Making cents of new campus fees

BY KARA NONNEMACHER

On Feb. 11, President Greg Christy sent an email to Northwestern staff, faculty and students announcing additional student fees to be implemented in the 2015-16 school year.

Christy said in the email, “In keeping with many of our peer institutions, we determined to implement select fees for courses that use laboratory and studio equipment and materials as well as a graduation fee to cover expenses associated with degree audit reviews and diploma.”

Christy included links to NW’s website where students could see a list of all the proposed fees but included no additional explanation for the fees.

New fees for next year include graduation, new student orientation, art studio and science lab fees, ranging $50-$100.

Laura Hurley is a junior biology health professions major, and in six semesters at NW, she’s taken more than 10 science labs.

“The fees are a bummer for science majors taking multiple labs,” Hurley said. “It can add up pretty quick, in addition to other fees we pay.”

If lab fees were in effect from the beginning of Hurley’s NW education, she would have paid approximately $1,000 in lab fees by this semester. Add this to the technology, graduation, orientation and other general fees, and Hurley pays well over $2,000 in fees by the time she receives her diploma.

Biology professor Sara Tolsma teaches many of the students who will pay lab fees.

“I worry that [the fees] may have a negative impact on retention within the biology department,” Tolsma said. “It may give students the motivation to take their science general education elsewhere.”

Professor remembered 30 years after murder

BY KAITLIN FLOERCHINGER

Legacy lives beyond life.

There’s a flat headstone tucked near a line of trees, hidden in a row of grave markers that aren’t visible above the grass. There’s a parking lot at an intersection in Chicago where people park every day and twice as much on Sundays. There’s a line of text printed on the bottom of a schedule that most people notice but never read. There’s a 30-year legacy that connects it all, and a bullet brought it together.

The Professor

In 1974, Ron Nelson left a tenured teaching position at Michigan State University, took a 50-percent pay-cut and moved his family to Orange City.

“He wanted to teach at a liberal arts college,” said Ron’s son, Roger Nelson. “He loved to explore the intersection of faith and learning with college students.”

An article published in 1985 in the Des Moines Register said, “Friends and faculty members at Northwestern College say everything Nelson did stemmed from his desire to blend his faith and his knowledge with the way he conducted his life.”

According to his son, Ron approached life with a relentless curiosity and was always seeking more information, whether that was in conversations or in books.

“He was never without a book,” Roger said.

Roger used play basketball in Orange City in high school.

“Roger would talk about Ron coming to watch him play and just bringing a book and he would just read the book and look up every once in a while,” said NW Chaplain Harlan Van Oort.

This never-ending desire for information led Ron to explore intellectual and historical topics that were ahead of his time. He taught Western Civilization class as one of three instructors who integrated history, literature and philosophy. Rather than a single professor teaching a course, three instructors introduced their respective topics and created a conversational classroom setting.

According to Ron Juffer, a current professor who used to share an office wall with Ron, the class overwhelmed students due to the high amount of dialogue between the three professors. Ron acted as the primary coordinator for the class.

Outside the classroom, Ron was esteemed by his colleagues. Weekly faculty meetings highlighted the respectful relationship between Ron and his peers.

“When we needed some input, we called on Ron Nelson,” Juffer said. “And he would share his views in a very non-dogmatic way.”

According to Rev. Jerry Sitser, the former NW chaplain, in an article published in the Des Moines Register in 1985, “(Nelson) was a seeker for truth. He would accumulate and accumulate and think and think and then come up with one or two things that were utterly brilliant.”

Despite his academic proficiency, Ron was reserved.

“He was real humble and quiet and oftentimes perceived as distant,” Roger said. “He wasn’t very popular; students didn’t get him. Nothing about him was charismatic or leading.”

“He was so cerebral that he wasn’t this outgoing kind of guy,” said Van Oort, who got to know Ron by roommate with Roger at NW in the 1980s. “He was pretty introverted, not an in-your-face with all kinds of loves and kudos. That wasn’t his style.”

His relationships with fellow professors, however, were caring and optimistic.

“He had a lot of colleagues he loved and respected and a bunch of younger colleagues that he was really excited about,” Roger said. “He had great hope for the younger and newer professors.”

Ron also had great hope in social justice and war and peace issues in the last five to 10 years of his life, according to Roger.

“He became very involved, beyond the books, into mercy and justice initiatives,” Roger said. “He understood the gospels to be about that.”

A Korean War veteran, Ron did not tolerate violence in any form. Some called him a pacifist, while others weren’t so keen on the word. But no one could understand the shallowing of peaceful and intellectual Ron, especially Van Oort. “I would say the most amazing thing in my mind is the irony that a guy who was a pacifist was murdered.”

The Parking Lot

Roger, following graduation from NW in 1983, attended seminary became involved in an African-American church ministry on the south side of Chicago. The 1980 Roseland Christian Ministries was located on the corner of 108th and Michigan Avenue in an area being ravaged by a cocaine epidemic. According to Roger, “900 people (were) murdered a year, and it was all related to cocaine.”

In March of 1985, Ron and his wife Marian had travelled to Chicago during spring break to visit Roger and the ministry he was supporting. The trio, along with Roger’s fiancé, attended the Roseland Church service on St. Patrick’s Day morning.

