Spent some time with your family this weekend

BY CHANTELL STEGGERDA  
STAFF WRITER

This weekend will feature a variety of events in honor of Northwestern’s Fall Family Weekend.

To start the weekend, Tyler James will give a concert at 8 p.m. on Friday in the Hub. James, who spent a part of his childhood in Orange City, is an indie-pop artist whose musical style is “piano-driven,” as described by Student Activities Council (SAC) Director Lori Couch.

James’ style has been described on more than one occasion as “vulnerable,” a style that “grows on you.”


“I was not sure how it settled on music,” said James. “Sometimes you just know you were created to do something.”

The concert is open to the public and free of charge.

The Northwestern College Women’s Auxiliary will kick off the festivities on Saturday, featuring their annual continental breakfast and silent auction in the RSC mini gym. The breakfast will be open from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The silent auction features donated items including baked goods, plants, gift baskets, crafts and produce. The items will be open for bidding from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Proceeds of the silent auction will go toward the Women’s Auxiliary’s pledge to the Learning Commons.

Saturday evening features a concert, showcasing several of NW’s performance groups. A range of pieces will be performed by Women’s Choir, Symphonette, Acappella Choir, a piano trio on one piano, a piano duet by NW’s Dr. Kang and Dr. Dahn, The Heritage Singers and the Symphonic Band. The two choirs will feature special student accompaniment. The concert will be held in Christ Chapel at 7 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Following the concert, at 7:30 in Christ Chapel, will be the sold-out show by acclaimed Christian comedian Ken Davis. Tickets may still be purchased for a matinee show at 2:45 p.m. on Saturday. NW students and family can purchase tickets for this show for $10. General public may purchase tickets for $15, and tickets at the door cost $18.

Also at this time, the 2007 Parents of the Year Alan and Kim Schmidt will be honored. The Schmidts were nominated by their daughter, senior Audra Schmidt. All five of the Schmidt children have attended NW; Audra is the last.

“All of them going to NW was just God’s plan,” said Kim Schmidt. “They all felt NW was the best fit.”

The weekend’s main events will close with a 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday in Christ Chapel.

There are other things to keep in mind throughout the weekend. The football team will play Morningside College in Sioux City at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is $8 per adult and $2 for students with their ID. Families may visit their student’s residence hall beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Meal tickets for Saturday lunch, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., cost $6.50. Meal tickets for Saturday supper, 5 to 6:30 p.m., and Sunday lunch cost $8.50.

Board approves new strategic plan

New gen eds and men’s dorm are among its initiatives

BY JANICE SWIER  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For the past year and a half the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, led by John Brogan, vice president for student development, and Adrienne Forgette, associate dean for academic affairs, has been meeting in order to create a new strategic plan for the college. Next July the “Transforming Learning” strategic plan will be officially instated, replacing the “Vision for the Future” strategic plan that was created during the 1997-1998 academic year.

The “Transforming Learning” strategic plan outlines three strategic initiatives: one, create an engaged community of learners; and three, secure the physical, financial, and organizational resources necessary for all members of the community.

While all of these initiatives are very important in the make-up of the plan, Brogan feels, “The heart and the soul of the strategic plan is the first initiative.” The first initiative’s intent is to create an engaged and vibrant community of students who are willing to encourage one another to be active learners. Brogan said that learning is not just something that takes place in the classroom; learning takes place in every aspect of a student’s life, and the plan recognizes and fosters that.

In order to better create this type of environment, the plan has outlined a few steps the college is going to make. One such step is by expanding the opportunities faculty and staff have to reflect upon and discuss different aspects of faith and learning and the mission of the college.

Also, the college intends to create ongoing venues that will allow students to challenge themselves to pursue truth faithfully as they listen to ideas and contribute their own on important and controversial issues that call for Christian discussion.

Among many other things, the college plans to adopt a new general education program, expand the study abroad program and review and adjust the academic calendar to facilitate different types of learning.

The second initiative, which deals with recruitment and retention, is going to implement new facets for the college. Northwestern may start offering online classes to encourage a more diverse student body. Different recruitment strategies may be implemented, and current recruitment and retention policies will be examined.

The third initiative discusses the college community’s available resources. This plan focuses on the facility needs of the college, including developing new sources of revenue and maintaining quality technology. This initiative includes plans for the construction of the Learning Commons, renovations to Ramaker Library and the Rowenhorst Student Center and possibly the building of an event center.

Plans for a new men’s dorm have also been started. The board authorized spending $200,000 on architectural plans for a building that will likely replace Heemstra and West.

The building will house up to 300 students. There will also be an attempt to divide the building into two to four living communities, due to requests from current dorm residents to preserve the existing small communities.

