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Underrated Thanksgiving traditions

ANNUAL IHOP
THANKSGIVING

MARISSA LERAAS
THEATRE

Whether it be digging into the IHop breakfast before the sun has even risen, the infamous Aunt Cathy who ate all the green bean casserole (again), the typical, but ever-loveable dad who fell asleep to the ambience of the Macy's Day Parade or the sisters who break away to hide from Gram Gram's yappy dog, everyone has their classic Thanksgiving ongoing. But in between those moments, there are the traditions, new and old, that form the Thanksgiving holiday as we know it.

Thanksgiving has always been a highlight of Marissa Leraas's year. Growing up, there was always a tussle of which side of the family would get what holiday, and not wanting to have to choose, her family decided to introduce one of our most iconic Thanksgiving

traditions: The Early Morning IHop Breakfast.

Living in Texas, the evening of Thanksgiving was often spent on one of the two ranches that her dad's side of the family owned. That was where her huge family was gathered, the football was watched, the horses were ridden, the pond was fished and the turkey was eaten.

However, the early mornings, before the sun had even come up, were spent with her mom's side of the family in a humble IHop. Her mom's side being smaller, the Leraases would often invite close friends that felt like family, multiplying their numbers in the party room the family would always reserve. Each year they had the exact same waitress, and each year she would expect the family Thanksgiving morning, as well as the homemade bread the grandma would make her as a tip.

In that IHop the family would celebrate their gratefulness for each other and reunite with one another



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH.COM
Thanksgiving break is just around the corner for NW students.

over pancakes and copious amounts of coffee. It was not big or flashy, there was no turkey, no Macy's Day Parade in the background and certainly no ranch mansion. But

there was family, shared memories and matching pajamas. Even as the family carries the tradition through her adult life, it is still one of Leraas's favorite holiday traditions.

For Hope Wallace, sophomore public relations major, Thanksgiving has always been filled with lots of company. Being the daughter of her town's pastor, her

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Upcoming engineering program

NORTHWESTERN BRINGS
IN NEW MAJOR

KAYLEE BANDSTRA
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Northwestern College is establishing an engineering major, which will launch in the fall 2024 semester.

With a growing demand for engineers, NW is eager to add an engineering major, which may also recruit new students. "NW is one of the well-respected Christian colleges nationwide and most of those colleges have their own engineering programs," Dr. Young-Ji Byon, the founding director of the engineering program at NW, said. "In the past, we have been missing out on recruiting students who want to be Raiders and major in engineering. There is a growing demand for engineers regionally and nationally. Finally, NW can expand God's redeeming work in the field of engineering as well."

Dr. Byon is excited to teach

students engineering in a Christian setting. He has always enjoyed math and science, participating in competitions since a young age through his high school years. Ever since he accepted God into his heart, he prayed to become a Christian engineering professor. "When I was in grade 12, I had a chance to attend a Christian summer camp in Toronto, Canada where I met a Christian engineering professor from MIT who shared the gospel to me which broke down my pride before God," Dr. Byon said. "That evening, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal savior. My very first prayer to God as a newly born-again Christian was that I wanted to become a Christian engineering professor just like the professor I met."

Dr. Byon went on to complete his bachelor's, master's and PhD in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Toronto. In Canada, he continued his engineering career "into the field

of transportation engineering and artificial intelligence applications," he described. "Throughout my career, I came to a realization that the best engineering designs are embedded in God's creations in nature and engineers can be inspired from God's designs for optimal efficiencies."

Future engineering majors will focus on the mathematical and scientific aspects of engineering, and there will be four engineering concentrations: mechanical, civil, electrical and computer. The four concentrations "will prepare students with broader, exposure to different disciplines of engineering," Dr. Byon said. "With current and relevant hands-on skills accompanied by core engineering courses that are designed and planned to be accredited with the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, the NW engineering graduates will stand out in the job market and also be ready for graduate studies in other major



COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM
Engineering program will break ground fall of 2024 to NW.




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“1989” re-release of ragged love songs

SWIFT'S TIME CAPSULE FOR FANS

JACK MACGREGOR
THEATRE

On Aug. 9th in Los Angeles, California during her iconic Eras Tour, Taylor Swift announced the release date of “1989 (Taylors Version)” for Oct. 27th. Releasing it on the anniversary date when she released the original “1989” album nine years prior, it gave Swifties plenty of time to eagerly anticipate Swift’s remastering of her beloved songs. Now that it has been four weeks since the release of Swift’s version of the album, fans have had time to soak in the intricate details adjusted in the songs’ remakes, as well as get acquainted to the five new songs brought out of The Vault for “1989 (Taylors Version).”

