**Spring break is on its way**

*Students prepare for service, singing, sports and more*

**BY LINDEN FIGGIE & CAMERON CARLOW**

**CONTRIBUTING WRITER & EDITOR**

As students anticipate family trips to sunny beaches, warm weather and relaxation, many Northwestern students are preparing for a different kind of getaway; one of cultural experience, spiritual service and further education.

But one fact holds true for both groups: they are excited for the upcoming week of life-changing opportunities and involvement in new realms of communities, lifestyles and perspectives. As the countdown continues for anxious travelers, excitement regarding Spring Service Projects (SSPs) and organized class trips permeates the atmosphere on campus.

Groups will focus on community involvement and interaction in projects such as hurricane relief and clean-up in New Orleans, Bible camps and after-school activities in Arkansas, Kentucky and Louisiana, and teaching in Minnesota and Mississippi. Many of these destinations have been on NW’s SSP itinerary for several years; however, students going to Cary, Miss., will be the first to tell of its experiences. The group will partner with Cary Christian Center in a number of fields, such as tutoring, health care and Bible studies.

Steph Wilcox, a junior going to Opelousas, La., is most excited for the night when “a bunch of high school students will sleep outside in boxes.”

“We will be helping with setting it up and passing out t-shirts and stuff,” Wilcox said. She is looking forward to the many potential projects the group will be involved in and also getting to see Louisiana, somewhere she has never been.

The U.S. is not the only country hosting NW students for the week, however. Two groups will be participating in international affairs in the Netherlands and Nicaragua, and the A Cappella choir will tour in the Czech Republic, Poland and Austria.

The Nicaragua group will participate in general community outreach through construction, and the group from the Netherlands will be helping with hurricane relief. All groups look forward to the many potential projects the group will be involved in and also getting to see Louisiana, somewhere she has never been.

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**Relating pop culture to Christianity**

**BY MEAGAN MCDougALL**

**STAFF WRITER**

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" in chapel. Professors replacing sweater vests and pleated pants with “Star Wars” costumes. These are just a few of the ways the campus has already gotten involved in the Day of Learning.

For the last two years, students and faculty have been given a day off from classes and activities to participate in the Day of Learning. This year, on March 24, the campus will learn about Christianity and Pop Culture through a variety of speakers and workshops. Every year, Day of Learning looks different due to the new theme.

“With the help of the Student Activities Council, students can participate in the "Sodexo World Series of Pop Culture," and the finals will be emceed by this year’s keynote speaker, Jeffrey Keuss, a professor of Christian Ministry at Seattle Pacific University.

Keuss’s colleagues have called him “an engaging interpreter of theology in pop culture.” According to Northwestern’s Web site, “Keuss’s work with youth and scholarly research on Christ and culture has led to books, articles and presentations on diverse subjects like the Columbine killings, Dr. Seuss, Stanley Kubrick, Cormac McCarthy, “Narnia,” Bruce Springsteen, “Star Wars,” Donald Trump and U2.”

Aside from Keuss’s discussions, students will also be leading workshops relating different aspects of pop culture to Christianity.

“Pop culture is something that students and faculty alike can relate to, and both students and staff have been working to make this year’s theme very relatable and exciting.”

“Then when you try and relate those things to Christianity, it can make for a very intriguing discussion.”

Students can get involved in discussion before the day comes by taking part in a faculty-led discussion of current pop culture trends on the Day of Learning’s Facebook fan page.

“I think the topic for this year will definitely get more people involved, both from the community and campus,” senior Brittany Moore, who will be hosting a session, said. “As college students, I think that this year’s topic will be something that in some way interests everyone.”

**Dance team finishes season with showcase**

**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

The Northwestern dance team is going to take advice from the musician Lady Gaga and “Just Dance.” Even though the iconic new pop artist’s music is not on the play list, the dancers will be dancing to the songs of Rihanna, David Guetta, Black Eyed Peas and others on Feb. 27 at noon as part of the annual dance showcase.

At the showcase, the dance team will be performing all five of the dances they learned this year. The Sioux Center and Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn high school dance teams will contribute to the showcase with their own performances.

The other co-captain, junior Hannah Reinders, said everyone should attend the showcase “to support the girls on the dance team. The majority of the girls on the team are freshmen, so it would be great for them to feel the support of this community. It’s also free entertainment on a Saturday!”

Freshman Morgan Stahl is also really looking forward to the showcase to show off the dances for the last time. Stahl said her first year on the dance team was unforgettable.

“I couldn’t have imagined a better year,” Stahl said. “The team was definitely formed by God, as each member brought to the team a needed strength and ability. It was challenging to learn how to balance different components of our routine.”
Band to take audience on musical journey

BY LEANN JOHNSON

The Beacon

From a song inspired by Columbus’ exploration of the New World to a song honoring Paris, the Symphonic Band’s repertoire will represent a variety of styles and composers at its concert on Friday, Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m. in Christ Chapel.

Director Timothy McGarvey, professor of music, said, “I am looking forward to this concert because it is a wonderful collection of pieces that showcases the band on a spectacular journey.”