“One of the board’s goals is to retain the sense of close community that our current residence plan offers,” said Murphy.

The third initiative also outlines the importance of having a permanent Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee. This committee will prioritize and implement plan objectives, issue reports to the campus outlining the plan’s progression, and engage in ongoing long-term strategic planning.

According to Forgette, “Ideally the committee will hold the campus responsible to the strategic plan.” It is important that the entire college stays focused on the plan because, as Brogan said, “this plan has more of a whole community ownership of accomplishing a goal.”

According to President Murphy the strategic plan earned its title “Transforming Learning” for two reasons, “First,” Murphy said, “the plan is going to transform how learning happens on our campus. Its second meaning is that the learning will help transform the students.”

The plan’s purpose is to benefit the college by keeping the campus more focused on the goals and learning that are meant to be accomplished and take place here.

Brogan said, “My desire is that the plan will help accomplish the mission of the school.”
world peace? get real.

by brett vander berg

Two years ago I spent a night with four people in a tent made for two in Windmill Park while a thunderstorm poured on us all night long, intent on writing letters to George Bush to help oppressed African children. At the time it seemed like a great idea, “WWJD” right? Two years later I’m still troubled by distress in the world but have new questions about the definition of justice and liberation.

People love to use the phrase “God is a god of justice,” to which I agree, but in essence this statement limits our view of God. Is God not also, among an infinite list of things, the God of creation, multiplication, and redemption? What happens when God is only given “justice” (or injustice) to take care of?

In the wake of WWI, Germany was left in a humanitarian crisis facing food shortages, economic isolation, unemployment and huge debts to its neighbors. The Nazi party offered at least two limited forms of culturally defined justice to God’s plan begins at conception

by jaime havery

You may have seen people walking around campus this past week with red armbands and the word “life” written on them. Our Students For Life club was recognizing the nationwide Day of Silence, where thousands of people gave up their voices for one day to respect the over 50,000,000 babies who have had their voices silenced since January 22, 1973, because of abortion. Though we didn’t remain silent, we wanted to provide awareness and recognition of this influential event.

Psalm 139: 13-16 states, “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” Psalm 22:10 says, “From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother’s womb you have been my God.”

How many times have we heard these passages in relation to pro-life? How many pro-life campaigns have used these as their key slogans? In just four verses (Psalm 139:13-16), God provides a solid argument against abortion. Right from conception, God has a plan for every one of his children. Not a plan of “what ifs”, but one of confidence and purpose. We are made in his image and take on his likeness, even from inside the womb, or “the secret place.”

Some may think these verses from Psalms are overused, but I often refer to them for guidance when considering the controversial issue of abortion. Do I not and cannot fully comprehend the intricacies of our development while in the womb? But I know that the heart begins to work in the first month, organs in the second month, bones and muscles develop in the third month, and fingers can close in the fourth month. Does science not argue that one is alive if his or her heart is beating? From the first month of pregnancy, a baby meets this criterion.

But the Bible teaches differently: “For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things” (Romans 2:1b). Do we as Christians not oppress? Are we

letter to the editor

we would like to thank all of the students who participated in this week’s trick-or-treat in the dorms. we appreciate your friendship and enthusiasm, especially considering how hectic student life can be. our son would specifically like to thank everyone for the overwhelming amount of candy he received. sincerely, tom and elizabeth truesdell

aidan truesdell enjoys trick-or-treating in the dorms.

northwestern college

beacon

the beacon is the student newspaper serving the campus community of northwestern college. published weekly and distributed friday and saturday, the beacon encourages comment from readers. all letters must be 300 words or less, signed with a phone number, and turned in to the beacon office located in the basement of granberg hall by wednesday at 6 p.m. the beacon reserves the right to edit letters. to obtain a subscription, please send $10 to address below.
In need of another “Rendition”

BY AMANDA WRIGHT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Once again a government policy inspires a political film that only scratches the surface of the controversial topic. The recent policy of rendition involves the extradition of any suspected terrorists in attempt to find information about potential terrorist attacks. In the newly released film “Rendition,” director Gavin Hood attempts to capture the actions and feelings of that governmental policy in a real life situation. Unfortunately, this attempt, for the most part, fails.

The plot line seems a little over the top and only demonstrates one possible direction for real life renditions to go. The American wife (Reese Witherspoon) of an Egyptian-born chemical engineer (Omar Metwally) desperately tries to track down her husband after he disappears on a flight from Africa to Washington, D.C. In her search she faces callous CIA officials who control the actions of a rookie CIA analyst (Jake Gyllenhaal) in charge of the “interrogation,” the government’s tactful way to say “torture.”