The vault, a term used by Swift, is a metaphorical jail referring to the songs that were cut from their intended albums when she released the original

albums. When she decided to release her versions of her work, Swift chose to take out the songs from the vault to share with her fans. According to “Today,” when Swift announced the release of songs from the vault during her release of “Fearless (Taylors Version),” she mentioned in a tweet she wanted her fans to “see the entire vivid picture.” She has now carried that over into the other “Swift’s Version” albums, bringing in guest artists such as Lana Del Rey, Ed Sheeran, Fall Out Boy, Phoebe Bridgers and many more. However, “1989 (Taylors Version)” is the first remade album not featuring another artist.

The vault tracks released in “1989 (Taylor’s Version)” are titled “Slut!,” “Now That We Don’t Talk,” “Suburban Legends,” “Say Don’t Go” and “Is It Over Now?” Looking at the releases from the vault in “1989 (Taylor’s Version),” the songs’ instrumentation is slightly shocking. Swift’s renditions of the already beloved songs were remastered with more synth and technological instrumentation, but nearly

all the songs released from the vault in this album drop the rock pop-synth mix Swift formed and lean heavily into instrumentation made via synth and pad. The mix, alongside the five vault songs’ melodies, more resembles the songs in Swift’s “Midnights” album. With the absence of melodic instrumental lines, the softer synth in all the tracks creates a style incongruent with the original “1989” album. “Say Don’t Go” and melodic hints in “Is It Over Now?” are the only songs of the vault tracks that are continuous with the album’s original pieces.

The lyrics in the vault tracks are as Swift-like and metaphorical as would be expected, using phrases such as “The sticks and stonies they / throw froze mid-air” from “Slut!” and “I’m trying to see the cards that / you won’t show” from “Say Don’t Go.” All of the tracks continue to piece together the rollercoaster love, heartbreak and passion that Swift pieces together in “1989.” Her storytelling in her musicality and lyrics is also slightly adjusted in



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY.COM

the new five songs. Swift leads with her lower vocal range in “Say Don’t Go” and “Now That We Don’t Talk,” revealing more musical layers than previously shown in the original “1989.” She is also more uncensored, candidly expressing insecurities of being called

a “slut” in “Slut!” and sharing a desperation strong enough to jump “off a very tall something” for attention from an old lover in “Is It Over Now?” It is more like present-day Swift’s expression of her emotions, inviting listeners to wonder what else has been hidden in

the vault. Seeing this side of the “1989” album through the wider scope of the vault songs lets fans into the time capsule of ragged love offered in “1989 (Taylors Version).”

★★★★

“The Marvels” falls short of being “marvelous”

MOVIE RECEIVES UNNECESSARY HATE

LOGAN THOOFT
SOCIAL WORK

There is no question that the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) is one of the biggest media franchises of all time. At this point, there are over 40 movies, TV shows and even TV specials that make up this vast series of storytelling. “The Marvels” serves as the latest installment in the franchise as well as a sequel to “Captain Marvel” (2019) with Brie Larson reprising her lead role as Carol Danvers and Captain Marvel. She is also joined by Teyonah Parris as Monica Rambeau, who debuted as the character in Marvel’s Disney+ miniseries “WandaVision” (2021), as well as Hollywood newcomer Iman Vellani as Kamala Khan and Ms. Marvel making her big screen debut after first appearing in another Marvel Disney+ series “Ms. Marvel” (2022). The three of them make up “The Marvels.” Samuel L. Jackson, returning as Nick Fury, has been around since the MCU’s beginning in 2008 and has more recently appeared in yet another Marvel Disney+ series “Secret

Invasion” earlier this year. With all of this groundwork, though, does it culminate with an exciting time at the movies? The answer to that question: it is certainly not bad but, unfortunately, it falls short of being marvelous.

“The Marvels” comes out at an interesting time for MCU. Again, there are now over 40 projects that have been released, and half of them came out in the last few years with a bunch of them receiving mixed responses. Add to the fact that this is a movie led by three women of diverse backgrounds and there is already an entire portion of the internet in uproar. So much so that before the movie was even out, people on the internet were already claiming the film as “woke trash,” among other responses. As someone who has actually seen the movie, that hate is purely overreactive and not deserved at all, but the movie has its fair share of criticism.

Let’s start with the positives as they are the saving grace of this film. Iman Vellani is a joy to see on screen just like she was in the “Ms. Marvel” series. She captures the fan perspective of being in this world with powerful heroes like how Tom Holland did

when he first debuted as Spider-Man in 2016. There is also a lot of fun to be had with the action, especially in a fight scene that happens when our three Marvels begin switching with each other, even if the rules behind that are as inconsistent and confusing as they can get. There is also room for a classic Disney musical number that happens and alien space cats eating people. The movie is also an hour and 45 minutes long, so the fun does not overstay its welcome and there are a couple great appearances near the end that dive too deep into spoiler territory for fans that are interested. With all of that said, the movie itself has a hard time working on other levels.