According to the Des Moines Register article published a week later, everyone in the church was excited to see the older Nelsons again. Roger was well-loved in the area ministry, and his family’s support of his work endeared Ron and Marian to the congregation as well.

Following the service, the Nelsons walked out into the parking lot at the same time as 34-year-old Clarence Hayes, a cocaine addict. According to Roger, he had just attempted to hold up a liquor store. He was headed home when he cut through the lot. He needed cash. He had a gun.

After forcing the family into their vehicle, Hayes demanded money and alternated between sticking his gun into Roger’s neck and Ron’s side. Even after getting all of the Nelson’s money, it wasn’t enough.

	

See “Professor” on Page 5

See “Rising” on Page 5
Tomorrow, Lyric Morris and Emilee Berry will have a public reception for their senior art show, “Redirection.” The duo has come together to present a show using everyday items in hopes of stimulating a discussion.

Back in December of 2014, seniors Berry and Morris submitted a proposal for their senior art show. Little did they know they would be paired together to present their artwork.

“We were actually freshman year roommates,” Morris said. “It’s just ironic because we thought we were total opposites in everything, including our artwork, then we got paired to work together for this art show.”

Berry chose to create her art from nontraditional materials. The show features several sculptures, floor-to-ceiling height, constructed entirely out of paperclips. She was inspired by a trip to Greece last summer.

“I was really inspired by how architecture and nature worked together in Greece, ” Berry said. “There was a balance between structure and chaos.”

“My pieces, on the other hand, are various textiles. Morris took every day household items — such as pantyhose and pillowcases — and created numerous weavings and embroidery pieces. Morris then intentionally made “mistakes” in her weaving and embroidery to break out of the norm of art. Her hope is to shed light on the ideas of femininity and gender roles through using these household items.”

“I grew up with a lot of women who made me who I am today,” Lyric said. “I wanted to explore the ideas of femininity and gender roles through using these household items.”

Both artists have now come together to be presented as one unit. Although each artist brings her own flare to the show, the underlying ideas remain the same.

“The goal of this show is to demonstrate how a manufactured product not considered art can be shifted into a piece of art.”

“I took something industrial and made it organic,” Berry said. “I wanted to bring creativity and life into something so simple that’s used every day.”

Both our shows really do connect,” Morris said. “They take everyday things and use it as a tool to create art.”

Both artists also chose to create pieces in which repetition was a crucial element in constructing the final product.

“Both of us use repetition as a tool for us to reflect on things as we are making them. It allows us to explore what our art means,” Berry said.

Berry and Morris will present “Redirection” in Te Paske Gallery on Friday, March 27 at 7 p.m.

PHOTO BY CLARISSA DEHLER

Morris explores femininity in her show by creating pieces out of traditionally feminine textiles like weaving and embroidery.

PHOTO BY CLARISSA DEHLER

Berry’s art is inspired by Greek architecture. She uses paperclips as a medium to create intricate sculptures.

PHOTO BY CLARISSA DEHLER

Lyric Morris and Emilee Berry will have a public reception for their senior art show “Redirection” at 7 p.m. on Friday March 27 in Te Paske Gallery.

PHOTO BY CLARISSA DEHLER

Sarah: “Lay Me Down” - Sam Smith

This songs soulful chorus is absolutely perfect for those moments when you just want to sing at the top of your lungs.

Will: “Death with Dignity” - Sufjan Stevens

Sufjan’s new record, which drops next Tuesday, is a gut-wrenching acoustic record about the loss of Steven’s mother. The intimate melody of this track allows listeners get inside

PHOTO BY CLARISSA DEHLER

Tweet quotes @NWC_Beacon
NW a cappella choir goes on tour

BY LEIGH CARSON

Each spring, Northwestern College’s A cappella Choir embarks on a tour that takes the group across the country.

This year they will be heading to South Dakota, stopping in Sioux Falls, Platte and Dell Rapids then taking a turn south towards Omaha and Sioux City. The choir will give performances for communities as well as several in local high schools working with

Under the direction of Dr. Thomas Holm, they will be sharing the message of God’s grace and the work of Christ in our lives.

The choir's concert consists of three sets. The first is compiled of sacred texts, beginning with two praise songs that are a call to worship and to bow down before the Lord. The ensemble sings both of these pieces in a round, circulating the audience to demonstrate the full effect of the style of the pieces when they were originally written.

Then the concert begins with a Charles Wesley hymn called “Idumea” that explores the fear believers have about facing death. A small reader’s theater group then presents a small chorus about who Jesus really is, what his life means and how he fulfills the Old Testament through the prominent characters. The choir then sings “Amazing Grace” composed into a beautiful and flowing eight part harmony and the set closes with Mother Theresa’s prayer about living a life bigger than self and how to serve others.

Their second set is a virtuosity of pieces staying more towards a showy pop style without any specific language or theme. It opens with the women of the choir singing a piece that was recently used in the opening number of Disney’s ‘Frozen’ and then the men following up with an adaptation of the familiar tune “Jimmy Crack Corn.” There’s a challenging but entertaining piece for a tenor yodeler that explores the concepts of overtone singing and rhythmic irregularity. The set closes with a few other pieces of slower, richer text like the African anthem “Noel.”