The 57-member band will open its performance with “Variations on a Shaker Theme” from Aaron Copland’s “Appalachian Spring.” Next will be “Dance for Flute and Wind Ensemble” by Keith Gates, which features soloist Katie Hielkema, a junior music major, on the flute. Hielkema received the Retsima scholarship, an award open to any wind instrumentalist or percussionist. Winners of the scholarship are required to perform a solo through a competitive audition.

“I am really excited to be soloing with the band,” Hielkema said. “It comes with its own unique challenges, but it has been a great learning experience for both my fellow band members and me. At first it was a little nerve-wracking to play with the whole band accompanying me, but as the parts have been put together, it has become a very enjoyable experience.”

“It is a wonderful collection of pieces that takes the listener on a spectacular journey.” - Timothy McGarvey

The concert will continue with Dana Wilson’s “Dance of the New World,” which was written in celebration of the 500th anniversary of Columbus’ voyage and captures the spirit of the awakening of the New World. They will also perform Martin Eilert’s “Paris Sketches,” a four-movement piece that pays homage to different parts of the French capital. The band will close with “Wedding Dance” by Jacques Press, a high-energy piece that has a Jewish feel to it.

Biometric passports: convenience or danger?

BY SHELBY VANDER MOLEN

The Beacon

With a biometric passport in hand, a traveler was approved and slipped through a self-serve passport machine. A supposedly matched picture flitted across the screen showing none other than Elvis Presley. According to cnn.com, by using an altered biometric chip at Amsterdam’s Schiphol airport in September, 2008, Adam Laurie and Jeroen Van Beek were able to clear a passport through an automated scanning system under the name of rock-and-roll king of late, Elvis Presley.

Thankfully, however, Laurie and Van Beek call themselves “ethical hackers” and performed this procedure only to prove a point. But that is not to say that hackers of their same caliber are not at work. This “ethical hacking” research has been underway in various stages since 2008 with the goal of demonstrating just how easily a real hacker can slip by unnoticed.

Laurie and Van Beek experiment with the biometric passports standard throughout the U.S. and Europe along with many other countries. These passports contain data including fingerprint and eye scans and digital photos embedded on an attached chip. According to Laurie and Van Beek, the weakness of biometric passports lies mostly in the process of each country verifying security signatures. As long as the hacker produces fake biometrics signed off by a country besides the one they hope to enter, the process can be accomplished for a mere $100 off-the-shelf equipment investment.

In their Elvis Presley example, Laurie and Van Beek actually created fake security signatures for a non-existent country. They say the problem is that there is no international system that distributes and shares the various security signatures from other countries.

They also relate that borders may be weakening because of over-inflated trust in automated scanning. By corresponding fake photos and chips, a hacker can successfully rig the system.

While Northwestern students may not be looking to pass for Elvis Presley or become world-class hackers, many are hoping to travel overseas during spring break. Sophia Landis, a freshman member of the choir, had to obtain a passport recently in order to travel throughout Europe during the spring break tour. Landis recalled her January experience of filling out registration forms, taking headshots and going to the courthouse for more forms, fees and photos.

By the end of the process, Landis had provided her driver’s license and voter registration to verify her permanent address, her birth certificate and social security card to prove her citizenship, two identical photos and several signatures, including her own.

Despite the many steps in the verification process, however, fraud still occurs. Landis pointed out, “I thought the verification process was pretty average. I think there could have been more security, like if I had brought in all my sister’s information, no one probably would have known.”

On the other hand, freshman Erica Bauserman, another NW student traveling in Europe over spring break, felt the process was very “thorough.” Having received her passport in the summer of 2009, Bauserman remembered, “the paper asked me a lot of questions, yet she said she “felt the process was reasonable.” Having completed the verification process and feeling prepared for travel, Bauserman feels confident that “it was a process that prevented fraud.”

While students’ sentiments toward the reliability of the system may vary as they head into spring break, most anyone can relate with Landis’ statement: “As far as people using Elvis’s information, that’s really scary that it worked.”

Campus encouraged to ‘Spring clean’ early

BY SARAH LUPKES

The residents of Heemstra are turning students’ trash into treasure—and supporting a local ministry in the process. Fittingly the Heemstra Lounge Sale will inspire other sales like this, including the sale in the RSC after the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

This year, the Heemstra RAs talked about it and decided to do it again, this time focusing the RSC after the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

“We did a lounge sale six years ago after the Tsunami and raised around $1,500,” said Heemstra’s Resident Director, Brian Moriarty. “This lounge sale inspired others sales like this, including the sale in the RSC after the Hurricane Katrina disaster.”

Because of how much the lounge sale accomplished for a mere $100 off-the-shelf equipment investment, taking headshots and going to the courthouse for more forms, fees and photos.

