as this season will be, they also have a high ranking and are a force to be reckoned with.

Fifth-year student Maddison Jones and senior Molly Schany are two returning starters who were leading scorers and all-conference players last season.

They will help lead the team along with upperclassman Hali Anderson as a guard, Maren Nerem as a post, and senior transfer Kaydin Davis as a starter.

"We have great depth and versatility with our roster this year and will look to play at a fast pace offensively while finding a healthy balance of guard/post play," Coach Rotert said.

Jones comments, "I think we have a good chance of making a deep running into nationals

this year. I think we bring a lot of new players to the table that others may overlook early in the season. Our goal is for every season to either be Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) regular season champions or GPAC conference champions. The goal remains the same for this season."

Coach Rotert believes that "we bring a unique understanding and relatability to what it looks like to be a collegiate athlete. It is truly a joy to lead this program and work with such great young women and coaches."

As the season is just kicking off, the women's basketball team is prepared for the challenging season ahead.

With great coaches, leaders and players they expect to go far.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC MARCOMM
NW basketball starters prepare for their name to be called before game.

Cold temperatures did not affect player performance

WEATHER CAN NOT STOP A RAIDER WIN

CHEYENNE SCHMIT
BUSINESS ADM/
MKTING

In Iowa, Northwestern is no stranger to freezing temperatures and snow.

The home football game on Oct. 28 was no different, with its forecast of 28 degrees for a high and a projected two inches of snow.

By the end of the game, the field was if not all, but mostly covered in an inch or two of snow. That made for a rather cold, but interesting game to attend.

"I think that other

than wearing more layers, it is all mental. You cannot let the cold impact how you play. Practicing in the cold leading up to games helps build the tolerance for it," said Elijah Stader, the team's kicker.

Most of the athletic band was at the game until halftime, with the director Steve Connell dismissing those whose instruments were most likely to be affected by the weather the worst.

"We in the athletic band did not realize how bad the snow was going to be at the game against Morningside, so we didn't prepare at all. My sousaphone froze before the game even started, I had to keep pouring

hot water on it to keep the valves moving," said Alissa Hugen.

The snow didn't stop the band from making the most of it, and there was a snowball fight before it got too cold for the band to continue to play.

The football team was also affected by the snow and cold, as they still had to play their game against Morningside.

In order for the game to continue past halftime, the maintenance crew had to do a lot of snow removal with shovels and a plow attached to an ATV.

Even after the field was cleared, the team had a difficult time with

traction and seeing where yard lines and the end zones were.

"I kick, and it (the cold) greatly affects my performance personally. When it is cold the ball gets cold and hard and not only is it harder to kick, but it hurts to kick as well. It is basically like kicking a rock. Because the ball is hard, it does not compress off of the foot, so it does not go as far and is not as responsive to how my foot contacts it," said Stader.

None of that stopped the team from beating Morningside 34 to 20 and continuing their undefeated season.

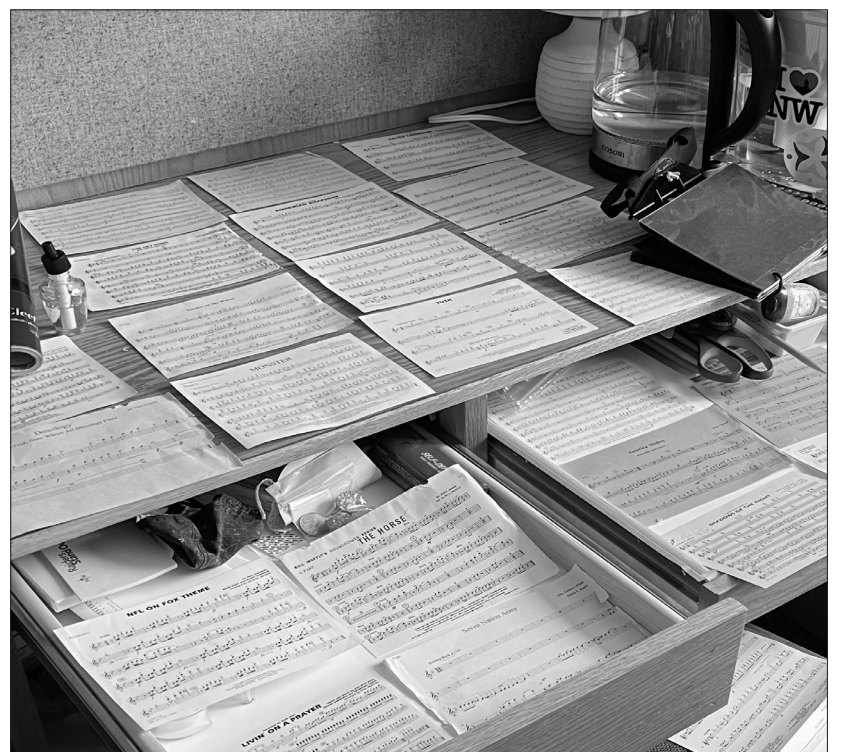


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LILLIAN REITH
Pep band lays out sheet music to dry after snowy football game.