With an impressive cast of three Oscar award-winners and other experienced actors “Rendition” appears to have an advantage. However, it came as a surprise to see the lackluster performances from not just one but nearly every cast member. I have never seen Meryl Streep so unconvincing as a hard-nosed official. She was more convincing in “The Devil Wears Prada.” Jake Gyllenhaal gave a sub-par performance as Douglas Freeman, the rookie CIA agent with a heart. He seems unmotivated and uninterested in most of the film. Even everyone’s favorite Southern belle, Reese Witherspoon, was unconvincing playing Isabella, the very pregnant wife of the rendition victim Anwar El-Ibrahim (Omar Metwally). The only actors worth praising would be Metwally and Sarsgaard, who plays Alan Smith, congressional aid. In the torture scenes Metwally gives an incredible performance and proves himself a great actor. Sarsgaard, too, is able to bring tension to his argument scene with Streep and really get into his character.

Not only were the other actors unimpressive, but the characters they were portraying were unimpressive as well. The characters seemed very underdeveloped, as the film gave very little background information on them. It was difficult to see the characters and feel their pain, to feel sorry for them and to relate with them in any way. While watching the film it is easy to see that an attempt was made for it to be a deep, groundbreaking and emotional film. Unfortunately, it did not dive as deep as they had hoped.

What’s more, on top of the already complex plot the filmmakers added a modern “Romeo and Juliet” sub-plot. This ends up adding a twist at the film’s end but seems to take the story off-track and make it lag.

For even more confusion, the final scenes of “Rendition” are ambiguous, leaving the meaning to be interpreted in different ways. Once Anwar finally makes it home after being held prisoner it is not understood if he was actually guilty or not. There seem to be hints pointing in both directions that ultimately just create needless confusion.

“Rendition” is rated R for violent scenes (torturing, shooting), nudity, torture and interrogation, blood and gore, brief sexual content and alcohol use.

“Still Feels Good” reaches new heights

BY RACHEL RIETSEMA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Rascal Flatts’ fifth album release definitely lives up to its title, “Still Feels Good.” While listening to 30-second samples on iTunes, I knew this CD would need to blast in my headphones a few days later. Gary LeVox, Jay DeMarcus and Joe Don Rooney’s voices create an indescribable energy every time I press play. These laid-back musicians give praise to God with their renditions to go. The American Country Music Association, Academy of Country Music and Country Music Television Vocal Group of the Year, they never cease to amaze me.

The genius skills of Kenny Chesney, Wendell Mobley and Neil Thrasher become quite apparent in the lyrics of the album’s first single release “Take Me There.” The harmonies heard within the track’s chorus deeply move me. Nowhere in this song do I become disappointed. The soothing yet heart-wrenching essence allows the listener to relate to her “true love” and long to unveil the unseen places in her love’s heart.

Along with the excellent rhythms of guitars, you’ll find a song that does not fit into the norm; it’s filled with a window of hope that surpasses anything I’ve ever heard. Equally unique is the song entitled “Here,” which tells the story about a guy who has finally realized who’s always been in front of him. An element that enriches this song even further is the fact that he is “thankful for the tears” and God’s plan to lead him to the perfect girl.

Two songs worthy of some dancing are called “Bob that Head” and “Secret Smile,” which will leave you doing just that.

Despite the honky-tonk nature, non-country fans may find songs they can enjoy, with the upbeat drums and quick guitars.

Another track, “Help Me Remember,” encompasses a universal feeling: how people long to keep certain moments alive. As for the title track, the lyrics to “Still Feels Good” allow the listener to envision the innocent times spent with a first love. The lyrics ponder if such love “would get old.” However, even on repeat this track remains fresh.

Identifying with the song “Winner at a Losing Game” is easy as it also expresses a common theme. Rascal Flatts steps it up a notch, though, with the classic phrase, “It’s time to tell this uphill fight goodbye.” It superbly sums up what most of the world has had to do at one point. Along with its gently spoken words, the chorus again reveals the band’s remarkable harmonization.

My first impression of “Better Now” was “Oh, another sad song,” but I was taken aback. It’s a dynamic song that sits up emotions of regret. The intense emotion expressed within each word shows that the music truly flows through the band. I’m convinced that the lyrics will resonate with every listener.

“Still Feels Good” will either be a good experience or a bad one, but I’m glad my tastes changed about country so that I could bask in their rich voices and powerful words.
BY KRISTI KORVER
STAFF WRITER

Since 1977 the Alumni Association of Northwestern has been sponsoring the Parents of the Year award. The 2007 recipients are Allan and Kim Schmidt of Arthur, Iowa.

