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Suite-style interim housing to be built

BY RENEE NYHOF & LEANNE JOHNSON
EDITOR & NEWS EDITOR

A new suite-style residence hall will join the options for student housing in 2011.

While the new housing option is part of Northwestern’s plan to have a location for themed housing, in the next couple of years it will provide standard housing for students due to the closing of Heemstra Hall after this school year.

The facility, which was approved by the Northwestern College Board of Trustees this past week, will take the place of the gravel parking lot located north of Stegenga Hall, according to Provost Jasper Lesage.

The residency, which will house 60 students, will offer a style of housing that is very popular on other college campuses, according to Lesage. Each suite will have a bathroom, kitchens will be shared between two suites and the hall will also have common areas.

Construction is tentatively set to begin this coming spring and the completion date set for December of 2010.

Several factors were taken into consideration for approving the building of the new facility.

First, due to various safety reasons, NW is required to close Heemstra by December of 2010 according to Lesage. As are result, the board had to make a decision regarding new student housing during this fall’s meeting.

Also, due to the economy, NW has not received enough funding to build the new men’s dorm in one stage. While the board did consider building the dorm in two parts, that plan would have committed NW to $500,000-800,000 of loan payments for each of the next 30 years, according to President Greg Christy.

“In order to finance that payment, we would likely need to raise tuition more than the average increase and cut faculty and staff positions and programs,” wrote Christy.

According to Lesage, the dorm plan discussed last year still exists, but it is being placed on hold until the college has the full funding.

While the new residency will not hold as many students as Heemstra Hall, there will be enough current student housing for next year’s enrollment.

“It’s easy for me to say that I understand how the residents of Heemstra feel, but I don’t fully understand how they feel,” said Lesage. “However, everyone needs to know that it’s the board’s obligation to balance what campus needs with what the school can afford. This project is an interim because it’s consistent with NW’s long-range plan and will help us get through the hump of the next year or two.”

Yet not everyone is happy with this decision.

Brian Moriarty, resident director of Heemstra Hall, said

Continued on page 8...
Lessons In Photography


I decided to take Photography because I believe it counts for my journalism minor, and I thought it would be a slack class that would be a good change from my typical classes. Little did I know how much work, time, and patience the class would require of me.

On the first day of class, I learned that Photography does everything the old school way. I received an ancient camera that requires me to load film (look it up if you don’t remember what that is) and manually adjust how much light is used to expose each picture. I also learned that I would have to develop my own negatives and make my own prints in the darkroom. Sounds simple enough, right?

Experienced photographers can probably develop negatives in approximately 30 minutes. The first time I developed a roll, it took me four times longer than that. Also, I didn’t know this then, but the light meter on my camera didn’t work properly. Thus, my first three rolls of film weren’t exposed correctly.

Later that week, I tried to make a print from one of my overexposed negatives. Through the process of trial-and-error and using 10 sheets of paper, I successfully printed my first picture. Unfortunately, it cost me almost $10 worth of paper for one picture. Where was a Kodak printing machine when I needed one?

The next four weeks of class continued to go like that. I would get my assignments done, but not without setbacks and failures. My breaking point came on a Monday afternoon. I’d finished taking a roll of film on my camera, but when I went to unwind it, I realized that I’d loaded my film wrong. Basically, I ruined an entire roll of film. On the positive side, a friend of mine had given me four rolls of film for the class, so I wasn’t out any money. On the down side, I only had one day to take pictures and develop them.

All this to say, through Photography, I’ve become grateful for the digital era. I now appreciate my automatic digital camera and the beauty of looking at a picture within seconds of taking it. I’ve also realized that I take Wal-Mart’s one-hour Kodak printing machines for granted.

Despite all of my struggles with Photography, I’m glad to be in the class. It’s taught me a skill that’s definitely gratifying when the products of looking at a picture within seconds of taking it. I’ve also realized that I take Wal-Mart’s one-hour Kodak printing machines for granted. On the down side, I only had one day to take pictures and develop them.

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BY JOSH DOORENBOS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Theatre gone wild!

Chapters shows Resilience

BY GREG WHITE
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Mowgli and the Monkeys go wild in the Jungle Book Tales.

BY JOSH DOORENBOS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A blast of sound and a gravelly voice come on, then you get caught in the wave of guitars and you’re off. Chapters, an Orange City-based Southern Hardcore band, has you—wait, what? Orange City-based Southern Hardcore? To answer the questions, Tom Westerholm, the guitarist and founder of Chapters said, “Dave Lesage [the drummer] has always been into southern rock and he kind of got me into it.” On their MySpace page, Chapters claims as an influence, “Diamonds? A samurai sword is forever too! Not every kiss begins with ‘K.’ Sometimes it begins with ‘Hee-ya!’ or ‘Shaz-zing’!”

“The only two people I can vouch for on the subject of “explosive stage presence” are Westerholm and Lesage, and they deliver just what they claim to. Westerholm can be seen bouncing about his corner of the stage, letting up only for the occasional singing part, as he covers the lyrics. Lesage, an amazing poet, puts a lot of work into the lyrics and then passes it on to Dustin who, in Westerholm’s words, “does whatever he wants to do. He and Lesage work together on that.”

