The Ham, December 1, 2017

Beacon Staff
Right-sizing done the right way

YOU GET TO MERGE. YOU GET TO MERGE. EVERYONE GETS TO MERGE!

SHELBY MAZINO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ever since Northwestern began the process of ‘right-sizing’ a few years ago, this, and so we wanted experiencing quite a few changes. It’s no surprise, then, to hear of a new addition to the process that could quite possibly be called the greatest—nay, wisest—decision in the history of college ‘right-sizing.’

Vice President for Academic Affairs, Mark Murhunders, recently sent letters to Communications majors, announcing the official merger of Public Relations into the Business department. Those graduating this year will still be able to walk as Comm. at graduation, but all others will have to walk with Business.

Murhunders isn’t stopping with this merger, though. The idea of merging PR into a department that doesn’t necessarily fit them is to give the inspiration to do the same with other departments.

PR has an element, albeit small, of business to it, Murhunders said. ‘It would make more sense to merge them into a writing-intensive major, but the business part is really the most important part.’

Murhunders decided to use this approach when deciding what other majors and departments will be merged. The task has been difficult, but Murhunders is confident in his well-thought-out decision.

‘This is a great time for NW’ Murhunders said. ‘The merging of more majors will make our college a beacon to students wanting to take classes outside of their major. This is a new, fresh spin on liberal arts education.’

Though the other letters have yet to be sent out, sources have confirmed that the mergers will be happening in spring 2018. Like the Communications department cut and merger, students should not expect to receive the news until after the deed is done.

Below is a short list of some of the majors being merged together. Please keep in mind that although these may seem absurd, they are absolutely true. Just like the Communications cut and merger, these decisions were not made lightly and make complete sense for the well-being of the college.

- Nursing and Writing & Rhetoric
- Theatre and Computer Science
- Criminal Justice and Actuarial Science
- Athletic Training and Music
- Physics and Biochemistry

In addition, all basketball players will be required to participate in theatre productions (who doesn’t want to pretend they’re in High School Musical?) and racquetball is a must for any non-athlete student because nothing prepares you for God’s redeeming work in the world like watching the game of whacking a ball against the wall.

NW takes a pass on community

FAMED. BELOVED BUZZWORD MEETS DEMISE WITH NEW COLLEGE INITIATIVE

ABBEY SLATTERY
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

After hammering the keyword community into the minds of students of every generation, Northwestern has chosen to boldly denounce their decades-long decision. Though they have touted themselves as a Christian community before, they are now choosing to advertise the school as a bunch of people on a Christian campus that just so happen to be in loosely the same area, but not really hanging out that much.

“We realized that division is just a really necessary key to success, and so we wanted to keep pushing that with our student body,” said NW president Craig Gris. “If I can walk through campus and not see one student talking to another, I know I’m doing my job well.”

Dale McRorie, the Dean of Christian Formation or something, agreed with Gris’s sentiments but assured students this was not a negative change, but rather a step in a new and exciting direction.

“A lot of students come to me concerned about a step away from community, but I just reflect on the words of poet Robert Frost in those situations: good fences make good neighbors,” McRorie said. “And that dude knew what he was talking about. He wrote lots of words, so some of them have to be right.”

In order to effectively implement the change, NW will require students to live off campus after their freshman year. They will also encourage students to take all of their classes online and disband the discussion post feature, to the dismay of many students.

“It’s actually pretty hard to figure out how to discourage community,” Gris said. “I did a quick web search and came up with nothing, so we’re really just winging it right now.”

Most students aren’t totally sure how they feel about the switch, but they are open to changes they may bring.

“I remember when I came to NW, the first thing I thought was, ‘Wow, this place could use a lot less community,’” junior Skarby Dillern said. “So that’s cool that they’re listening to my thoughts.”

“I mean, at some point, once you separate people enough, then this doesn’t really become a college anymore,” Gris said. “So that’s the end goal. Destroy the campus, absorb the college and build a giant sports complex for the donors.”