Around a month ago the Schmidts got back from a long day of working in the classroom to see the red light on their answering machine blinking. Upon pressing play they heard President Murphy’s voice. Allan’s automatic reaction was to ask, “What did the kids do?”

After listening to the message, they discovered that their kids were not in trouble, rather, they had honored their parents by nominating them to be Parents of the Year. The Schmidts were overwhelmed. They played the message four times.

Allan and Kim claim that they have done nothing special: “We just try to care for the kids.” They humbly say they would not have made it without the support of their extended family, their church and most of all God. And Kim adds, “It is easy to be good parents when you have good kids.”

All five of their children are Red Raiders. There are four boys in the Schmidt family. The oldest, Matt, is a 2000 graduate who lives in Orange City with his wife Gena and children Gabby and Gage. Next is Aaron, a 2003 graduate who now resides in Sioux Center with his wife Kristy. Micah graduated from NW in 2004 and now lives in Omaha. The most recent graduate, Isaac, who graduated in 2007, lives in Orange City. Coming after all these boys is Audra, the youngest and the only girl. She plans to graduate from NW this spring.

Tim was a high school wrestling coach for 28 years and all four Schmidt brothers wrestled for NW. Audra joins in the wrestling spirit and has been the NW wrestling team manager for the past three years. Allan laughingly remembers many an afternoon spent coaching while his kids sat on a mat nearby working on homework. For the Schmidts, sports are a family affair.

Even now when the kids are in their twenties the family still gathers together after every home NW football game to eat Mom’s homemade chili and Dad’s grilled cheese. The Schmidts think of their children as gifts, and with that mindset, have poured out their lives to care for them and teach them to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Among many things, they have passed on to their children a strong faith, a good work ethic, financial responsibility and an attitude of commitment. Allan and Kim Schmidt’s faithfulness to God and their love for family is evident in the lives of their children and in their new title: Parents of the Year.
Free money? Think again.
Tips for staying away from credit card debt

By James Bierly
Contributing Writer

In college, most students don’t have a lot of money. Food and board are typically paid for through student loans, but there are a variety of other expenses that need to be dealt with as well, such as books and activities with friends. Many students have a car to support and enjoy buying new clothes or movies from time to time. However, few students have time to work many hours during college, and the kinds of jobs that they do work don’t tend to pay much. Funds can quickly dry up entirely.

Into this environment, credit card companies come, offering the promise of quick, free money. If students are careful, credit cards can be useful, but they can also be dangerous. According to CBS News, the average college student will leave college with twice as much debt and triple the credit cards they had when entering college. An astonishing 31% of students will leave college carrying $3,000 to $7,000 of credit card debt!

Senior Bethany Kroese interned in New York City last summer. Since she wasn’t getting paid much and the cost of living in New York is very high, she says, “Towards the end of the summer I relied on my credit card because of a lack of immediate funds. This fall I didn’t have any money from the summer, so I had to put books and things on my credit card.”

She will be graduating in December and will have to pay off her looming credit card debt while working at low wages as an entry-level journalist, along with making rent and insurance payments. This is not a happy situation to be in.

Senior Caitlyn Boot also has a credit card but has been careful with it. “I got my credit card four years ago, before I came to college. I don’t have debt. I never spend more than I have because credit card interest rates are so ridiculous, it’s better to borrow money from my parents so I don’t have interest rates to pay.” If students don’t run up a huge debt, a credit card can be a nice convenience that helps them build a good credit record. But if they aren’t careful, debt can get out of control and make starting up after college incredibly difficult.

If you want some advice on how to avoid a dangerously high level of debt, here is some from Iowa State University Extension’s Tip of the Week.

*One credit card is enough.* Before applying for a card, read the fine print and compare at least three cards. Many companies offer low “teaser interest rates” for new accounts that increase after a few months. Also look for the grace period (preferably 20-25 days), annual fee (preferably none) and the method of computing finance charges (preferably average daily balance).

*Always pay more than the minimum payments on credit cards* or you could be paying off the debt for many years after college. Create a monthly spending plan. Decide what the credit card will be used for and stick to it. Avoid putting big ticket items on a credit card. Learn to save for these items and buy them with cash.

*Pay your credit card bill on time.* Late payments or skipping a payment result in late charges, higher interest rates and a damaged credit report. Record credit card transactions as you make them or take the receipts and keep a running total so you always know how much you owe.

*A debit card makes more sense than a credit card for regular purchases like groceries or gasoline.* A debit card, unlike credit cards, is linked to a checking account, which means you can’t spend more money than you have. And use an ATM card for cash withdrawals. Cash advances on a credit card typically have higher interest rates than purchases and there is no grace period—interest accrues immediately.