The choir's third and final set consists of familiar black gospel numbers and spiritual hits as well as the ensemble’s traditional closing of “Beautiful Savior.” There are many solos that are fun for the singers as well as the audience.

Several years ago, Holm asked his ensemble if tour was worth the effort, money and stress it took to prepare. The responses from students were overwhelming: touring is incredibly important.

“They are building community and getting to know one another,” said Holm. “They are serving, traveling, and praying side by side.”

But no one in the ensemble can go on tour without forgetting the effort it took to become performance ready. When students are off book they are able to know the music well enough with heart and soul to express it in the way that it was written.

“It’s important that tour becomes important for people to be in choir,” said Holm. “If we didn’t have tour then the enjoyment of being in either band or choir would be less.”

There are many different styles of music displayed in the A cappella Choir’s program. They are surely going to be a blessing to any who come to experience the beauty of God’s gift of music.

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Springtime is nice for fashion advice

BY ELLIOTT JOHNSON

With winter taking its long-awaited hibernation, knock on wood, and spring beginning to show its devilishly handsome face, individuals are packing away their oversized coats and sweaty wool mittens. It is finally time to start thinking about looking hip and fashionable.

Ring by spring is real, and if you don’t want to be left out this year, or just want to stop wearing 400 different layers, your voyage for guidance ends here.

The number one rule of style is that being unique is important. Do not feel the need to settle for a certain look or a trend because everyone else is doing it. Be an individual and don’t be afraid to make a statement with your clothing. However, that doesn’t necessarily mean strutting down the middle of the campus green decked out in neon yellow. Another important rule is to be confident. Some people find a little confidence to be attractive.

Some of the best, most accessible and hopefully free style guides are friends. If an outfit isn’t looking so hot or there is some doubt swirling about color choices, just ask. If the outfit is outlandish, friends won’t hesitate to chime in. Friends should also be able to give advice and some different suggestions for a better outfit, especially if they have the nerve to speak their mind.

When deciding what to wear and what not to wear, think about what the change in season brings every year. Flowers, blue skies, pretty butterflies, popsicles and super green grass. Don't be afraid to mix it up and wear some bright pink.

Orange City fashion icon, Jeff Jeltema, has been excited for spring to come this year. He had some advice of his own.

“Lighter colors are more important,” Jeltema said. “Winter is a time for earth tones. Brighter colors, or pastels, are very essential in the spring time. You can branch out (no pun intended) a bit more during the spring.

Colors bring life to any outfit.” Style and fashion are completely subjective. An individual’s style can be a direct correlation to the individual’s feelings on a certain day, or simply how often they do their laundry.

Spring time usually brings warmth and sunshine, so don’t wear dull and boring colors. Don’t be that individual who clearly looks as if they should be inside sleeping. Set an alarm for a little earlier in the day and give some color a try.
Anderson starts Old Factory running club

BY KARYN VANDER WAL

When most people think of running a 5- to 10-kilometer race, they rarely associate that with drinking coffee. But for about 40 members of the Orange City community, the Old Factory Coffee House and running go hand in hand.

Ryan Anderson, husband to Fern Smith resident director Alyssum Anderson, recently started the Old Factory Running Club and invited members of Orange City and Northwestern College to join. The club's main focus for attraction was training for Orange City's Kiwanis Tulip Festival Road Race.

Anderson had wanted to start a running club for a while, and saw the Road Race as a great excuse to use his gifts in health and wellness to better the community. “I just got the idea while running,” Anderson said. “Lots of cool events happen at the Old Factory, and it’s a great place for kids to gather and meet.”

Although the coffee shop and the running club are not directly related, the Old Factory has shown their support to the running club by offering members 50 cents off purchases on “running days.”

Old Factory was excited when Anderson brought the idea to them as they are always looking for ways to “develop relationships with our neighbors, creating a community of people that live alongside one another, growing together.”

The Old Factory staff encourages a healthy community, and they were excited for someone to take on the challenge of bringing good coffee and physical activity into Orange City.

“Running days” are 5 p.m. Tuesdays, 7 a.m. Thursdays and 8 a.m. Saturdays. The group splits up into different groups based on their goals. Those who are training for the 10k run a longer route than those training for the 5k.

There are about five to six different routes the club will take that circle through the community. The team spends time stretching before and after each practice.

Even though the end goal for Old Factory Running Club is the Road Race, many members have joined with different goals in mind. NW student Taylor Nienhuis joined the club mainly to hang out with her friends as she will not be in Orange City during the Road Race. Nienhuis has a goal of having fun and getting good exercise. Since joining the club she has had a great time meeting new people, and being able to hang out at the Old Factory after the run.

“Ryan is a great facilitator,” Nienhuis said. “I love that we meet at the Old Factory because it’s a great central spot to stay at after running to enjoy conversation, food or just do homework.”

Robert Hubbard, professor of speech and theatre, participates in the running club to get to know new people and stay in shape.