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The residents of Heemstra are turning students’ trash into treasure—and supporting a local ministry in the process. Fittingly the Heemstra Lounge Sale will take place on Friday, Feb. 26, and Saturday, Feb. 27. Heemstra will be opening its lounge to the entire campus for a garage sale to benefit the Bridge, a local transitional ministry in the process. Fittingly the Heemstra RAs experiment with the biometric passports standard throughout the U.S. and Europe along with many other countries. These passports contain data including fingerprint and eye scans and digital photos embedded on an attached chip. According to Laurie and Van Beek, the weakness of biometric passports lies mostly in the process of each country verifying security signatures. As long as the hacker produces fake biometrics signed off by a country besides the one they hope to enter, the process can be accomplished for a mere $100 off-the-shelf equipment investment.

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For several months, Heemstra residents have gone door-to-door collecting items for the sale. The sale will be held on Friday from noon to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All proceeds from the sale will be donated to the Heemstra Bridge, and all leftover items will be given to Trinity Reformed Church for a clothing drive it is hosting in March.

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This year, the Heemstra RAs talked about it and decided to do it again, this time focusing the RSC after the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

The sale is a great way for people to downsize and simplify by donating items they don’t use or don’t need. It is also a great way to raise money by buying items you will use or do need,” Moriarty said.

Heemstra residents have already collected many items, including clothing, a few X-Boxes, TVs, some furniture, and games. If you still have items you would like to donate, you may bring your donations to the Heemstra lounge by 6:00 p.m. on Friday. After that, no more donations will be accepted, but everyone is encouraged to participate by buying items at the sale.

Senior Jacob Parsons, a Heemstra resident, said, “From our excess possessions, we can help our local community. So come support a good cause and maybe find a treasure.”
The Right to Reason: Getting Married Before Graduation

By Holly Lawrence

A bit different

Having never been to Iowa before I came to school here, I didn’t know what to expect. How was I going to be different, but I had no idea just how different.

I felt like I was on the set of A Simple Life, and I was Paris Hilton. Phrases like “home-cooked dinner,” “large family” and “strict household” were not in my vocabulary. I still don’t even know how to operate an oven, dishwasher, a lawnmower or even microwave presets. I get nervous when I know I have to add bleach to my laundry.

Some may call me privileged, but I just call myself stupid. Don’t be afraid to talk to me about farm equipment. Sometimes I feel like the most useless person on earth. Sometimes I wonder what it’s like to live in a married household, in the same house all my life, with the same friends, and graduating with the same thirty-or-so people I’ve known since childhood. I’m not going to mention how many house addresses I’ve had to memorize as my own throughout my life. I graduated with over 800 people, and my high school was split into two, with the ninth and tenth graders in one large school in the center neighborhood, and the eleventh and twelfth graders in an even bigger building on the south side. When I was a junior, I had no way of meeting the new freshmen because I didn’t go to school with them. It was your stereotypical high school that you see in the movies: the big stupid football players and the hot blonde miniskirt-wearing cheerleaders, the outcast band geek gamers, the artsy scene kids with fake hair and tight jeans, you name it. And if you didn’t fit in to any of those groups, then you had nowhere until high school.

Although I may not fit in with the lifestyle here in northwest Iowa, I feel more at home than I have in any neighborhood I lived in when I was growing up. I still love my big-city high school friends, but I know that the ones I make here are the ones that I will keep for the rest of my life.

“I felt like I was on the set of A Simple Life, and I was Paris Hilton.”

By Kevin Freebird Wallace

Last Friday, Jeff Beckhuizen, a member of the university board, spoke at chapel and mentioned the fact that he was still unmarried. He related his anecdote of asking for a refund since he didn’t leave NW married. My question: “Why did you want to be married?” He’s now a successful doctor working with a Native American tribe; why would he want someone tagging along naggling about taking out the trash?

Don’t get me wrong; I love marriage, I love the idea of one day finding that right girl or guy—thank Iowa for that option—who I will want to spend the rest of my life with. But I do not think that you should try to marry that person before you’re out of college. There are serious concerns with getting married before graduating from NW and they cover a wide range of disciplines.

Perhaps the most interesting (and unsubstantiated) fact is NW’s divorce rate. But I just can’t get it right. I suspect it’s simply not accurate, the national average of marriages that end in divorce is 50%. Now yes, I know the glass is still half full, but when the NW divorce rate is 55% the glass is more empty than full no matter how you look at it.

For all the biologists out there: at what age does the human brain, in effect, stop developing? The jury’s out on that; however, the generally accepted age is 25. The average age of a NW graduate is 22. That means that your brain chemistry hasn’t set on a final way of interpreting the things you come in contact with—like a spouse.

Then let’s talk stats. The US Census Bureau estimates the world population to be 6.8 billion people. Let’s assume that when it comes to gender, the world is split down the middle 50/50. That’s 3.4 billion people to choose from. Let’s assume only one half is age appropriate: 1.7 billion people. Then let’s look at the rounded-up number of eligible people at Northwestern: 1,700 people (for easy math). You’re looking at .0001% of the eligible population for that one right person. (Yes I understand that this is totally absurd statistical logic and I’m ignoring some huge variables. However, I’m trying to get a point across.) It’s ridiculous to think that you will find your intended spouse here at NW.