*Check your credit report annually.* You can now get free copies from the three major credit bureaus—Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Call 877-322-8228 or visit www.annualcreditreport.com. Stagger your request for each report over a year.

*If debt is piling up don’t carry the credit card with you.* Seek help before things get out of hand. It’s no fun when your account is sold to a collection agency and they call you constantly requesting payment.

For more financial information, check out this link to ISU Extension’s finance page: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/finance/

Do you seek comfort from food?

By Kiley Seligman
Staff Writer

College students gain an average of 4.2 pounds in the first twelve weeks of school according to About.com. The weight gain then usually continues throughout the second year of college, with an average of 3 to 10 pounds (kidshealth.com). This may have more to do with emotional needs than with changes in dietary needs. Many college students reach for “comfort foods” that are worse for us than we realize.

Students define comfort foods as “something you eat because you like it, even if it’s not good for you” or something that “reminds you of home.” We eat these comfort foods to get away from the feelings of stress, to relieve boredom or just to feel comfy!

When you feel sad, stressed or homesick what foods do you reach for? Chocolate? Ice cream? Mashed potatoes? When random students in the cafeteria were asked what their favorite comfort foods were, 78% of students gave a junk food as their answer. Answers ranged from gummi worms to Pringles to french toast. A few students gave slightly healthier answers like popcorn or omelets, but not surprisingly, no fruits or vegetables ended up on the list.

Eating fatty or sugary foods is more emotionally driven than anything. College can be a stressful time of work and homesickness. Getting away from our anxious or sad feelings to indulge in a quick treat frequently sounds like a good idea. We want to have a nice home-cooked meal. However, when we can’t get it, we grab something handy, usually junk, in our rooms. Our stressful lives can also trigger overeating and emotional eating. We may grab a cookie when what we really want is a hug.

According to an MSNBC article by Brian Wansink, Ph.D., “These [fatty and sugary] foods help maintain positive feelings or soothe us. When we’re in a bad mood, dishes like macaroni and cheese give a quick bump of euphoria, similar to a hug from a loved one. Research has shown that fatty or sugary foods can trigger the release of ‘feel good’ chemicals in the brain and cut the level of stress hormones.”

Do you indulge yourself every time you have a craving? Most NW students asked said they do. “I can’t rest until it [the craving] is gone,” said one student. Most said they also indulge in a dessert every day.

Some may think that this is more common in women, who are perceived to be more emotional anyway. However, my NW survey included both men and women indulging in comfort foods, with men listing junk food as often as women. Certain foods such as ice cream and chocolate were common among both men and women.

According to MSNBC, “Mood also determines what we crave. Happy folks in the study preferred somewhat healthier foods, such as pizza or steak.” Comfort foods change as our moods change. People tend to eat healthier when they are happier.

Most students turn to sweets and junk food for relief from stress and anxiety.

So in the face of all the college stress, sadness, boredom or homesickness we tend to eat poorly and in turn gain weight. Why not change our attitudes, have a better life, naturally make better food choices and avoid the dreaded college weight gain? Maybe that’s a challenge for all of us!
SPORTS

Cross country crunch: Women third, men eighth in GPAC Championships

BY BETHANY KROEZE

Northwestern’s men’s and women’s cross country teams placed in the top ten at the GPAC Championships last Saturday, Oct. 27, in Crete, Neb.

Returning team champion Nebraska Wesleyan took first place for the women with 45 points. The Raiders just missed second, falling one point behind Concordia. NW’s women took third with 78 points.

Freshman Olivia Johnson said, “The fact that we finished only one point shy of Concordia after they beat us pretty handily earlier in the season shows that the miles are beginning to pay off.”

Johnson and fellow freshman Charity Miles finished in the top 10, with times of 18:07 and 18:10, respectively. Johnson’s win was the first individual conference title celebrated in Red Raider cross country history. Johnson was also named women’s GPAC Cross Country Runner-of-the-Year. Both were named women’s GPAC Cross Country Runner-of-the-Year after the women’s third-place finish.

“Our coaches set up our training to benefit us in the best way possible... They prepare us mentally—reminding us to ‘stay cool’ about the meets.”

-Sara Hess

“I made my desired time, but, more importantly, Olivia Johnson and I were able to work together better than we had all year,” said Miles, who beat her previous personal best of 18:15. “We couldn’t have done it without each other and God really blessed us with this togetherness’ break-through of our racing strategy. As our Coach Dale Thompson always tells us, ‘The power is in the pack!’”