“I usually run alone,” Hubbard said. “I thought it might be fun to try running in community. Society tends to work better if people participate in groups within their community dedicated to positive things.”

For more information about the Old Factory Running Club or how to join the group, go to their Facebook page, contact Anderson or simply show up on one of the running days.

Spring guide to outdoor campus activities

BY CARISSA TAVARY

Spike Ball

The increasingly popular game, Spike Ball, has made its name across campus.

Two Northwestern students who regularly participate in this sport are Chad Kischer and Tukker Bogaard.

Q: How often do you play Spike Ball?
A: “Once a day.” (Kischer)
A: “Anytime the ball needs spike.” (Bogaard)

Q: How do you enjoy most about playing?
A: “Beating Zach Shornack.” (Bogaard)

Q: What inspired you to get into Spike Ball?
A: “I saw it at a beach once.” (Bogaard)

Q: How do you play?
A: “It’s kind of like volleyball. Each team gets three hits and then you hit it into the net. But instead of going over the net, it goes onto it.” (Kischer)

Hammock

Ethan De Groot is one of the few Northwestern students who enjoys spending his time in the hammock. He answered a few questions about what it means to “hammock.”

Q: How often do you use your hammock?
A: “Well, I got it for Christmas and had it up in Haiti [over my SSP] for the whole week. But I’ve used it two times here.”

Q: What do you enjoy most about your hammock?
A: “It’s good for napping. And just really comfortable. I just lay there and read a book or play the uke (Ukulele). Some people sleep overnight in them.”

Q: Where did you get the idea to use a hammock?
A: Zach Shornack. He had one last year and I thought it was a good idea.”

Q: Is it hard to put up?
A: “Hassle? No, not at all.”

Frolf

Frolfing, otherwise known as disc golf, has made its way around the green as the game of Frisbee and golf mixed into one. Ben Patzlof of Hospers Hall explains more about what he thinks of frolf.

Q: What is the best part of frolfing?
A: “Inventing yourself through during feats to rescue the Frisbee,” said Patzlof referring to the battle wounds on his shins and toes.

Q: Who inspired you to play?
A: “Theodore Roosevelt. He created the national parks as a place for frolfing. That’s pretty inspiring.”

Q: What is the secret to frolf?
A: “It’s all in the mind. If you just picture where the frisbee is going, it just appears there. Eyes closed is the best way.”

Q: Anything else you want to add?
A: “Ethan De Groot. He is a master of Frisbee golf. He is one of my greatest teachers.”

Slacklining

Some NW students may have wondered about the curious red ropes tied between the trees next to Ramaker. These are the slacklines, used for tight rope walking. Luke Galloway expands on the art of slacklining and what it means to him.

Q: How often do you slackline?
A: “I slackline three or four times a week, but I think about it constantly. I can’t get slacklining out of my head.”

Q: What do you enjoy most about it?
A: “When slacklining I always feel that I find a sense of inner peace. My feet become fused to the line, my mind becomes completely clear except for the task of achieving perfect balance.”

Q: What are your long term goals for slacklining?
A: “Someday I would love to be able to slacklining across something really awesome like from the Chapel roof to the Zwemer bell tower or across the Grand Canyon.”

Q: What is most challenging about slacklining?
A: “The most challenging thing about slacklining is realizing that to get better, sometimes you have to fall. If I never try anything new and risky, I’ll never be able to reach my slacklining dreams.”
Professor murdered: 30th anniversary

FROM PAGE 1

"I was the only one who talked to him; I don't remember anyone saying anything else," Roger said. "He kept saying we were holding back on him and weren't giving him everything."

According to a Chicago Tribune article, "witnesses said the robber fired his gun because he apparently was dissatisfied with the amount of money carried by Nelson and the other robbery victims."

Hayes fled the parking lot. Roger leapt from the back seat and ran into the church to contact police and medical services. In the front seat, Ron slumped over into his wife's lap and, according to Roger, "basically died in my mom's lap."

The Aftershock

"I'm at Central (College) — there weren't cell phones at the time — and here's my friend whose father has just been murdered, and I can't talk to him," Van Oort said. "This was Sunday night. It happened on a Sunday afternoon."

The murder made national news. The story was plastered on newspapers, and the headlines shouted the injustice of it all. "Iowa slain by robber in Chicago church lot," "Iowa professor's killer sought."

"Orange City ponders high price man of peace paid to live up to ideals."

One more murder in Chicago wasn't anything notable. According to the Disaster Center website, there were 58,446 reports of violent crime in 1985. But to the people in Orange City, it was overwhelming.

"All the students were stunned, and all the faculty and staff were stunned," said Van Oort. "What do you do now? What do you say? How do you make sense of this?"

"It was devastating to the whole community," Juffer said. For the family, it was understandably even harder.

"My first impression — a thinking, a feeling — was that we had stepped into the pool of the victims of gun violence, and it was a big pool," Roger said.

For Roger, the week following his father's death was a blur. He recalled making it back out to Iowa, but many of the specifics remain in a faded haze.

Some moments, however, are sharper.

"I had a group of friends from seminary that drove out from Michigan," Roger said. "My only and clearest memory is having dinner with those guys after the funeral. Means the world to me. Harlan (Van Oort) was there."