Since the movie is so short, it is able to move at a quick enough pace to not drag on but at the cost of potentially good moments that could have been fleshed out more and gave some more emotion. There is a scene where Carol (Larson) is telling her team why she stays up in space and never returns to Earth. It was a little emotional, but it happened so quickly that it was swept under the rug like nothing happened. We also find out insane details about Carol’s personal life and what

she has done the last 30 years she has been active, but it is all rushed through and not developed enough. Monica and Kamala also do not get much more development because of the rushed nature, but Kamala is just naturally a blast to watch. However, poor Jackson gets nothing to do either.

At the end of the day, if you are looking for a fun time that involves literal fangirling, a Disney musical number, an unusual number of cats and surprise superhero appearances, “The Marvels” is the film for you. If you are looking for something more than that or are tuned out of the MCU already, “The Marvels” probably will not win you over. However, you should go see it just to form your own opinion as there is too much overdramatic toxicity on the internet surrounding this film.



★★★★

PHOTO COURTESY OF THEMOTIVEDB.ORG

Christmas concert exemplifies ensemble

ANNUAL VESPERS CELEBRATION

TABITHA THATCHER
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

As the days grow shorter and the wind gets colder, Northwestern students anxiously await the beginning of the holiday season. This season is marked by the mysterious appearance of wreaths hanging above the doors of VPH, “Jingle Bell Rock” blasting from Zwemer tower, and the much-anticipated Christmas Vespers concert.

The annual Christmas Vespers is unlike most music concerts at NW. While reflecting on what makes Vespers stand out, senior music education major Evan Gutzmer said “Vespers is different from other concerts in several ways. One of the biggest is the sheer number of people involved in the production, for it truly is a production.” This year, Vespers will feature the orchestra, Women’s Choir,

organ, a brass ensemble and even a short opera from the A Capella Choir. Allison Sjaarda, a sophomore music major, says “Vespers is more like a Christmas program more than a concert and usually includes a bigger piece than your normal choir/orchestra pieces.”

With all this music comes a great deal of preparation on the part of the directors and students. For Dr. Holm, professor of music and director of both the A Capella Choir and Heritage Singers, the process of preparing for Vespers began over a year ago. Dr. Holm says this involved “Choosing basic themes, ideas and principal characters.” Actual rehearsals for this concert were started a few months ago, and as the weekend of Vespers approaches “All components are finally settled and placed in the flow of the concert” says Dr. Holm.

For students in Vespers, although the preparation is long, the experience of being in Vespers is unlike any other. “My favorite part of Vespers

is when we combine all of the different parts together for the carols. It is always fun to just sing the carols with just the choirs, but once we add in the strings and the organ, it really makes for a fun and memorable experience,” Gutzmer said.

The Vespers concert exemplifies the idea of ensemble. Although each musical group is a separate part, they all come together to create a more beautiful sound. This is not the norm for most concerts and is a rare treat for any music lover. Sjaarda says “When I am singing with everybody, I think about how we are all one body in Christ. Even though we all come from different places and do not know each other, we are all connected by one God and one song.”

This experience is not just for the performers. The audience is also given the opportunity to participate in the communal act of making music together. “Vespers has several audience carols that are performed by the choirs, orchestra, organ and the audience all together,”

says Gutzmer. Singing carols at the Christmas Vespers is truly a NW tradition.

However, along with the customary Christmas carols and usual concert elements, each year, the concert offers something new. According to Dr. Holm, “A special feature this year is a children’s sung story in the middle of the concert that the audience will find humorous and also quite compelling; it portrays challenges, humor, human responses and heart transformation.”

Both students and faculty have put countless hours into the creation of this year’s Christmas Vespers concert, and with so many performances, both old and new, this concert is not one to miss.

Come enjoy the Christmas Vespers in Christ Chapel on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 7p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 3 at 3p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWC MARCOMM
One of Northwestern’s choirs performs at the Christmas.

Quiz: What Taylor Swift era are you?

THE EVOLUTION OF
BILLBOARD’S NUMBER ONE
ARTIST

TABITHA THATCHER
SOCIAL WORK

What is your biggest strength?

- A: Empathy
- B: Thinking outside the box
- D: Vivid imagination
- C: Inner strength
- E: The ability to make friends wherever I go
- F: Kindness

How would you celebrate winning a Grammy?

- A: A big party
- B: Probably nothing
- C: A nice meal with family
- D: Go for a long drive yelling my favorite music
- E: An adventure with all my friends
- F: A romantic getaway

What is your favorite color?

- A: Pink
- B: Purple
- C: Green
- D: Black
- E: Blue
- F: Yellow

What is your biggest fear?

- A: Being rejected in public
- B: Being the worst version of myself
- C: Being contained
- D: Being manipulated
- E: Being hated

F: Being alone forever

How would you deal with a friendship conflict?

- A: Give them a hug
- B: Assume it is my fault and apologize
- C: Ask to talk when they are ready
- D: Cut them off
- E: Talk to my other friends about it
- F: Write them a heartfelt letter

Your friends would describe you as?