Thompson was named GPAC Women’s Cross Country Coach-of-the-Year after the women’s third-place finish.

“Our coaches set up our training to benefit us in the best way possible,” said freshman Sara Hess. “Aside from training, they prepare us mentally—reminding us to ‘stay cool’ about the meets. We are to go out and do what we know we can.”

Two-time defending GPAC champion Brittany Hubbard from Nebraska Wesleyan took fourth, following Dordt’s Jen Kempen.

Taking eighth place on the men’s side, NW tallied 198 points.

“For the most part, we ran particularly well, but we still think we can run better,” said junior Jack Peterson. “We can still compete better as a team, and we definitely have a promising future.”

Led by freshman Danny Owens and senior Jon Wieland, finishing 25th and 37th, respectively, the Raiders finished just 34 points behind the University of Sioux Falls with 164.

Defending GPAC champion Nebraska Wesleyan took first place with 29 points. Concordia (49), Hastings (125), Doane (130) and Morningside (141) rounded out the top five teams.

“We went in with the mentality that we would run as a pack and we’d use our teammates to pull us through difficult portions of the race,” said Wooh. “GPAC was the best we’ve worked together all year.”

“If we can make the same kind of improvements next week and have everyone feeling rested, I’d look for us to place higher as a team than we did this past weekend,” he continued.

Both the men’s and women’s teams will compete in the NAIA Region III Championships in Sioux Falls, S.D., tomorrow.

“Our coaches want us to go in with ‘hopes’ or ‘wishful thinking’ but confidently and expecting that we can do what we believe we can do through God’s strength and because of the preparation that we have taken for the last five months of training,” said Miles.

Sophomore Ingrid Carlson said, “I hope people see our team’s finish and wonder where we came from and why they never noticed us before.”

Johnson added, “We know what to expect from most of the teams and with our current training, we should expect to run our best races of the season. Obviously, qualifying as a team for nationals needs to be a united goal.”

The NAIA National Championships will be held Saturday, Nov. 17, in Kenosha, Wisc.

Women’s results:

1. Olivia Johnson 18:07
2. Charity Miles 18:10
17. Sara Hess 19:42
23. Stephen Powell 19:56
36. Lori Wolf 20:23
44. Breann Roseboom 20:44
48. Ingrid Carlson 20:56
49. Akacia Wentworth 20:59
74. Steph Korfe 22:01

Men’s Results:

35. Danny Owens 18:07
37. Jon Wooh 19:42
42. Kyle Gerhard 19:56
55. Tyler Polkenschnieder 20:12
64. Jack Peterson 20:57
78. Mark Den Hartog 29:32
84. Lee Stover 29:45

Raider men top GPAC and NAIA preseason polls

BY CLARE WINTER

Last year Northwestern’s men’s basketball team tied for the GPAC regular season championship, qualified for the national tournament for the ninth consecutive year and played in the Final Four before losing to the eventual national champion, MidAmerica Nazarene. After beginning the year 5-4, the team finished with an impressive overall record of 26-9.

Based on last year’s accomplishments, the Red Raiders were picked to finish first in the GPAC men’s basketball preseason poll. The team earned 144 points and 12 of the 13 first-place votes. Men’s basketball head coach Kris Korver calls the ranking a “credit to the young men in our program.”

In the NAIA Preseason Men’s Basketball Poll, the Raiders were picked second overall, totaling 493 points and earning three first-place votes.

Korver explains that their high ranking only increases the need to prepare intentionally.

“We need to understand that nothing will be easy,” he says, “and preparing for adversity will be one of our main goals.”

This preparation will aid the team as they aim to win the GPAC Championship, the GPAC Tournament Championship and, in Korver’s words, “Make some noise at the national tournament.”

According to senior Chad Schuiteman, winning the GPAC tournament is a particular goal of this year’s senior class. This would be the first GPAC tournament win for seniors Chad Schuiteman, Mark DeYounge, Curt Schilling and Wade Vander Maten, all of whom also act as team captains.

With the combination of seniors and other “battle-tested” players, Korver is looking forward to witnessing his players “use their individual gifts to make the guys around them better as the season progresses.”

Success, growth and transformation are themes that the team works towards in all aspects of life, not just basketball. Vander Maten explains, “The coaches always put an emphasis on doing things the right way on and off the court.”

Ultimately, we want to use basketball and this season as a tool to see growth and life transformation take place—in our faith, as a man in Christ, as a servant-leader and as men who will positively impact the future and future generations,” Korver emphasizes.

DeYounge shares that the life lessons learned as a NW basketball player through challenges, adversities, successes and defeats continue to refine his character. “These experiences have encouraged him to continually strive ‘to have an attitude that desires growth as a man of character, a man of God.’”