"The four guys picked me up and we drove to Orange City and we drove up to (Trinity Reformed Church), and that was the first time we saw Roger," Van Oort said. "First time we talked to him was walking up to the funeral because that's how communication went."

Along with having his friends near, Roger also remembers a large Greyhound bus full of passengers who wanted to be there for the family.

According to the 1985 Des Moines Register article, "... several black men and women from Chicago ... had traveled 10 hours on a chartered bus to attend the services."

The pastor who had married Ron and Marian years ago officiated the final farewell. The church was full of friends and family wanting to remember the man who had staunchly lived for his ideals. Along with a packed house, notes and letters were pouring in about Ron and his legacy.

Van Oort remembers one note in particular that opened up a heavy theological conversation.

"At the funeral, (Roger) pulls out of his pocket one and I looked and it was from a friend of Ron's," Van Oort said. "Roger doesn't remember this so maybe I made it up. He pulls it out and scrawled on just one sheet of paper, a note of sympathy and prayers and then this quote: There's a word from God in the violence. And that was about it."

The theological weight of saying goodbye to a father, a husband, a professor and a son was compounded. As Christians, the call is to forgive and look to God for solace. But how does one forgive a murderer and still see God working in it?

"(Roger) said this to me in the midst of it: "If the Almighty God was to write down, 'This was the reason your dad was killed,' I would wad that piece of paper up and throw it back at whoever handed it to me,"

Van Oort said, "I can understand that. There's no way you could give me a reason for this."

In a letter sent to friends a week after the murder, Roger wrote of the challenging understanding of God's presence amongst the pain of saying goodbye.

"We live in shock, and know that the reasons for all of this will never be ours to hold. We know the violent ugliness of evil and sin. Our hope is in the redeeming action of God. Someday we will again see my father."

In the 1985 Des Moines Register article published one week after the murder, Don Lindsaas, a former NW psychology professor, said, "We're still reeling around here. We have difficulty understanding and computing it."

To those outside the community, it was another murder victim from Chicago. But to the family, it was saying farewell to a father of two sons and a husband. To the college, it was a loss of a colleague and a man of esteem. It was mourning a man who prized ideals and sought to bring peace to the world.

The Legacy

Clarence Hayes was convicted of murder and sentenced to death for a crime that was, according to a 1985 Chicago Tribune article, "cruel, deliberate, intentional and most despicable of all, indifferent."

However, the Nelsons sought to honor Ron's ideals.

"At our request, the death penalty was overturned," Roger said.

NW also found ways to honor Ron, and those still exist today. A scholarship exists in his name to award students who combine their scholarship with social justice. His name also graces the chapel schedules. The Nelsons are grateful for the efforts of the college to retain Ron's legacy.

"I really appreciate people like Harlan that have thought it important to keep the story as a part of NW life," Roger said.

Van Oort makes sure the student who is awarded the scholarship knows the weight of the name behind the money.

"If I find out who received it, I usually want to tell them, 'You have the Nelson scholarship. Do you know what that means?'" Van Oort said. "He was a great guy."

His life was shorter than it needed to be, but he left his mark on each person he touched, whether it was a student in class, a fellow professor or a friend on the street. His legacy exists beyond the circumstances surrounding his death.

The grave marker is still tucked away in a corner of the cemetery, hidden in a row of flat stones. The parking lot in Chicago still gets used, twice as much on Sundays. The line of text on the chapel schedule is still typed out every semester. And Ron Nelson's life and work will not fade.

Rising fees help fill deficit costs next semester

FROM PAGE 1

While Tolsma recognizes the financial burden this will be on students, she also understands how expensive science is.

"I try to point out the costs to students," she said. "It helps them be more responsible with equipment and thankful for the donors that provide so much of our equipment."

Tolsma said many students are surprised by how expensive equipment is. She said some pieces cost more than most students’ cars.

Hurley explained some of the older lab equipment makes it difficult to do experiments.

"I think students will be more willing to pay if they know it's for new equipment," she said.

Dean of faculty Adrienne Forgette agreed.

"We want professors to have the freedom to do labs that will be the most beneficial," Forgette said. "It's all about the quality of the experience."

So will the fees collected go straight to the science and art departments? Not exactly, according to Forgette.

"All the tuition and fees go into a big pot," she said.

Chief financial officer Doug Bukelman explained the college has been covering the costs of these materials and events, and the fees will reduce some expenses.

"We're projected to operate at a deficit this year, so we need to reduce spending," Bukelman said.

The money put into the pot increases the overall budget and puts the college in a better position to purchase new equipment and materials and cover the costs of events like orientation and graduation. The departments requiring fees will not necessarily see an immediate upgrade in materials or equipment.

Every two to three years, the college takes an intensive look at the budget and spending. This year happened to be one of those years.

"We thoroughly study campus to make sure everything is being run efficiently," Bukelman said.

When the budget for 2015-16 was decided, implementing additional fees was seen as a cost effective move.

Bukelman, Forgette and Tolsma all pointed out that nobody is happy when students are required to pay more, but at this time, they believe it is a decision has the best interest of students and the college in mind.
This is everyone’s issue

Department of Justice, one in four college-age women report having been sexually assaulted at least once in their lives.