- A: Generous
- B: Unique
- C: Gentle
- D: Rebellious
- E: Popular
- F: Sweet

What is your favorite animal?

- A: Chinchilla
- B: Black cat
- C: Fox
- D: Snake
- E: Dog
- F: Bunny

Answers
Mostly A: Lover
Mostly B: Midnights
Mostly C: Folklore
Mostly D: Reputation
Mostly E: 1989
Mostly F: Fearless

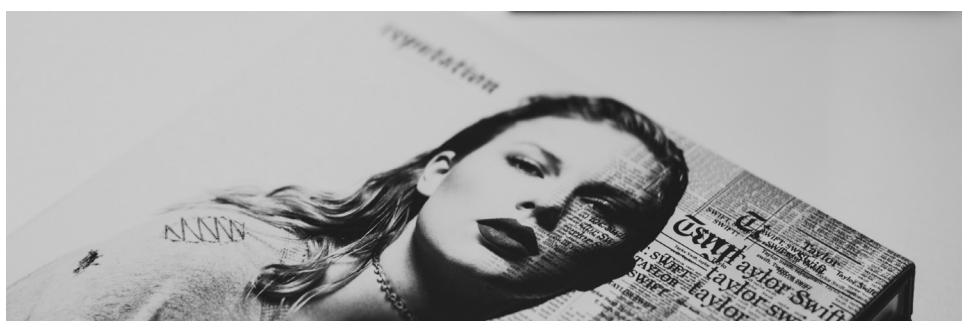


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NW Students excited to serve in the spring

INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC MISSIONS

HOPE WALLACE
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Every year over spring break, Northwestern students have the opportunity to travel with faculty members to various locations, both domestically and internationally, to serve with one another on Spring Service Partnerships (SSPs). This year, there will be nine domestic locations, including the Coldwater Foundation in Grand Marais, MN; Calvary Commission in Lindale, TX; Hope for Opelousas in Opelousas, LA; Urban Impact in New Orleans, LA; Youth Front in Kansas City, KS; Mile High Ministries in Denver, CO; Mescalero Reformed Church in Mescalero, NM; World Renew in Mayfield, KY; and City Church of Compton in Compton, CA. This year's four international sights include the Al Raja School in Manama, Bahrain; the Youth Front in Croc, Mexico; the World Team

in San Jose, Costa Rica; and Baja California Sur in Mexico.

Each of these sights will be led by one or two students, as well as a staff or faculty member from NW. Some of the student leaders have thoughts to share on why they are excited to lead and serve on their trips.

Jordan Bjork, a sophomore elementary education major, will be leading the trip to Urban Impact in New Orleans, LA. "I felt a strong calling that this was the opportunity I needed to develop and grow more my relationship with God and also my peers," Bjork said. "I already have two people signed up and I am super excited to see the updated list of who is going to be attending on this trip!"

Another student leader who is excited to see the work that God will do in and through their team is Leandro Costa, a sophomore business administration and marketing major who will be leading the trip to Baja California Sur with Erin Brouwer, a junior psychology major. When

asked why he had the desire to serve internationally, Costa said, "I feel there is a lot already being done in the U.S., so to reach further places is an even more honorable action."

Kendyl Ruschy, a junior nursing major, will be leading the trip to Mayfield, KY. In the past, Ruschy has been an SSP participant on the Compton, CA and Mescalero, NM trips. She is looking forward to serving in a new place with new people. "I want our team to do whatever God has in store for us - whether it be physical labor or sharing stories and laughs," Ruschy said. "I also hope to create valuable relationships and spread the love of Jesus to all those we encounter."

The trip to Croc, Mexico, will be led by Zoe Bruflat, a junior nursing major, as well as Tirzah Wittenberg, a senior nursing major. Bruflat had the opportunity to go on the Croc SSP last year, and she is grateful for the opportunity to lead the trip this year. "I chose this location because I absolutely fell in love with



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Students participate in many service tasks, such as painting, on SSPs.

the culture, community and relationships I formed in Croc last March," said Bruflat. "After studying Spanish for the past eight years, I loved having the opportunity to utilize and further my knowledge of the Spanish language and the

Hispanic culture. I could not imagine not going back to the place that radically transformed my relationship with God, others, and the world around me!"

Applications to be a part of an SSP are open now through Dec. 8, and

can be accessed on My Northwestern. Anyone who has a desire to serve, to be challenged, and to grow closer to God and their peers is encouraged to apply!

Thanksgiving traditions vary among students

FROM PAGE 1

Thanksgiving traditions include inviting friends and family that had nowhere to go for the holiday to be a part of their own celebration. With the addition of family and neighbors, the result was a full table in the Wallaces' dining room and a multitude of memories and stories shared among all of them. Having shared a holiday like this with her family and invited friends, I can attest that the resulting celebration dinner is filled with nothing but joy and love for each other, however they may have come to be at this table.