Because almost all of the opinion articles from this semester have included the religious argument, I should probably give in and take my own biblical passage out of context. So here it is: 1 Corinthians 7:1 says, “Now, to deal with the matters you wrote about. A man doesn’t need marriage.” (ERV). There you have it: biblical prohibitions against marriage.

But the heart of the matter is community. When you get married your ties to this community become so much more tenuous. I am not saying that you can’t remain an integral part of the community (there are a few couples who do it very well), but in general, instead of hanging out naked with your brothers/sisters, you’re going to be much more interested in hanging out naked with your spouse. Most people only get four short years here and they love every second of it; why would you truncate your time?

So this is my plea: wait until you’ve graduated and moved away—and preferably don’t even get engaged while at school. Because let’s be honest, when you’re watching the end of the second season of Supernatural you really don’t want to be interrupted just because someone got engaged. Just don’t do it: do not get married while at NW.

‘Plenty of time to hang out naked with your spouse later’

By Steven Deprivé

Getting married in college isn’t for everyone. In fact, marriage (even better, commitment) for those who must wed, as Paul said, getting married while still in college isn’t a terrible option. If you and your significant other are praying about when to take the plunge, I’d like to offer three points to consider:

Marriage does not mean the end of community, it is a temporary cash crunch but saves money long term, and it gives a healthy supportive environment in which to experience the first year of marriage.

Marriage, engagement, or even dating in college does not have to mean the death of community. This is one of the most frequent jokes among my friends since I got engaged. “Steven, why do you hate community?” They jest, of course, because they know I have not disappointed. Some couples do become mutually exclusive and shut out the world, but I don’t think that is healthy.

Since Katlyn and I have been dating, we have tried to have a “weekend-set-aside” day. Either Friday or Saturday night is not spent exclusively with each other, but with the people on our wings or other friends on campus. We have maintained this throughout our engagement thus far and seek to apply it next year. We want to become those “anti-communal” married students. Break a stereotype: have friends while in a relationship!

Another upside to tying the knot while in college is money. Yes, it’s true. Though it’s a temporary cash crunch, it does save money long term. Rent, utilities, groceries. There are lots of expenses that get strictly taken as a married couple’s favor. You need cash flow to pay for everything in the present, but you significantly decrease your future debt. I’m Dutch enough to see that as a great advantage in getting married in college.

When it comes down to it, though, the very community that Katlyn and I try to stay involved in is the reason we want to spend our first year of marriage here at Northwestern. The more life changes you make at one time, the greater the stress level. If we waited until next year to get married we would move to a new city in a different part of the country. I’d start a new school, Katlyn would start a new job, we’d be finding a new church, establishing new friendships and getting used to married life all at the same time. Short of having children or getting a puppy, how many more drastic life changes can you make?

Some people deal with the change just fine; more power to them! But we have a wonderful group of friends here in an environment that we know and love. We want to make all those first-year adjustments to getting married with the support of loved ones just a walk or bike ride away. One evening of the weekend being spent with close friends is part of healthy social support as we build our marriage, and this is where we want to spend that first year.

Before I came to school here, I was going to be different, but I was still unmarried. He related his anecdote of asking for a refund since he didn’t leave NW married. My question: “Why did you want to be married?” He’s now a successful doctor working with a Native American tribe; why would he want someone tagging along naggling about taking out the trash?

Don’t get me wrong; I love marriage, I love the idea of one day finding that right girl or guy—thank Iowa for that option—who I will want to spend the rest of my life with. But I do not think that you should try to marry that person before you’re out of college. There are serious concerns with getting married before graduating from NW and they cover a wide range of disciplines.

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Talking Around Campus

With Northwestern’s Classic printing an article about Red Raider Romance, one would think Northwestern is in favor of the love that seems to consume this campus. Students and professors take up different sides of the story. Freshman Hannah Biernacki makes a valid point when she says, “We can’t overgeneralize and say the same thing is going to be right for everyone. Getting married young works for some people while waiting is best for others. It’s up to you and up to God.”

Want to write for the Beacon?

The Northwestern College Beacon is proud to be Student run newspaper. Anyone interested in writing an article for the Beacon is encouraged to attend the staff meetings and contribute their writing. To contribute please contact the editor at beacon@nwc.iowa.edu. All students are welcome to become a part of the long standing tradition.
In the "Terminator" movie series, machines take over the world and nearly exterminate humanity. They are led by Skynet, a computer program that was once used to coordinate the American military's nuclear weapons.

During its development, Skynet became self-aware. It realized the complete control it had over the military, and it took action, sending the planet into a nuclear war. In the movie, Skynet is a near-omniscient system—it has eyes and ears everywhere. With this near-unlimited supply of resources, it is able to learn at an incredible rate.

As farfetched as this sounds, it isn't that different from today's technology. Google, one of the most-used search engines in the world, is able to do almost everything that the imaginary Skynet could (apart from the whole being self-aware thing, of course).