The surprising partner to this statistic, however, is that one in six college men have been victims of sexual assault.

The nGage talk didn’t only provide information for victims, however. It also informed students about what is considered sexual assault and in what types of situations they need to advocate for themselves.

I would argue that, in general, men tend to be less informed about what constitutes sexual assault than women. It is a sort of “trendy” thing for women to be passionate about women’s rights and feminism at the moment — a trend that I hope lasts far longer than white ink tattoos or hair feathers.

For men, however, our culture often still sends messages of weakness or submissiveness along with being passionate about these topics.

This is exactly the mindset that lies behind most cases of sexual assault by both men and women — assertion of power and dominance over another human being. Many people would be surprised to learn that any nonconsensual sexual activity constitutes assault — that includes sexual acts with someone who is unable to give consent because of intoxication, your good friend who keeps saying, “We shouldn’t be doing this” and the crush that you “romantically” sprung your affection on without first asking their permission.

Everyone needs to be informed about these situations, so that they can both stand up for themselves as victims as well as know their own boundaries with others.

Our media is full of messages of sexual exploitation; sometimes it is as blatant as 50 Shades of Gray, but oftentimes it is a far more subtle message that has given us all the wrong idea about what is expected from us in relationships.

I was also disappointed by the lack of male stories shared at the event, as well as the general silence from men on the topic across campus. I know that men at Northwestern have experienced sexual assault, and while these stories can be extremely personal and difficult to share, I would encourage any men who have experienced sexual assault to consider sharing them when given the chance.

These stories not only have the power to inform, but also to inspire others to cast aside the shame and while these stories can and while these stories can be shared, I would encourage any men who have experienced sexual assault to consider sharing them when given the chance.

Sexual violence is too widespread of a problem for us to half-heartedly attempt to counteract it. Creating a campus where everyone feels safe requires all of us to hear the stories of our peers and start rethinking what love looks like.

Resurrecting Easter

As a writing major and religion minor, I’ve often been accused of caring exclusively about abstract or spiritual things. It’s a valid point. Even this little piece could be categorized more as “thoughts” than an actual opinion on something. But I hope that these thoughts on the abstract encourage all of you to take real action in your lives in the next week.

If you all haven’t heard, Easter is approaching. This might be too little, too late into the Lenten season to say anything, but here it goes: Easter matters. Easter is important and relevant and should affect our lives. “Sunday school,” every person grumbles. “Jesus died and rose and eternal life and all that.” Which is true — the story of Easter is the story of the Gospel, and that matters a great deal. But I would also affirm that our Easter story as we often tell it is a stalked gospel, crushed flat and so familiar that it assumes the spiritual flavor of white bread.

I realized this year I was numb to that Easter. Some eggs, pastels, childhood nostalgia, church and a glow-in-the-dark cross loomed in my subconscious sludge, but that was about it. It’s a shame because Easter is an incredibly powerful story and an incredibly important communal celebration. Even if you do not look at life from a Christian perspective, I think there is beauty and truth in Easter that appeals to the universal human condition.

This is a story of broken things made whole and better, of the newness than comes with every day, of the odd and inextricable link of suffering and love and of the eternal cycle of life out of death. As a celebration, it is an invitation to come together and participate in the kind of work that enacts these truths in the world. As a Christian, it’s the lynching: a story about God, not just about me or humanity, but rather something I knew mentally but never believed enough to act upon. So this week, I decided to resurrect Easter.

This led to two questions: What is the Easter story? How do I live it? I started a simple process.


2. Talk. What do others think? This can mean reading books, meditating, participating in worship spaces like a Good Friday or Easter service, praying, journaling or simply discussing with others. Nobody gets the whole picture alone, and nobody learns in a vacuum.

3. Act. How do I live my life in a way that tells the story over and over again? How and for whom am I acting in the moment? Living with thoughtful mindfulness that reflects both the gore and the glory of the cross led me to write daily prayer-poems, educate myself on current events and injustices and find a tangible way to encourage at least one person every day.

These next few weeks, on campus, with family or friends or wherever you find yourself, I challenge you to resurrect Easter. What I found is by no means prescriptive, but I hope the threefold process gets some ideas flowing. Read, talk, reflect and do something that brings life to you and those around you. There are infinite ways — ask a question and really listen to the answer. Make music, make art, make food, make a friend. Learn something new and share it. Give of yourself. Cry over the hard things. Pray. Living well is how we make a stunted gospel whole and a forgotten story real.

Got an opinion?

Let’s talk about it (and make you some money!)

Write your opinion, because it matters.

Contact Abbie Amiotte, Opinions editor abbie.goldschmid@nwiowa.edu

Ethan’s Answers

Dear Ethan,
I’ve met a girl on campus, and we started hitting it off. We’ve hung out in a group a couple of times, but we have our first “date” coming up this weekend. What are some essential questions to ask, in order to get to know her and see if we’re a good fit?