PHOTO BY CHERISH HENRY

Despite NW’s discouraging community, the campus squeegees remain resilient in their protest of the change by hanging out on the green in front of chapel asking the question, ‘What would Jesus do?”
NUTTY NEWS

Day in the life of the Red Raider

LEARNING ABOUT THE MISUNDERSTOOD MASCOT

BEN PATZLAFF
OPINIONS EDITOR

The Red Raider is arguably one of the most misunderstood people residing on Northwestern's campus. In fact, many people do not acknowledge his existence and only consider him as a figure who represents the various athletic teams here on campus, but the Red Raider is just another member of campus who also desires to be part of the community here at NW.

The Red Raider, better known by his birth name Phil, starts his day out bright and early around 5 a.m. He waits outside the back entrance of the cafeteria to welcome the cooks and other cafeteria workers, but he always gets cold feet and has never actually worked up the courage to talk to them.

"I'm not really a social butterfly," Phil explained. "I didn't really have any friends growing up, so I never learned how to have a conversation." After this daily ritual, Phil then waits near the dumpster until the cal workers dump the leftovers from breakfast so he can get a meal.

Later in the day, Phil waits around to see what sports teams are having practices and then, depending on where the practice is, observes the players from afar such as in the rafters of the Butlerman Center or the trees near the soccer field.

"I never played a sport. That's why I became a mascot." - Phil, the Red Raider

"Nobody knows what I look like or even understands what a Red Raider is," Phil said dejectedly. "So I'm just afraid to approach anybody due to a fear of rejection. I mean they are probably cool people, but I never played a sport. That's why I became a mascot."

Phil also explained how, even though he avidly watches each sport that he represents, he does not understand how most of them work.

"I saw the golf team lifting weights the other day and became really confused," Phil explained. "There was this kid Vana Dan Ostrand who was dead-lifting 300 pounds and then only curling like 12 pounds. It seemed very disproportionate to me."

Although he criticizes, Phil understands his duties as NW's mascot and fully supports all sports programs.

That is the beloved Red Raider. Someone whom people think is unique and totally different from themselves, but at the end of the day, he is just like you and me: seeking a deeper understanding of himself and his purpose here in the world.

Marriage decrease motivates romantic maneuvers

RING BY SPRING INITIATIVE KICKS OFF

JAMIE PRESCOTT
NEWS EDITOR

Statistics from recent Quality of Life surveys have indicated a decrease in marriage among NW students. As a result, NW plans to implement preventative measures to ensure that numbers do not continue to drop.

"We noticed a dramatic drop in the number of students getting married this year," said Dean of Residence Life Harlon Maverdink, "so we're going to do something about it."

Maverdink and President Craig Gristy have already begun the initial stages of what they call the Ring By Spring initiative, funded by a grant from members of the Orange City business community.

Kicking off the initiative is a DTR (Define the Relationship) retreat in February, just before Valentine's Day.

"Defining the relationship is a crucial aspect to any romantic relationship," Gristy said. "The purpose of the DTR retreat is to encourage healthy communication between two interested parties, while cultivating community at the same time."

At the weekend retreat, students will have the opportunity to attend the following seminars: "Seeking Him while Seeking Him," "Couples that pray together stay together," and "How to know if she's the one." The retreat will end with heart-to-heart sessions over coffee at Townsquare Coffeehouse.

"If all goes well," Maverdink said, "a lot of relationships will be defined—for the better."

NW is also in the process of developing a curriculum to encourage the ring by spring. Over the course of the semester, students will write love letters and practice speaking engagements such as meeting the parents and asking someone out on the first date.

"The class will be very similar to FYS," said Maverdink. "We are hoping to make the class mandatory for all freshmen, beginning fall 2018."

Maverdink is hoping the class will eventually lead to the development of MR. and MRS. degrees.

Stirred by NW's Ring By Spring initiative is increased talk of married student housing.

"We're looking at a few different options," Maverdink said. "We're considering the option of underground apartments on the campus green, but PCG has also graciously offered the option of married housing in his basement.