So, what are your Thanksgiving traditions? What defines the holiday as you know it? As we get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving, hold tight to the traditions that bring your loved ones close, and maybe even consider adding some new ones!



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH.COM

Many families celebrate Thanksgiving with a feast among family and friends.

Orange City
ACE
Hardware

Businesses celebrated with Global Entrepreneurship Week

SMALL BUSINESSES CELEBRATE THEIR ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS

KAYLEE BANDSTRA
PUBLIC RELATIONS

In a land full of individuality, it is not uncommon to stumble upon small, family-owned or self-owned businesses. From hole-in-the-wall coffee shops to small bookshops to other places that provide food, clothing and other amenities, entrepreneurs are greatly appreciated. This past week, entrepreneurs from all over the world were celebrated because of Global Entrepreneurship Week, which took place Nov. 13-19.

Global Entrepreneurship Week is a celebration for all entrepreneurs. "During this week, people from various countries worldwide come together through local, national, and global events to create solutions for worldwide economic growth," according to nationaltoday.com.

For those unfamiliar with the term, an entrepreneur is someone who starts and owns

their own business, and there are many entrepreneurs to support in Orange City.

One of the more recent entrepreneur sites in Orange City is Kweken Co., a locally owned coffee shop that opened its doors just a few months ago. "Kweken Co. was dreamt up by partners McKenzie & Michael Kuiken, who loved the idea of bringing people together in a beautiful space to share a great idea and an awesome cup of coffee," according to the Kweken Co. website. "After living in the Pacific Northwest for a handful of years, these Orange City natives moved back with the goal of making an impact and helping to spur fresh energy in our small but growing town."

In the same vein, Brad's Bakery Bistro, formerly Brad's Breads and Bakery, is another lovely coffee shop that college students and Orange City locals like to support. "That community-centric model is core to Brad's Breads today. We bake and sell only in Sioux County, Iowa, ... often giving loaves to newcomers and those in need," according to bradsbakerybistro.com. "We are also intentional about

being present with our community."

Coffee shops are not the only entrepreneurial business in Orange City. For people's fried or grilled food needs, The Roadhouse is a locally owned restaurant located on Holland Plaza. "Locally owned and operated, The Roadhouse prides itself on offering its customers an amazing dining experience," according to The Roadhouse website. "Our mission is to create the best food and provide exceptional service that will leave guests feeling satisfied and ready to come back for more."

There may be many more sites in Orange City that were not covered, but it is important to show all entrepreneurs your support.

Entrepreneurship is not just a flashy way to make money with your passion, it is also good for the economy. "Innovation and entrepreneurship undeniably contribute to economic growth, making them a particular area of interest for economists and policymakers worldwide," according to investopedia.com.



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Kweken Co. is one of the new entrepreneur business in Orange City.

People decide to become entrepreneurs due to the freedom of "being your own boss," according to businessnewsdaily.com. Other reasons for desiring to become an entrepreneur include creative freedom. "Creativity and innovation are crucial to the entrepreneurial process," according to

entrepreneursdata.com. "They are important characteristics that propel entrepreneurs to create fresh concepts, goods and services, as well as come up with inventive solutions to market demands. Businesses that do not innovate run the trouble of losing a highly competitive market." Northwestern has

opportunities for students to talk about entrepreneurship, and NW even has an entrepreneurship minor in the business department.

Engineering program preview

FROM PAGE 1

in other major institutions."

Depending on the concentration, engineering major required credits will range from 127 to 135 credits.

Although the engineering major will not launch until next fall, students have a chance to take MAT200 (later ENGR200), Intro to Engineering and Design, this spring semester. If current NW students wish to declare an engineering major, this class will count towards an engineering major. "Students will have hands-

on experience with engineering projects and preview to various fields of engineering and fundamental math and science to continue on as an engineering major student," Dr. Byon said.

This engineering major contributes to the mission and vision of NW. According to Dr. Byon, "The engineering program aims to produce graduates who will: ethically and responsibly apply their engineering practices with an appreciation/understanding of a Christian confession that the fear of the Lord is

the beginning of knowledge; solve engineering problems by creatively applying appropriate theories, skills and tools; apply engineering design to produce sustainable solutions considering social, environmental, economic and societal factors; lead or collaborate with teammates through written and oral communication and management skills; and develop and conduct appropriate experiments to draw effective conclusions by adopting emerging techniques and tools."



COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM
The engineering major will have a focus on mathematics and science.



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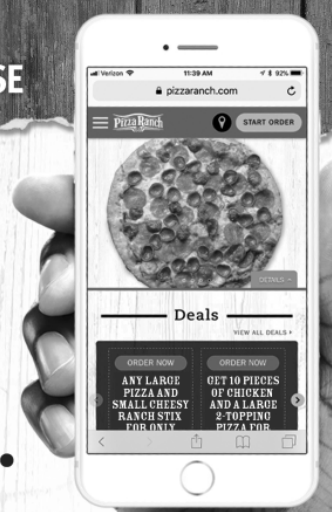
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HOT TAKES

THANKSGIVING ISN'T
THANKSGIVING WITHOUT
_____?