The Google network uses a program called GoogleBot, which tracks a person's searches and compiles them in order to determine who that person is, what they are involved with, and what they like.

Google's privacy policy states that their network reads its clients' e-mails on a regular basis. It also stores all sent and received messages into a large archive. It does this for various reasons, ranging from virus scanning to collecting information for advertisements. Google makes it clear in the privacy statement, however, that the system is the only thing to ever read through the e-mails, and human employees are never allowed to see them.

But it doesn't just stop there. If you use a Gmail address to log into Facebook, or another similar social networking site, then Google is also allowed to search through your profile and use that information as well. It also keeps track of anything you do on any site owned by Google, including YouTube.

Normally, most of this wouldn't be legal. However, all this changes when a person clicks the little "I accept" button at the bottom of the screen, indicating that they have read the terms of service (which, usually, they haven't). And Google doesn't just spy on those with Gmail. They also keep records of the searches done by every computer, based on the IP addresses that are being used.

Kevin Bankston of the Electronic Frontier Foundation was quoted as saying, "Google knows more about you than your mother." The network's databases are extensive enough that they are able to form a relatively accurate depiction of a person's personality.

Of course, it's highly unlikely that Google is going to use all of this information to conquer the world and kill everyone, as in "Terminator." In reality, the most they use the information is for to put up those advertisements that seem tailored to where you are and what you're doing.

Google isn't the only site that tracks your activity in this manner. Nearly every other major networking site on the Internet follows a similar policy. In fact, you'd be hard-pressed to find an e-mail service that didn't check through your e-mail. Perhaps we don't need to be worrying about Google becoming Skynet, but there's still all those other sites to worry about...

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**Dorm Beat: Competition Hospers-style**

**BY SARA CURRY**

Besides victimizing people who are currently without significant others by accentuating the wonderful world of love and romance they aren't a part of, Valentine's Day is also criticized for being a holiday obsessed with exertion—some say it shouldn't be a holiday at all because love should be celebrated every day instead of once a year.

By hosting an all-ball V-Day dinner on Tuesday, Feb. 23, Hospers Hall made a statement saying the season of love did not die with the passing of February 14.

Hospers RD Annabell DuMez first introduced the V-Day dinner six years ago when she first set up shop in Hospers Hall.

"I wanted to do something special for the girls around Valentine's Day together as hall," she said.

What makes this event so special is the surprise that every freshman receives each year. DuMez contacts the parents of every resident of Hospers several weeks prior to the event and asks them to send a gift and keep it secret from their daughters. The freshmen are then completely surprised as they receive a belated Valentine's Day treat from their families.

"One of my favorite parts of the event is seeing the faces of the girls who don't know the gifts are coming," she said.

Each year the event also has a different theme that encourages the girls to get dressed up in creative costumes. Last year's theme was "Best Couples" and included the traditional pairs of salt and pepper, Bert and Ernie, rock, paper and scissors, wind, fire and water, cut and paste and Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

For this year's theme of "Obsession," Hospers girls sported costumes representing kittens, Dr. Pepper, Lady Gaga, Sound of Music, Star Wars, sleep, sports, magazines, princesses and all kinds of random intimations.

Now the Hospers V-Day dinner isn't just about frilly love, gifts, chocolate and confetti hearts; there's also a hardcore competition.

Each girl who dressed up participated in a walk-off as they competed to gain the favor of the audience. After the magnitude of applause selected the finalists from each floor, this year's clear winner was freshman Amber Amundson modeling her obsession with the Joker's crazy jester girlfriend Harley Quinn.

After dominating the runway, Amundson was excited but mostly shocked by her success.

"I figured that people would be super creeped out," she said. "Sadistic clowns have that effect on people, I guess."

The competitive side of Hospers residents isn't confined to the fashion runway.

At 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26 (tonight), Hospers will be hosting the first all-campus, open four-square tournament in the lounge. All students are invited to come and relieve the joys of elementary school while competing for a cake as the grand prize. There is a $1 entrance fee and all proceeds will be going to support The Bridge.

If you're wondering what you'll be up against, Hospers has some pretty legit four-square competitors.

"I might be the queen of four-square," DuMez said. "They can try to dethrone me, but they can just go home cause it's not gonna happen."

Fighting words anyone?
Dirty jobs: The sweet smell of bringing home the bacon

BY JORDAN VERMEER
STAFF-WRITER

Imagine this: you wake up at 4 a.m. Slipping on your boots and overalls, you head out the door to the pig farm. Upon arriving, a scruffy truck driver is waiting impatiently for your arrival. But it isn’t all bad, you get to unload pigs this morning, and it is your favorite job, not to mention the easiest.

The trucker leaves, but your job isn’t done. It is time to vaccinate the piglets. This job is the worst part of pig farming. The 15-pound piglets struggle as you pick them up to give them their shots. Every piglet is its own challenge, its own footrace. There are about seven thousand piglets to vaccinate. This will take a few hours.