The Cautious Canoodler

Hey Cautious Canoodler,
I’m glad you asked! As a guy who has landed his fair share of successful second dates, I think I can give you a few suggestions. Here are nine questions you should make sure to ask, in no particular order:

1. Toilet paper roll over or under?
2. What’s your blood type?
3. Do you have any ex-lovers with murderous pasts?
4. What’s your favorite candy? Is it sprinkles or gummy bears?
5. Have you ever had a perm and/or frosted tips?
6. I’m sure you all saw this one coming, this will make or break any potential relationship.
7. Which Hogwarts House would you be placed in?
8. Are you a Crest or a Colgate person?
9. Do you plan on retiring to Florida or Arizona?
10. If you don’t want to be together at 80, why get to know them at 20?
11. What’s your current ex-lover’s favorite food?
12. Do you have any ex-lovers with murderous tendencies?
13. What’s your current ex-lover’s favorite food?
14. What’s your blood type?
15. Practical. Danger can strike at any moment, including first dates.

Sorry I couldn’t come up with more practical questions, but I hope this helps.
Baseball splits series

The Northwestern baseball team went 2-2 in a pair of double-headers against Southwest Minnesota State University on March 20 and 21. In Friday’s first game, the Raiders picked up a 12-9 victory that was followed up with a 10-9 loss. On Saturday, NW won 6-5 and ended the day with a 6-4 defeat. The Raiders now stand at a 9-15 record heading into conference play.

In game one, the Raiders accumulated a season-high 18 hits in the contest. They scored three runs in the first inning, one in the second and four in the third inning to open up an 8-1 lead against the Mustangs. After three runs by the Mustangs, NW responded with three runs in the fifth and one more in the sixth to take a 12-4 lead en route to a victory.

Junior outfielder Zach Cortese had a career-best four hits, including a home run and three RBIs. Senior outfielder Mitch Peschon and sophomore outfielder Collin McBride both recorded three hits. Peschon scored two runs and drove in three more. McBride scored four runs. Sophomore outfielder Casey Guthmiller, senior first baseman Skyler Wheeler and junior middle infielder Christian Hamlett each had two hits.

The Raiders will face-off against Dakota Wesleyan today with a double-header in Mitchell, SD. The first game will begin at 3 p.m.

SUBMITTED FROM WWW.NWCRAIDERS.COM

JORDAN DYKSTRA
SPORTS EDITOR

Golf team places third

The men’s golf team kicked off the spring season with a tournament this past Wednesday, March 25. Midland University hosted the Midland Spring Invite at the Pines Country Club in Fremont, Nebraska.

The Raiders were one of 11 teams competing at the invite, and they put forth a strong showing. In addition to the returning upperclassmen, the youth of the team proved to be instrumental in the team’s robust performance.

Freshman Justin Kraft led the team with an individual top-five performance. He recorded a one-over par with a 73, tying for third with three other golfers.

Out of the 11 teams participating in the tournament, Northwestern managed to tie for third with Northeast Community College.

Along with Kraft, three other freshmen competed for NW. Evan Schuler scored a 77 (+5), which tied him for 12th place. Colton Kooima tied for 30th with an 82 (+10), and Luke Meyer tied for 58th with a 92 (+20).

“There was definitely some winter rust left over,” Schuler said. “But overall it wasn’t a bad meet for our first competition of the spring.”

The team wasn’t sure how the invite would go, but the course was in good shape, and although it was cold, the team posted decent scores.

Their last competition was back in October, when the team played in the William Penn Open on October 10 and 11.

“I started out pretty slow, but I hit a few birdies later on to bring my score back down,” Schuler said. “I think I played better than I did in the fall, so I was happy about that.”

The Raider’s spring season will continue with the third GPAC Qualifier in Sioux City, Iowa on April 7.

SUBMITTED FROM WWW.NWCRAIDERS.COM

BY ETHAN DE GROOT
SPORTS EDITOR

Outdoor debut

This weekend marks the start of the outdoor season for the Northwestern Track and Field team. Coming off of a very strong performance in their indoor season, the Raiders are looking to hit the ground running.

The 2015 NAIA Indoor Track and Field Championship was the most recent meet in which the team competed, and they had an impressive showing.

A total of five NW athletes received All-American status, and as a team, the women clinched 30th place, and the men managed 29th.

Since this past indoor season was one of the best indoor seasons that the team has recorded, the outdoor season looks promising.

Sophomore runner Will Norris is scheduled to start the new season.

“It’ll be a nice change of pace,” Norris said. “I’m looking forward to getting outside and enjoying the nice weather. We’ll also get the chance to see a lot of events that don’t take place at indoor meets.”

Taking place on Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28, the meet is hosted by Wayne State College at Memorial Stadium and Bob Cunningham Field.

On Friday, the running events are scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m., and the throwing events kick off at 11:00 a.m. The meet continues on Saturday morning with running events again at 10:30 a.m. and throwing events at 11:00 a.m.

SUBMITTED FROM WWW.NWCRAIDERS.COM

BY ETHAN DE GROOT
SPORTS EDITOR

RAIDER RADAR

Friday, March 27
Baseball vs. Dak. Wesleyan
3:00 p.m.
Tennis @ Central
4:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 28
Tennis @ Simpson
9:00 a.m.
Track & Field @ Wayne St.
10:00 a.m.
Baseball vs. Nebraska W.
1:00 p.m.
Baseball vs. Nebraska W.
3:30 p.m.
Softball @ Concordia
1:00 p.m.
Softball @ Concordia
3:00 p.m.