“My family getting mad
at each other over a board
game.”

“Turkey”

“Al Roker”

“Stuffing”

“Eels”

“Bloating”

“Being asked about my
relationship status by
relatives.”

WHERE DO YOU THINK
THE BEACON LAB IS ON
CAMPUS?

“Fourth floor of Hospers”

“VPH”

“In a secret room in PGC’s
house”

“The tunnel system”

“Somewhere in the
apartments????”

“Coly 321”

“Zwemer Tower”

“North Suites”

The quotes expressed in these polls
represent student opinion and is no way
intended to indicate particular perspectives
or beliefs of the beacon staff.

Be sure to follow the Beacon
on Instagram to submit your
own HOT TAKES!

Everyone should have a mullet



Collin Verschoor
English Teaching

For as long as I can remember, I have always cared what other people thought of me. Whether that meant if they thought I was nice or funny, if they thought I looked good or if they liked what I was wearing. This is not just something that I worry about either, I cannot give a statistic or point you towards a study, but this seems like a somewhat universal worry. We may play it up to be bigger than it is in our heads, but it is still a valid worry.

It was in high school that this worry was at its worst, to the point where it was all that I thought about. So, during my junior year I decided to take matters into my own hands, and I got a mullet. Party in the back business in the front, I made as much as I could not out of my hair that was far too short for a successful mullet. As I walked down the halls the next day I received looks, and I had close friends tell me that it was stupid or that I should get rid of it. However,

these comments meant nothing to me anymore. I had chosen a haircut I knew would look stupid, I walked into school knowing it did not look great, and it was in this knowledge that I was able to find a never-before-seen self-confidence.

I had taken away the power my own worry had given to other people’s judgements. It was during this time where I was able to come out of my shell and truly live for what seemed to be the first time. I no longer woke up and worried about what I wore or how I looked because I already knew that all people would notice was my stupid haircut.

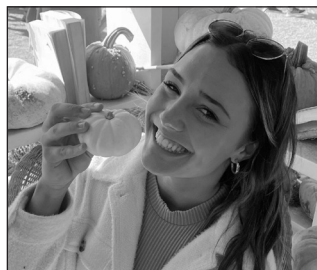
It is within this experience that I have started to live by the mantra that everyone should have a “mullet.” Of course, I do not endorse the idea of everyone having an ‘80s haircut, unless you feel compelled to, but rather I implore you to find your mullet. Even right now I have a “mullet” which is my mustache and facial hair that is hardly growing. For many their “mullet” can be a pair of shoes, an ironic t-shirt, a major haircut or even minor accessories. The only rule is that you recognize and accept how your “mullet” may be perceived by others.

Your chosen “mullet” does not have to be a large change, or something that changes your day-to-day life. A perfect example of a “mullet” in my life that was hidden in plain sight

happened last year when I lost my water bottle. After searching for a few days, I resorted to using a glass peanut butter jar that had been carefully and thoroughly cleaned as my water bottle. Not a day went by where someone wouldn’t ask me about the peanut jar. But I followed the one rule, I recognized how it looked to other people, and I was more than okay with it.

Do not take this advice as a fix-all, what worked for me may not work for you. It is important to recognize that these worries are valid and seeking out resources to ease them is always a good option. With this, if you are one to try new things, and you’re looking to shake up the way you go about life, then by all means, please get a “mullet.”

Women in male dominated careers



Reagan Scholling
Ag Business

It may be difficult but not impossible. As a female college student who is hoping to make it in a male dominated industry, there are many risks and fears that linger. There are many unknowns for women like me. Some of the questions that persist in my mind are, will I be taken seriously as a woman in this field? Will it be more difficult for me to land the position I am wanting? Will I have to sacrifice my passion for a workplace that respects me? I despise that these are things that women must think about but that is just the way it is. However, as I mentioned earlier, succeeding in these careers is not impossible by any means.

This past summer, I had a male co-worker who was asking me what my

goals are and what I was hoping to do in my career. I told him that I want to go into agricultural sales. To this he responded, “Goodluck finding clients that take you seriously. A lot of those guys refuse to let a woman be their salesperson.” At first, I took this to heart. I felt incredibly insulted, but I then realized that my co-worker was not trying to personally attack me. He was simply letting me know what I am getting myself into out of respect for me as he had seen it firsthand.

I dwelled on this for quite some time and was letting my thoughts win. I was telling myself that I would not do well in my career and was debating changing my goals due to this single comment. I then realized that this was the very problem. I was the problem. I was letting myself give up before I had even tried. Are there going to be a couple bumps in the road? Of course there are. However, I am much more than my fears and failures. I am mentally stronger than I let people give me credit for. All women are.

My schooling, my experiences and my skills can easily land me my dream job and will allow me to succeed in that. I am just as capable of accomplishing my goals as any other person may be.