After skipping lunch to finish vaccinating, you begin sorting pigs that are ready for market into a separate bin. All the ready pigs have been marked with spray paint earlier that day, so it isn’t hard picking out the pigs. The challenge lies in getting the three-hundred-pound pigs to move. But you have your ways, and eventually they are in their pin.

The day ends with another truck coming to take away those pigs you just sorted. At about five, a scruffy truck driver is waiting to the pig farm. Upon arriving, you head home, famished and smelly.

NW springs into spring break

Cont. from pg. 1

work, Bible teachings and health clinics. Two Christian youth hostels will experience spiritual formation as the Netherlands group evangelizes and shares its faith with the students and guests. The A Cappella choir will perform and minister to youth and adults alike as they reach out with their musical abilities.

“I am hoping to be in Branson, Mo., for the National basketball tournament,” said senior Jerome Hoegh.

If the team wins the GPAC tournament, they will be playing in the National tournament on March 10.

The wrestling team will be starting their National tournament on March 4.

“We will be in Oklahoma City wrestling for the first weekend of break,” said freshmen Angelo Quintana.

Other students are spending break by relaxing and taking a vacation.

“I am heading to Arizona to play golf with my dad and brother-in-law,” said sophomore Spencer Cott.

Tearing up the greens can be relaxing, but vocating piglets with runny poo down their legs. After handling seven thousand piglets, gloves are your only protection against the slimy mess.

Finally, keep your mouth shut. This is especially true while in buildings with a trough for the manure run-off, buildings that let the sludge run down and build up. As you sort the market-ready pigs, that same sludge will get airborne in all the kucks. Just close your mouth.

All this being said, it’s a necessary job that allows Meran to bring home the bacon.
Yeasayer bleeds unoriginal sound

BY JORDAN LANGER

First, let's look at the album's cover art. Yes, you'll have to rectify that initial impression: our character appears to have emerged from a rectum. Give it time. Second interpretation: a clay-like shell appears to be decaying, revealing the flesh and blood underneath. Unfortunately, this is the exact opposite of what happens on this record.

After a sort-of good debut—gendered somewhere near “world folk”—Yeasayer's sophomore record is a placeless shell over their organic past. The title, “Odd Blood,” tries to deceive us into trusting these musical shifts as something compellingly internal, personal. Another false shift as something compellingly internal, personal. Another false shift as something compellingly internal, personal. Another false shift as something compellingly internal, personal. Another false shift as something compellingly internal, personal. Another false shift as something compellingly internal, personal. Another false shift as something compellingly internal, personal. Another false shift as something compellingly internal, personal. Another false shift as something compellingly internal, personal.

It supposes that its audio portrait is an intolerable crime within the worlds of weird music.

Yeasayer’s Odd Blood has an astonishingly disturbingly unveiled cover.

Take a step into the Mud

BY LISA WALTERS

When I was approached by my editor to write a book review, I was a bit hesitant. Did I really have time to read a book and write a review in a week? Was this book even going to be interesting? No, I doubt I was a bit ignorant, and somewhat unwilling. However, I trusted his judgment and decided to take on this task.

When I was handed the book, my first impression, besides my relief of the small size of the book, was the engrossing cover. If people really do judge books by their covers, which of course they always do, this book would be appealing to many.

On the front cover there is an image of two feet standing in the mud. I know, what doesn’t sound appealing about that! The image is placed behind the title that reads, “Into the Mud.” The alluring cover only draws in the prospective reader. However the content of this book is what truly keeps their attention.

This book is a compilation of several stories written by former microfinance development worker, Christine Jeske, on behalf of several Africans she has come to know. Jeske and her husband originally moved to South Africa to direct microfinance projects, however she is now a lecturer at Evangelical Seminary of Southern Africa.

Jeske summarizes the purpose of her book by saying, “In real life we do not come to understand a culture by seeing only its best and worst—its superstars and slums. We come to know a culture or an issue one person at a time, one interaction at a time. Each time I tell a story of another African person, my intention is to reveal another piece of the real Africa today.”

Jeske does a fascinating job of truly delivering the stories that have affected her through the Africans she has come in contact with. She opens the eyes of the ignorant and unwilling reader to a world that is more truth than we tend to believe. It opens the heart to see God’s purpose for all people.

I agree with Shane Claiborne as he describes “Into the Mud,” by saying that, “Jeske has felt the mud between her toes and has seen God at work in the dirt. This is a book of dirty theology. It is about a God who is not scared of getting dirty, and invites us to join him in the mud. May we have the courage to roll up our pant-legs and follow.”

Fiction: Northwestern mystery continues

BY KEVIN WALLACE & JOSH DOORENBOOS

Staff Writers

“How did you know?” James was getting sick of that question. It was the first thing they asked him when the screaming and crying died down, the first question asked when Jon Jorgon and Rick Pummmell met with him about the possibility of his receiving a contract.

“I don’t know,” James rubbed his weary eyes. He hadn’t slept well in three days between that Friday and the meeting on Monday morning. “I just did…”

James struggled with every word. He wasn’t just accidentally in the dorm past open hours, he ran in at full speed. At a.m., James hadn’t thought about what would happen if he was wrong. He didn’t even think about what would happen if he was right.