Korver is excited to see how this year’s group develops and grows as a team. “It’s a word that is used a lot,” he says, “but when a true team comes together and becomes just that, a team, there are not many words as beautiful to watch in action.”

The Red Raiders men’s basketball team opens the regular season at Valley City State in North Dakota tonight at 7:30 p.m.
Raiders volleyball edges Defenders in five games

BY BETHANY KROEZE
SPORTS EDITOR

In a five-game thriller Tuesday night, the Red Raiders defeated the Dordt Defenders. With the win, Northwestern earned the second seed in the GPAC Tournament, which begins tomorrow. The Raiders finish their season with a 13-3 GPAC record and 25-7 overall.

Raiders take the first, third and fifth games, 30-26, 30-28 and 15-8. The Defenders took games two and four, 30-23 and 30-28.

“During the game, both teams were fighting for the win,” said senior Karissa Davelaar. “This kind of game is really fun to play because you don’t know the outcome, and you really have to give it your all.”

“We were relieved when it was finally over and happy to have the win,” she said.

Senior Megan Meyer had an impressive night leading NW. Meyer had 33 digs on defense and 29 kills on offense.

Sophomore libero Janna Bloemendaal had 19 digs while freshmen Kaitlin Beaver and sophomore Rachel Gosselink had 14 attacks with a hitting percentage of .196. Beaver, freshman Hillary Boekhout, Crystal Algood and Mandy Carr—the Red Raiders are looking forward to a good season.

The talent, preparation and unity of the team are the elements which will impact the new season. With five seniors returning this year—Deb Remmerde, Amy Larson, Miranda Boekhout, Crystal Algood and Mandy Carr—the Red Raiders are looking forward to a good season.

Woudstra says that other teams have a “play for an ‘Audience of One’” attitude, always playing for their fans and the Lord. “It has helped me learn how to build lasting relationships,” Woudstra says. “We feel like we are playing for God.”

Women’s basketball ranked second in preseason poll

BY CLARE WINTER
STAFF WRITER

The results are in from the annual GPAC preseason women's basketball poll, and Northwestern is picked to finish second. The Red Raiders received 130 points total and three of the 13 first-place votes while Hastings was selected to finish first with 140 points and nine first-place votes.

Head Coach Earl Woudstra explains that while the poll is nice, "It really does not have any impact on the new season."

The Raiders are ranked fifth in the NAIA Women’s Basketball Preseason Poll, released last Wednesday afternoon. With a total of 443 points, they join fellow GPAC schools Concordia (2) and Metropolitan (8) in the NAIA top ten. The talent, preparation and unity of the team are the elements which will impact the new season. With five seniors returning this year—Deb Remmerde, Amy Larson, Miranda Boekhout, Crystal Algood and Mandy Carr—the Red Raiders are looking forward to a good season.

Woudstra says that other team members—junior, sophomore and freshmen players—are also "in the mix for varsity playing time."

“The team dynamic has really grown," says Boekhout, who, according to Woudstra, has a great blend of skills in scoring, passing and rebounding. She and the other seniors have been playing together since they were freshmen.

Remmerde, a three time All-American, confirms that strong relationships have been formed within the team because of all they have experienced together.

Woudstra believes that this year’s team has the talent to win the conference and return to the NAIA National Tournament.

Last year, the Red Raiders qualified for the national tournament where they were eliminated in the Sweet Sixteen in an overtime loss to the College of the Ozarks. The team finished last season 24-9.

Larson explains part of the team’s focus for this season. “We know we’re a team that has the ability to score, so every year our emphasis has been more and more on defense and making it more difficult for our opponent to score.”

Larson is described by Woudstra as an excellent shot and “one of our best defenders.”

Though the team is committed to the coming season, their focus is not entirely on the court. Woudstra states some of the team’s basic goals as “playing for an Audience of One” and playing for each other.

Larson says that playing basketball at NW has taught her to work hard and be disciplined in whatever she does. “It has helped me learn how to build lasting relationships,” she says, “and taught me how to use the gifts God has blessed me with to the best of my ability.”

Whatever the coming season may hold for these senior women, they are all dedicated to playing hard and reaching the goals of their final year at NW.

Larson shares her perspective on this season. “I’m looking forward to one last chance to play the game I love with the people I love. I want to make the most of each day, because I’ll never have this opportunity again.”

Men fall in OT soccer action at Midland

BY BETHANY KROEZE
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite falling 4-3 in double overtime at Midland Lutheran on Saturday, Northwestern’s men’s soccer team earned the second seed in the NAIA Region III tournament.