Further information regarding the initiative will be released periodically next semester.
HOT HAM SOUP

Christmas tears apart beloved community

DISC GOLFERS OUTRAGED OVER "CHRISTMAS" TREE

BRIAN FOLETTI
SPORTS EDITOR

Many gathered around Zwerner Hall last Monday to celebrate a new tradition of lighting PCG’s Christmas tree. To those there it marked a “bright” night bringing in the Christmas season. To a certain elite group on campus, however, it was a dark day. To all of the dedicated disc golfers on campus the right served as a harsh reminder of when the campus’s course changed forever.

A couple months ago, administration decided to plant new Christmas trees along with three other massive trees right in the middle of campus. Many thought it was a pleasant addition. However, (the disc golf community) saw it as an utter disaster for their beloved campus course.

A big time player, Maui Pechet, noted that it is nothing but a gigantic blockade. He said it was almost identical to when the Trade Federation put a blockade up around Naboo in Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace.

Some brave souls have attempted to play the course despite the enormous wall of trees in the middle of the course. Most that have tried though have given up half way through out of sheer frustration.

Many argue that the colossal mass of trees does not really change the course. However, they could be more wrong. Take Hole 4 for example. It was once a simple Par 3. But when the towering tree additions came into play the PDGA rated the hole a whopping Par 17. No one has birdied the hole yet.

The Northwestern College Campus Disc Golf community committee or the NCCDGGC met to find a solution to this epic dilemma. Some wanted to go as far as to cut the trees down in the middle of the night. The idea was vetoed by the leaders of the NCCDGGC; however, as they did not want the disc golf community to be seen in a negative light. The NCCDGGC has decided to work on writing a strongly worded tweet passing aggressively sub tweeting at PGC. They hope this will help their cause and bring back the once great campus disc golf course.

Conform and embrace: STEREOTYPES

EXCEPT FOR STEGGY AND NORTH THEY ARE PURE

RACHEL KOERTNER
FEATURE EDITOR

As the year goes on, even the new students are starting to realize that dormitory stereotypes are a real thing. Fern, Stegy, Hospers, Coly and North Suites all have their individual characteristics, and it becomes clearer the longer one stays at Northwestern.

Let’s start with Fern. Fern is full of fun, beautiful girls. However, an additional characteristic that is not too conventional is that Fern girls are expert squirrel catchers. The stereotype that Fern girls are obsessed with squirrels is definitely true. The resident director (RD) of Fern, Lindsay Lubbell confirms this.

“There is a secret basement of Fern where the girls keep all of the squirrels that they catch,” said Lubbell.

“We have about 20 in there from this year already.” However, Fern’s squirrel obsessed stereotype is not the only one that is well known on campus. According to a recent survey of all NW students, 96 percent believe that Hospers guys are most known for their food-eating contests. So far this year, the boys have participated in a variety of competitions having to do with hot dogs, mashed potatoes, pies and more. Hospers’ RD Michael Mimmelenk and his wife provide all the food, and the boys devour it. Some of the boys even hold Guinness World records.

In addition to Hospers’ stereotype of being phenomenal at food-eating contests, Coly often gets labeled as the dorm that is full of guys that are good at sand volleyball. Since Orange City is surrounded by beaches, the boys are able to get plenty of practice. They are known to be very dedicated.

“They will do what is takes to be the best, even if that means they have to skip a couple classes,” Coly’s RD Hody Cughes said.

This dedication pays off, as the boys have won the national championship in sand volleyball for five years straight.

All of this is well known to every student on campus, and therefore it is safe to say that stereotypes run rampant here at NW. However, this is not necessarily a bad thing. The Dean of Student Life Ellie Jelliott comments on the subject.