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Collective pursuit of vocational thriving

QUALITY INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

BAILEY BROWN
SOCIAL WORK

On Oct. 18, Northwestern officially launched a Quality Initiative on Vocational Thriving. “Vocation” is a term that often comes up in conversation surrounding career and calling. It is generally acknowledged that vocation is an important concept, but there can be uncertainty about what this word means and what it looks like to do well vocationally.

NW’s President’s Cabinet chose “vocation” to be the focus of a two-year quality initiative (QI) that began this fall and will run through the spring of 2025. Every ten years, NW goes through an accreditation process with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). A requirement for continued accreditation is that the college must designate a major improvement effort, often called a quality initiative, within the second half of the 10-year accreditation cycle.

After selecting “vocation” as the focus for this QI, the President’s Cabinet asked Dr. Dean Calsbeek, dean of natural and applied sciences, and Dr. Elizabeth Pitts, director of career and calling, to chair the QI effort. Dr. Calsbeek



Felipe and Janelle Silva were honored as alumni and shared their vocational journey at the first “Stories of Calling” event. COURTESY OF NWCIOWA.EDU

and Dr. Pitts accepted and began by getting input from faculty and staff on their thoughts surrounding the topic of vocation.

Input was gathered through a survey and roundtable discussions. This input informed the focus of the QI proposal and led to the identification of eight action steps.

A volunteer task force comprised of four faculty members and four staff members was established to help delineate the QI’s goals and further establish the eight action steps.

The ultimate goal of this QI effort is for the community of

NW to pursue the common good through vocational thriving. This is not limited to occupational positions but extends to the multiple vocations pursued by individuals beyond their paid work as well. The QI task force developed eight action steps geared towards this goal, with steps that address vocational thriving among faculty and staff, students and alumni.

These steps include having themes of vocation infused in employee education series and course curriculum. The action steps laid out also involve creating space and time for vocation to be

discussed and reflected on among faculty, staff and students.

Step seven, for example, is that students would be “incentivized to initiate vocation-related conversations.” An effort that has been made toward that end is hosting “Stories of Calling” events in which current students can hear alumni tell their vocational stories.

The “Stories of Calling” events help students to visualize what that looks like through real-life examples, which can spark further questions and conversations.

“Caylan [DeLucia] and Emelie [Laackmann] proposed the idea

of taking advantage of having NW alumni Felipe and Janelle Silva, who were back on campus for Homecoming in October, to share more of their vocational story over lunch, and the idea took off from there” said Dr. Pitts.

Two more “Stories of Calling” events have taken place since then, with alumni Dr. Linus Munrengsong Leivon and Sara Veldhuizen Stealy both sharing their stories. “We hope more faculty and staff will suggest other alumni or community members we could highlight for future ‘Stories of Calling’” said Dr. Pitts.

NW hosts “Disability and the Gospel” conference

CREATING A CULTURE OF BELONGING

OWEN KOLSTE
NURSING

On Nov. 2, Northwestern held a conference entitled “Disability and the Gospel” for leaders in ministry, education, the church and the community. The keynote speaker was Eric Targe, a pastor and adjunct professor of disability studies at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Targe, as well as numerous breakout speakers from the NW network, explored “what it means to amplify our witness of Christ alongside our friends with disabilities.”

Despite being the largest minority population on earth, individuals with disabilities are not commonly embraced in the church. There are several barriers to individuals with disabilities, as well as their families, finding belonging in the church. Targe spoke extensively on this, provided historical context for how disability has been approached and laid a theological foundation for the church to embrace people with disabilities.

People with disabilities are not only important to our communities but are an integral

part of Christ’s kingdom. But sadly, these brothers and sisters in Christ are often viewed through the lens of lesser and are extremely underserved. Therefore, conferences like this are vital to not only raising awareness but also stimulating conversations to bring real change and increased mindfulness of our friends with disabilities.

This conference was put on through the collaboration of NW’s Campus Ministries Team (CMT) and the NEXT Program. Both of these departments have been wrestling with the topic of how to cultivate a community in which people with disabilities truly belong.

Regarding what the next step is for bringing about change, campus pastor Mark DeYounge stated, “We need to continue to cast a vision for humanity that is not accidentally slipping into a ‘cult of normalcy’ that reinforces a human value system derived from ability alone.”

The NEXT Program gives students with disabilities the opportunity to earn a degree, be a part of community and display Christ’s love on this campus in their own beautiful ways. “We are not looking for a program

here and there, we are looking for a radical inclusion where all are vital members, all belong and all have a purpose and a part to play and contribute, each in their own way” said Sherry Lang, assistant director of the NEXT program.

Jackson Stroud is one of several students who are a part of this unique program. Stroud was born in Moscow, Russia and adopted when he was two years old. He was raised in Ponca, Nebraska before coming to NW in 2022.

Stroud continues to be a beacon of light here on campus. This year, he was hired as the first NEXT student to work for CMT. He gave the closing prayer at the Disability and the Gospel conference and was mentioned throughout the event as an example of how a community is enriched by the presence and contribution of individuals with disabilities.



NEXT Program students remind us each person belongs to Christ’s body. COURTESY OF NWCIOWA.EDU

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