Junior Andy Janssen put the first goal away for the Raiders off an assist from junior Steven Grand 24 minutes into the game.

Midland’s Chris Porter took a shot to tie the game as time expired in the first half.

The second half went back and forth in scoring, with Midland making the first strike and pulling ahead 2-1 just over three minutes into the half. Sophomore Brad White’s unassisted goal four minutes later tied it up again.

With 17 minutes to play in regulation, Midland scored and regained the advantage. Three minutes later, senior Blake Wiekings scored an unassisted goal to tie the match, which went into overtime 14 minutes later.

In overtime, the Warriors took the win on Porter’s second goal of the game.

The Raiders were outshot 13-19 in the game. Freshman keeper Ben Schneider had 15 saves. Sophomore Aaron O’Brien led the Raiders with eight shots and scored two goals.

The Raiders finished their season with a 10-7-1 overall record and 7-4-1 in the GPAC.

They will advance to the NAIA Regional III Tournament, which began on Wednesday. After a first round bye, the Raiders will play Sioux Falls on Monday, Nov. 5, at 7 p.m. in Hastings, Neb.

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It’s time to feed Siouxland’s hungry

BY SARA JANZEN
STAFF WRITER

This coming week has been designated Hunger/Homeless Awareness Week by the student organization Called2Go (formerly Hunger/Homeless). Besides raising awareness around campus, the week will also give students numerous opportunities to get involved directly.

“It's not just for people in the [Called2Go] group; it's for the entire campus,” said student coordinator Jenna Boote.

Student coordinator Colette Veldhorst also described the week as “a set time when you can really recognize and focus on what is in the world.”

On Monday, Nov. 5, Called2Go will partner with Feeding Children International in packaging meals for people in third world countries. Students and faculty will have the chance to help package these meals between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the RSC.

Each meal costs approximately $0.16 and thanks to an outside donor, close to 14,000 meals have already been paid for.

Boote and Veldhorst encourage those interested to lend a hand any time for any length of time, whether it's all day or an hour.

On Tuesday, the Children of the World International Children’s Choir will perform during chapel.

The choir is a few months into a 10-month U.S. tour to raise awareness about homeless and orphaned children and to raise funds to provide shelter and care for needy children.

On Wednesday, Called2Go is inviting students to fast. Students can give up their noon meal in the cafeteria and Sodexho will donate a portion of the cost of that meal to a nonprofit organization picked by Called2Go.

Students are not obligated to fast, according to Boote and Veldhorst and can sign up to participate at the Called2Go table outside of the cafeteria.

On Thursday, Called2Go will be raising money for the Siouxland Soup Kitchen in Sioux City. Volunteers will go through residence halls that evening to ask for change. They will also be taking donations outside the cafeteria the entire week.

Boote and Veldhorst said the money will go toward the kitchen’s milk supply for November.

On Friday, Called2Go will be taking volunteers to The Banquet and St. Francis House, two Christian nonprofit organizations in Sioux Falls.

The Banquet is a soup kitchen that serves between 500 to 600 people. Unlike traditional soup kitchens, those being fed do not go through a line, but are waited upon by volunteers. St. Francis House is a smaller ministry that functions partly as a soup kitchen.

Rounding out the week, students will have the opportunity to somewhat experience homelessness by spending Friday night in boxes around campus. Those wishing to participate can sign up outside of the cafeteria.

A group of NW students gathers for a group picture after packing meals for “Feed My Starving Children,” part of Called2Go’s ministry this coming week.

Albany Snyder of Maryland recently won a $10.5 million suit against the Westboro Baptist Church, who had been picketing the memorial of his son who had died in Iraq. This Kansas-based anti-gay “church” routinely pickets funerals of soldiers and other military personnel who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, carrying signs that say things like “Thank God for dead soldiers” and “God hates fags.”

Tropical storm Noel, which has been raging through the Bahamas and Cuba all week, was upgraded to a category 1 hurricane on Thursday night. Heavy rains have caused an estimated $30 million in damages to plantations. The total death toll has risen to 107.

Japan ended its support of U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan on Thursday after an argument in its Parliament about the issue. Japan is America’s top ally in Asia and has refueled coalition warships in the Indian Ocean since 2001. Despite the opposition, government officials vowed to pass legislation to allow limited support in the international fight against terrorism.

U.N. officials have found evidence that Sudanese government forces have been pressing people to leave refugee camps in the Darfur province and sometimes have forcibly loaded civilians onto trucks to get them out. While camp conditions are bad, refugees often stay because their home villages are too dangerous to return.

The violence in Darfur has killed more than 200,000 people and put an estimated 2.5 million in refugee camps.