In Audra’s room he didn’t even react when he saw her hanging there. When her RA started screaming in horror James immediately began searching the room. He saw her Bible laying out on her bed, open to the book of Joshua with a large portion highlighted. He saw a glass of water broken against the wall right of the window. He saw that the screen had been taken out. No, shoved out violently, the screen ripped toward the inside. Glass shards were embedded in the wall and water was dripping onto the floor. The RA was yelling to call 911, while other girls tagged at the cover art and you’re reminded and disorganized. emotional and “happy,” even if it era too early—it sounds mutated, perhaps the strangest thing you’ll ever hear. Rolling Stone has called their organic past. The title, “Odd Blood,” tries to deceive their organic past.

“Odd Blood” appears to be decaying, revealing the flesh and blood underneath. The character appears to have emerged from a rectum. Give it time. Second interpretation: a clay-like shell appears to be decaying, revealing the flesh and blood underneath. Unfortunately, this is the exact opposite of what happens on this record.

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Yeasayer’s Odd Blood has an astonishingly disturbingly unveiled cover.
Over the river and into the woods

Into the Woods stems from lack of commitment to character. Many actors were emotionally engaged, but few in each scene who weren't distracted me. I needed everyone fully engaged in order to trust the magical world before me. Believing the fantastical aspects (the witch's magic, the off-stage giant and the personified animals) required work, and having honest, consistent narrators would have helped me trust that strange world. Please don't misunderstand me, though; I don't mean that the acting was bad. But because Into the Woods takes place in a world so different than mine, I needed the actors to believe in it so that I could too. Instead, some acted like people from our world talking about a fairy tale: distant and unfamiliar. I could too. Instead, some acted like people from our world talking about a fairy tale: distant and unfamiliar. I

Branches. Stark white trees painted on the black floor mirror those painted on the backdrop, and the floor branches seem to crawl across the stage toward the audience. Deep reds, yellows and greens in the lighting design contrast the black and white tonality. These bold colors silhouette the trees on the backdrop and complement the stage lighting, adding greater depth to the more realistic light on the actors.

Costuming also attracts the eye. In many ways similar to our classic views of princes, witches and peasants, these characters wear earth tones along with metallic colors, and these contribute to the play's mechanical tone.

Though the set, costumes, and lighting designs are wonderful, I don't think I need to further detail their beauty. Seeing the show -- which you should certainly do -- celebrates these attributes more fully than I can.

My only major problem with

A & E

OC Arts Council is slamin'

BY SARAH KUGLER

Aggressive, impassioned tear-jerking, heart-wrenching, gut-busting, awe-inspiring words. Slam Poetry. It's simple:

(1) Write three poems. They must be original but do not need to be "new". (2) Attend a poetry slam. (3) Read your poems aloud to fellow poetry lovers.

Well, admittedly, it's slightly more complex than that. There are scores and rounds as well as points involved, but those are not the important parts of slam poetry. What matters in slam are the words and the people.

Slam poems grow from passion. Often expressing the author's intense emotions about a subject, slams lend themselves to direct language, complex metaphor and personal experience. Many poets write about injustice, love and pain -- topics that catch audience interest and make bold statements. Slam may not be the venue for your sweet, end-rhymed couplets (not to discourage fans of form or structure): not because they're bad, but because slam, as a preformative art form constrained by time, generally works best when it immediately grabs the audience. Whether spouting furious spondees on worker's rights or threading tight quatrains both light and tender, a poetry slam really lends itself to any form of poetry. As long as the words are coupled with an energetic, impassioned reading, that is. Slam is (arguably) just as much about the person saying the words as it is about the stanzas themselves; a poor poem paired with a charismatic reader can still shine. So if you doubt those quickly scribbled, brush words braggling about your mathematical prowess, never fear! Stand up and read with confidence; it's about you as much as the words.

On March 20 at 8 p.m., there will be a poetry slam at De Koffee Boon in Orange City. It's co-sponsored by the Orange City Arts Council and the Northwestern College English Department, and Professor Bob Hubbard of the NW Theatre Department will emcee. Following the slam (around 10 p.m.), indie folk band Bella Ruse of Minneapolis will perform. All are welcome to attend and to slam. Slammers, a few notices:

- Poems must be rated PG.
- Poems must not exceed three minutes in length.

“I expect these books to shank me.”
- Junior Anne Philo, on reading literature with an agenda.

“Not all college students drink coffee, but they all eat Ramen.”
- Professor of Art Phil Scorzia contemplating a gigantic mug.

Send your Campus Quotes, with context, to beacon@nwciowa.edu.

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“America’s Favorite Pizza”
Red Raider Sports Shorts: by Heidi Hildebrandt

Men's basketball begins playoff run with a win

The Northwestern men's basketball team lost by one point to USF on Saturday, Feb. 20, dropping to an even 14-14 record. The 73-74 loss also brought them to an even 9-9 in the GPAC.