“Stereotypes are a great thing,” Jelliott said. “They just help us get to know each other better.”

editor’s note: THIS ARTICLE WAS BASED ON PARTLY TRUE EVENTS; PLEASE NOTE THAT MIMMELS NOW HAS A WIFE

PHOTO BY: CHERISH HENRY

A furry resident of North Suites in the comfort of his stereotype-free hallway lounges in an attempt to flee the wrath of Fern girls and their succulent traps.
Old Man Zwemer revealed

CARVED INTO STONE OF OLD ZWEMER HALL

EMELIE SWONGER
CO-FEATURES EDITOR

For years, Northwestern students have wondered who is responsible for playing music from Zwemer tower, turning the commute to class into a happenin' dance party. Some students have speculated that the admissions counselors play music, hoping to capture the attention of prospective students.

Others have surmised that President Craig Grisy is in charge of the Zwemer playlist. But on Monday afternoon, all previous theories were shattered when a peculiar new face hobbled into Grisy's office.

"I was sitting at my computer, preparing my remarks for the Christmas tree lighting when a white-haired fellow knocked on my door," Grisy said. "You can imagine my surprise when he revealed himself as the in-house DJ and Zwemer Hall's namesake."

Harig "Hairy" Van Zwemer, also known as "Old Man Zwemer," has been a resident of Zwemer tower since NW's founding in 1882. Having recently celebrated his 135th birthday, Van Zwemer decided it was time to come out of hiding and get to know the students he sees walking around campus from his tower window.

"I'm a bit socially awkward," Van Zwemer said. "Over the years, I've learned that I communicate best through music. So whenever students are looking especially burdened by their workload, I pull out my old record player and give 'er a spin."

In addition to his use of music to spread campus cheer, Van Zwemer said he is currently working on a new project to entertain students. He plans on training the campus squirrels, affectionately known as Chester, Nutsy and Chip Longborne, to perform a circus sideshow of mamalian acrobatics.

"Chester, Nutsy and Chip are great fellows," Van Zwemer said. "They work hard and are getting to be real masters of mammalian acrobatics. I hope these little fellows bring as much joy to campus as they've brought me."

Van Zwemer may have been the biggest campus mystery since Fred Nice's "Mystery Meat Monday" in the Caf. But Old Man Zwemer is relieved that his secret is finally out in the open. Now he can focus on what he really loves: teaching squirrels how to do hand springs in time to Taylor Swift's new single.

LOOK WHAT YOU MADE ME DO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

-Mahrist Coffee shop owner

Meve Stahr

JAYDE LOGEMANN
COPY EDITOR

Local business owner Meve Stahr announced this week over social media that Town Square Coffee House, formerly The Old Factory, will be moving location once again and changing its name. The coffee shop and kitchen will be moving into that one random barn with the American flag roof off Highway 10 and becoming Corn Field Coffee Shop this coming spring.

Town Square only moved to its current location in the heart of downtown Orange City in May, but Stahr thinks that another move would be advantageous.

"We really saw an increase in sales following the last move, especially right after our re-opening," Stahr said. "People were excited to see the new place and to find out whether the atmosphere in Town Square would match the feel of the Old Factory. We predict the same thing will happen when we move into the new building."

Stahr also believes the location of the new building will help boost sales.

"Now that we are on Central, we see a lot more traffic going by outside our window," Stahr said. "A lot of those people stop by. We believe we will see the same thing occur when we move just off the highway. We also believe that this new location, situated between Orange City and Sioux Center, will help us attract customers from both towns."

In addition to the new building and the centralized location, Stahr mentioned another major change which helped increase sales following the move downtown: they obtained a permit to sell alcohol. Town Square now sells beer and wine in addition to coffee, smoothies, tea and food.

"Adding alcohol to our menu really helped us to grow as a business," Stahr said. "We are planning to step up our game with this move by adding in a movie theater."

Stahr believes that Corn Field Coffee Shop will now be the perfect location for a date night: a couple will be able to grab coffee, eat a meal, catch a movie and then have a few drinks without having to step foot outside.

"I believe this will be especially attractive to customers during the cold winter months," Stahr said. "Rearranging the bar has already begun. Stahr hopes to open Corn Field Coffee Shop in time for Tulip Festival."

Zyler Teuton, recent father of a new squired pub, enjoys a cup of Joe in celebration. He is somewhat distraught about the change in location but does not feel that dampened his vibes.