I cannot let the little inconveniences stop me from becoming who I want to be. If we as women let ourselves believe the lies that men can do these things better, then we are a huge part of the problem. We cannot be fazed by this. Instead, we must hold our head high and persist. It is crucial to be confident in ourselves and our abilities going into anything whether it be a job interview, a sales pitch or anything of the sorts. A self-respecting woman is a well-respected woman to all.

As women in agriculture, engineering, finance, architecture and many more, we need to be sure of our skills. We are the minority in these careers because we have not yet taken the initiative to not be. The women that have succeeded in these roles before us have done so because they were not deterred. We are what we believe we are. We cannot let one stubborn man or one insulting comment change our mindset or our goals. We are more than capable of the mental toughness that these roles require. Previous women have defied the odds in these careers, so why can’t we?

Let’s do this, let’s defy the odds.

Editor’s Note

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Raider volleyball wins GPAC tournament

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE TEAM?

COLLIN VERSCHOOR
ENGLISH TEACHING

Northwestern has achieved tremendous seasons in their fall sports, earning the title of Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) champions in volleyball, football and men's soccer.

With an incredible season behind them the NW volleyball team was able to secure the championship banner after a hard-fought battle against the number four ranked Concordia University (Nebraska).

After winning the first set with a score of 25-17 NW was on fire, and the Bultman center was electric. In the second set Concordia flipped

the score and rallied for a win over NW with a score of 17-25. With fire in their hearts, and the score looking even the Raiders kicked into high gear. Concordia may have won the third set 23-25, but there was no way the Raiders would give up.

Knowing that it was all or nothing in the fourth set, with Concordia only needing one more set to win the match, the Raiders worked harder than ever. In the fourth set NW evened the score to 2-2 after winning the set 25-21. It just so happened that the Raiders were the team that showed up winning the set 15-11 and securing the GPAC tournament championship.

"This was quite a win for our team! The level of play from both teams was so high," commented

head coach Kyle Van Den Bosch. "The defense that both teams played made for some unbelievable volleyball! I thought each of our players did their role well. Thanks, also, to Raider Nation for an amazing home environment!"

This is the fourth GPAC tournament title won under Coach Van Den Bosch, and the first time it has been won since 2014. The Raiders are scheduled to host the opening round of the national tournament on Nov. 18 at 1:00 p.m.

"Going to nationals feels like the perfect way to end the season, and many of our careers. This group of seniors is special, and we hope to continue to add to our legacy by getting a result at the national tournament," said De Boer.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM
Coach Kyle Van Den Bosch strategizes with the volleyball team.

RSC fitness center treatment and upkeep

ETIQUETTE AND EQUIPMENT

CHEYENNE SCHMIT
BUSINESS ADM/MARKETING

Northwestern has many amenities for its students, with one of those being the DeWitt Physical Fitness Center. The fitness center is a part of the Rowenhorst Student Center and features free weights, fitness machines, three racquetball courts and a game room. The upkeep of this part of campus is primarily maintained by students who either use it or are work-studies. The way that people use the fitness center and treat the things they use can make it harder to keep the machines in working order. This can also be a way that germs are spread when

people do not wipe down the equipment they use.

"Do not take up the machinery or leave equipment out when it is not in use. I wish there was more of a larger variety of equipment or even more due to the large stream of gym traffic at certain hours," said Ashley Montez.

With the fitness center being on the smaller side and with a large number of both on and off campus users, perhaps offering hours open to only men or only women would help to balance the number of people and space in the fitness center. While there are times throughout the day when the fitness center is less busy, there are those times, like after supper and practices where the center is full of people.

"There should be women/

men only hours because there is unfortunately men who are overall creeps and make things so awkward. They believe that flexing while women is present is so impressive," said Montez.

The racquetball courts are available to play racquetball or do mat-based exercises like yoga. The courts are also available for reservation. The 4-courts area is also available for reservation, or to simply play a game of basketball. The 4-courts also includes an indoor track which is another part of the fitness center. Many people on and off campus use this part to run or walk around the track or to play many games where equipment can be borrowed from the front desk. The game room features a pool table, two ping pong tables and a foosball table.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LILLIAN REITH
NW student cleans a bench after her set.

Men's soccer is in the national tournament

FIRST SINCE 2007

CLARA PAHL
ENGLISH

The number two seeded Northwestern College men's soccer team snuffed out no. 4 seeded Morningside 2-1 to win the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) championship on Thursday, November 9. The Raiders (15-4-2, 8-1-2 GPAC) snatched their banner to enter the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) tournament.

The riveting game enthralled the home crowd. Senior Gerard Uamai (Dundalk, Republic of Ireland) was assisted by senior Marco Alessio's

(Chioggia, Italy) free kick in the first half to head the ball into the goal. Uamai was proud of his team's success.

"I don't score headers often, but I did when it mattered, so that would be my favorite [moment]... and the celebrations with my brothers," said Uamai.