Monday, March 30
Softball vs. College of St. Mary
3:00 p.m.
Softball vs. College of St. Mary
5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 31
Softball @ Morningside
3:00 p.m.
Softball @ Morningside
5:00 p.m.
Baseball vs. Waldorf
4:00 p.m.
Baseball vs. Waldorf
6:30 p.m.
Tennis @ Mt. Marty
4:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 2
Track & Field @ Dordt
11:00 a.m.
Tennis @ Peru St.
2:00 p.m.
Softball @ Peru St.
4:00 p.m.
Baseball vs. Mt. Marty
5:00 p.m.
Baseball vs. Mt. Marty
7:30 p.m.

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Local novelist presents reading

BY MADISON RASKA

This year Northwestern hosted another Deep Song Reading Series. This event features different writers and authors and engages the community with their work. "The Deep Song Reading Series is a chance to invite professional authors — both local and occasionally from a further field — to come read on campus and try to get them to engage with the community," English professor Dr. Sam Martin said. "They get a chance to read their work where sometimes the audience has never heard of them before.

As a part of this year's Deep Song Reading Series, Kate Brauning of Sioux Center came to share her work. Brauning was previously a high school English teacher before becoming associate editor at Entangled Publishing. She also does freelance editing and runs a group industry blog called Pub Hub.

Brauning read a section of her book, How We Fall, and answered questions about the selected text.

Thursday night, Sioux Center native and young adult novelist Kate Brauning read a part of her book, How We Fall, as a part of Northwestern's Deep Song Reading Series.

She also signed copies of her book and had books at the event to purchase.

Brauning's book is a young adult novel. This was the first time NW had a young adult novelist on campus.

"Young adult novels started to gain a lot of steam when Harry Potter novels came out," Martin said.

Recently, many people besides young adults have begun reading young adult genre novels. They are becoming very popular, and many people enjoy them.

While Brauning was on campus, she also worked with students in classes.

Allison Mulder is a writing and rhetoric major and has worked with Brauning before.

"We've mutually followed each other for about a year and had conversations over Twitter before," Mulder said. "She's just really encouraging to young writers. She's really enthusiastic about getting new and varied voices in literature. It was just really good to talk to her being an aspiring writer myself."

In addition, Brauning gave advice for aspiring writers.

"Think of writing and the publishing journey as training and pursuing any other career," Brauning said. "You study, you learn from experts, you network, you study more, you try your hand at it, find the space you fit, take constructive feedback and work, work, work."

Brauning also suggests reading books frequently.

"Read the kind of books you want to write and read constantly," Brauning said. "A novel or two per week. When you react to something in the story, stop and look at how the author made you react and why you reacted that way. It's a great way to learn."

The event took place on Thursday in the Te Paske Gallery. How We Fall is also available to students in the library.

Professor Martin will read from a selection of his own works during the next session of the Deep Song Reading Series on Thursday, April 9, at 7 p.m. in the Te Paske Gallery.

Ethnic fair celebrates cultures

BY JORDAN SYVERSON

To experience other cultures, people often have to travel many miles to distant countries and faraway lands.

However, on Saturday, March 28, Northwestern students and community members are invited to taste unique foods, watch exciting dances, listen to traditional music and marvel at authentic dress from 25 different countries.

The Northwestern International Club will bring their own cultural experiences to Orange City when they host the Ethnic Fair, which is an annual event on campus in the RSC Four-Court Area. The International Club, also known as the I-Club, consists of 33 students from Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, Latin America and North America.

The I-Club provides a way for both international and American students to learn about one another’s cultures and build relationships by holding meetings and hosting events like this one.

An all-you-can-eat buffet is one of the highlights of the event, which is held in the Rowenhorst Student Center gymnasium. The buffet portion of the event starts at 5 p.m. and the entertainment including Bollywood and African dancing, a fashion show, a performance by Black V, Northwestern's improv group, and several singing acts, begins at 5:30 p.m. Games and prizes are also some of the highlights of this event.

"This is my first year and my first Ethnic Fair and I am just excited to see how many people will come and what people will think of the food we prepare for them," said Naomi Sasaki, a freshman international student from Japan.

Sasaki will be cooking green tea cheesecake, one of her favorite foods, for those participating in the event.

"The Ethnic Fair is an annual highlight for many in the NW and Sioux County communities," Associate Dean for International Affairs Dr. Kevin McMahen said. "The International Club is working hard to offer another great menu and variety show that celebrates the many cultures they bring to our region."

International students are looking forward to sharing their culture, food and music with their fellow students and the community in a fun and exciting way. Coming together and experiencing the different cultures provides a way for the community, campus and international students to interact and build relationships while simultaneously promoting diversity.

The admission price, including the buffet of international foods, is $12 for community guests, $6 for children eight and under and $1 for Northwestern students. Guests wanting to only attend the entertainment portion of the event will be charged $1.