The Red Raiders shot 45 percent from the field and 55 percent from behind the arc. Freshman Ben Miller scored 19 points and pulled down ten rebounds for his second double-double. Sophomore Walker Seim added 18 points, while senior Ryan Hoogveen and freshman Daniel Van Kalsbeek each scored 12. Freshman Mike Vorwald added four assists.

NW opened the playoffs with a 67-64 win over Mount Marty on Tuesday night. Miller netted 15 points to lead the offense while Van Kalsbeek added 14 points and eight rebounds. Hoogveen and sophomore Ryan Stock each scored eight points as well. The Raiders shot 46 percent in the game.

NW was scheduled for a rematch with USF Thursday night. Results were not available at press time.

Women’s basketball moves up to third in NAIA rankings

The Red Raider women’s basketball team moved up to third place in the final NAIA poll this week after a 68-47 win over USF to finish the regular season. Their record improved to 24-4, 15-3 in the GPAC.

Sophomore Kami Kuhlman scored 18 points, closely followed by junior Becca Hurley, who netted 16. Junior Allison Hulst scored eight points and pulled down eight rebounds off the bench. Senior Randa Hulstein also added eight rebounds.

Northwestern shot 45 percent from the field (39 percent from behind the arc) and held USF to 28 percent.

The Raiders were scheduled to open the GPAC Tournament on Thursday night against Mount Marty. Results were not available at press time.

The Northwestern wrestling team competed in the North Central Qualifier on Saturday, Feb. 20. The Red Raiders earned fourth place, scoring 92.5 points. Sophomore Nic Leifer led the Raiders with a second place in the 197-pound weight class.

Senior Andrea Wedel plans her move in the USF game last Saturday.

Seven individual Red Raider track and field athletes and three relays earned All-GPAC honors at the conference championship meet in Lincoln, Neb., on Saturday, Feb. 20. The top eight individuals and relay teams were named all-conference.

Junior Corrie Fautsch turned in the top finish for Northwestern, capturing second place in the 600-meter run with a 1:40.18. Fellow sophomore Charity Miles placed fifth in the 3000-meter run with a time of 10:30.37.

Sophomore Shannon Bowar earned sixth place in the pentathlon, which took place the night before.

Junior Stacey Dietrich finished seventh in the 60-meter hurdles with 9.66, while senior Ingrid Carlson placed eighth in the 5000-meter run with 18:59.7. The 4x800 relay team of sophomore Teresa Schulten, freshman Leslie Stover, senior Mary Massem and junior Krystina Smith earned fifth place with a time of 9:54.67. The 4x400 relay team ended in seventh place with 4:06.63. Team members included Fautsch, Dietrich, freshman Ana Morgan, and Smith.

Senior Kyle Sauter led the men with sixth place in the 60-meter hurdles (8.37). Freshman Brandon Hammack ran 7.12 in the 60-meter dash to add a seventh-place finish. Sauter and Hammack joined freshmen Rick Te Grotenhuis and Taylor Hoekstra to run the 4x400 in 3:25.3 and place seventh.

Next up is the national meet in Johnson City, Tenn, next Thursday, March 4. National qualifiers are Miles in the 3000- and 5000-meter runs, Fautsch in the 600-meters, junior Kara Den Herder in the weight throw, Dietrich in the 60-meter huddles and Sauter in the 60-meter hurdles.

I think that your faith can be seen through how you handle yourself and through following the rules on the course.”

By Kristin Kooima

Luke Vermeer

From the moment Luke Vermeer could walk, he was also holding a golf club. A club made of plastic and shorter than an actual golf club, but a golf club nonetheless. Golf is, and always has been, a large part of the Vermeer family.

Golf has taught Vermeer that although you may want to play your best every time you go out there on the course, you aren’t going to play at your peak performance every time. This is something that made him more able to keep his emotions in check. Also, golf is very much a game of etiquette, and penalties have to be called on yourself instead of a referee calling them on you, which Vermeer said helped him grow as a person. He also says that how he handles himself on the course can be attributed to his faith. “I lose my temper sometimes but who doesn’t? I think that your faith can be seen through how you handle yourself and through following the rules on the course.”

Vermeer loves the competitive nature of golf. No matter if you play in a team or as an individual you can always be competitive. “You can always get better at your game.” His favorite golf memory would be his team qualifying for the state tournament his senior year of high school. He knew they would be good, but wasn’t expecting qualifying for state. It was a goal his team got to accomplish together and “it was a lot of fun.”

There are pros and cons to being an athlete. One pro, for Vermeer, would be just the opportunity to compete in a team sport. “I’ve played as an individual before and it is much more fun playing for the other guys on your team.” He says the worst part would be working through your struggles and slumps. Vermeer has advice for those athletes coming behind him. “Enjoy it while you still can. Before we know it, we’ll all be old and not be able to do the things we can do now. Just enjoy it all!”

Vermeer is a business administration major with a finance option. As for future plans, he isn’t sure yet. “I take things as they come and am not too worried about it. I will just say I’ll be playing a lot of golf in the future.”