In 37 games, Uamai has scored 17 points and completed one assist. Before the match, the team agreed to be relentless competitors. After half, the Raiders quickly scored again.

Freshman Bongkefon Kumla (Falkensee, Germany) broke some Morningside ankles on the defensive before giving up the ball to 5'10 forward Junior Stan van den Beld (Voorhout,

Netherlands). This was Kumla's first career assist to help van den Beld seal the deal with a goal.

Van den Beld has played 59 games and has scored 55 points during his NW career. Other key players of the season have been 6'2 goalee Pablo Aspas Mejias (Valencia, Spain).

"The two goals were key moments, but... I believe what truly made the difference was our attitude. We managed to create a very powerful bond among us; we are brothers, we are family, and we fought until the end, giving all for each other," said Mejias.

His season high of nine saves was against Dakota Wesleyan on Oct. 4. The championship was

the pinnacle of many seasons since the trophy had not been won since 2007.

Senior Adam De Boer is proud of his team's unity, which is often considered a brotherhood by players.

"Going to nationals feels like the perfect way to end the season, and many of our careers. This group of seniors is special, and we hope to continue to add to our legacy by getting a result at the national tournament," said De Boer.

The team found out their location for the first round on Nov. 13. They will practice with more determination now that "every game could be the last one."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW ATHLETICS
Men's soccer celebrates after their win.

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Documentary dispels misconceptions

IMMIGRATION AWARENESS EVENT

KACEY ZICKEFOOSE
YOUTH MINISTRY

It is no secret how politicized immigration is in America. A Northwestern professor, Dr. Jason Lief, hosted a documentary showing and panel discussion on the matter of immigration because he wants, “students at NW to recognize the complexity of the issue and to get the human face of the issue.”

The event was held on Nov. 9 in the Vogel Room on campus and had about 50 people in attendance. The documentary “Border of Dreams” was created by Bethel University students and faculty and directed by Nataly Basterrechea. The film follows two families attempting to cross the southern border into the United States.

Kurt Rietema, interviewed in the documentary and a guest on the panel, commented about how he “[hears] a lot about the politization of the southern border and most of it is coming from a U.S. perspective.” Rietema continues, “This film will help you understand the perspective of people that are on the other side—

the stories that are not being told, the things that are not coming out. Listen to the stories of the people it is actually affecting.”

Another panelist was Yonathan Moya, the founder and executive director of an organization called “Border Perspective.” “We often only engage the immigration conversation from a political perspective, but there is a faith-based lens through the gospel to humanize the immigration conversation because really immigration is about people,” Moya said. “Students [must ask] the question of how do we humanize those we often politicize for the sake of loving our neighbor?”

The documentary showed the hardships that immigration brings, the misconceptions Americans believe about immigration and how most immigrants intend on immigrating to overcome suffering but end up losing their loved ones. “Why would I choose to go to the U.S.? I would choose to stay next to my children,” said a father of one of the families in the film.

A NW student who attended the event commented, “Their living conditions do not allow them to stay. The heartbeat of the gospel is to welcome immigrants into our homes and give them a shirt off our own back. Why do we



PHOTO SUBMITTED After the showing of the “Border of Dreams” documentary, a panel of immigration reform advocates spoke.

choose to not love our neighbor?”

Another NW student, Julia Boller, is passionate about this issue and would encourage individuals to have this conversation with people who have or know someone who has closely experienced immigration. “People immigrate out of love and necessity,” Boller said. The half-hour long “Border of Dreams” documentary can be found online Dec. 15, and Boller

would encourage NW students to watch it.

Rietema would encourage NW students to “advocate for processes that at least give them [immigrants] a fair chance to go before an immigration judge.” Rietema looked online during the panel discussion and explained how applications to go before an immigration judge that were submitted March 22, 1988, are

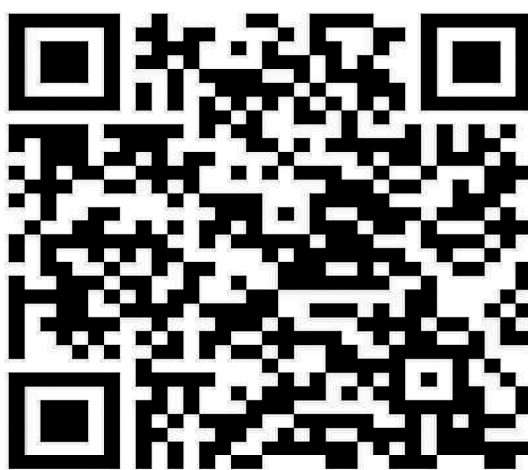
just now being accepted. He highlighted how the processes for immigrants to attain legal status are broken and contrast the assumptions many Americans hold.

The panel encouraged attendees to advocate, pray, volunteer and remember that these people, immigrants, are not projects or burdens—they are our neighbors.



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