On October 16, the band will release their new EP “Resilience.” Chapters’ show will bring down the house at New Hope Evangelical Church in Orange City at 7 p.m. “I want them all to come to the show,” Westerholm says. “We’re stoked to play and really aiming our show around college students.”

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The scary and shocking start to this year’s children’s play didn’t include any catchy, timeless tunes. In fact, there were no tunes in the Jungle Book Tales at all. And no red underwear either. Only death and blue monkeys.

The play would have been a howling good time if there weren’t so many howls and fights. I don’t think that kids want to see animals duke it out in mortal combat. The violent blocking and dark costumes provided a haunting experience as opposed to a lighthearted, laughable time.

It felt like the actors escaped right out of the zoo with their ragged and syncopated pouncing, crawling, dancing, climbing, flying, swinging, prowling and throwing. I was convinced by and impressed with the cast.

The scherzo and shopworn antics were entertaining and purely hilarious. Shere Khan, the evil tiger, bore her teeth with ferocity and hunger. I really thought that Becca Ds was going to eat Mowgli, burlap shirt and all.

The set was brilliant too. But a bit underused. If you’re going to build three jungle towers, use them.

The acrobatic stunts with the ropes and the blue monkeys were exciting and exuded that air of childlike wonder that the show needed. The monkeys were neon compared to all the other animals. Those “under the law” wore drab browns, maroon, denim and black. I guess living under the law isn’t as fun.

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If you want to preview their music, you can find it at www.myspace.com/chapters. Also look there for more information on shows.

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Sweet delights late at night

BY RENEE NYHOF & SARA CURRY
EDITOR & CONTRIBUTING WRITER

One of the most common complaints about Orange City is that everything closes soon after the sun goes down. Yet Loren and Kathy Mulder, the new owners of the Dutch Bakery (as of Sept. 1, 2009) have given students a reason to cease complaining by providing them with a place to go when the rest of the town turns in for the night.

The Dutch Bakery is now open from midnight to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (or Sunday night through Saturday morning depending on how you look at it), and from midnight to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

“We decided to expand the hours because we’re here doing the baking anyway,” Mulder said, “and we can give you guys a place to go.”

Though the Dutch Bakery has new ownership, hours and appearance, it hasn’t changed its product line of tasty treats.

“We’ve just cleaned the place up,” Mulder said. “Everything else is the same—same equipment, same recipes, same doughnuts, cookies, pastries and cakes.”

The Mulders even added to the ordering options: the bakery now offers a small lunch menu, which includes soup and a couple types of sandwiches such as taverns, hot dogs and runzas (seasoned ground beef with sauerkraut).

Two other new features include large, pizza-sized decorated cookies and what Loren calls “freshly frozen” bread and buns. “All the bread and buns we put in the freezer once they come out of the oven and reach room temperature and by doing this all the bread tastes like it was just made after it thaws,” said Loren.

Changing the list of menu items was not the only change the Mulders made. After the previous owner, Arne Vermaat, sold the bakery to the Mulders, some remodeling changes needed to be made in order to comply with health codes.

“We’ve made updates because we had to put the bathroom in,” Mulder said. “We wanted to make it look like part of the building and not just an addition.”

As a result, the walls have been resurfaced and revitalized with new paint colors. “We wanted to brighten up the area and I love yellow; it’s my favorite color so I knew we had to paint some walls that color,” said Loren. “The yellow really lets the sun bounce around the bakery.”

More of the sun’s rays can enter the bakery due to having an entire entryway of clear windows.

The bakery is also in the process of being remodeled from the outside. The awning has been taken down giving, the front of the building a different look, and a new sign is on its way.

One of the most student-friendly promotions of the Dutch Bakery, the “After School Special,” remains a consistent feature of the shop through its recent transformation. Students from any school can purchase leftover doughnuts from the bakery’s daily supply for only a quarter.

“We decided to expand the hours because we’re here doing the baking anyway, and we can give you a place to go.”

- Loren Mulder

Dutch Bakery owner Loren Mulder proudly stands behind the counter that now welcomes late night college patrons.

Too hip for walking, students take wheels to sidewalk

BY JORDAN VERMEER
STAFF WRITER

Lately, the gray skies above Northwestern have limited the travel of scooters and long boards around campus. The entertaining, yet useful, vehicles do not provide proper protection from the elements on a long ride to class, encouraging most people to walk.

Yet, in the weeks prior to these blustery days, scooters and long boards were just about everywhere, taking campus by its own storm.

If you were to walk through Colenbrander Hall, the dormitory with the majority of scooters on campus, you may find yourself being overwhelmed by the multitude of scooters. Yet, these scooters seem to have become more than just a transportation device, they are a phenomenon of their own.

They sit in the halls of Colenbrander and they wait for their riders outside of the cafeteria and the RSC. They hang like medals from bed posts and infiltrate every level where people reside.

Long boards, on the other hand, have a more diverse campus history. Long boards come from all male dorms. But, with no more than fifteen long boards on campus, no hall owns the title of “Long Board Capital of NW.”

Junior Josh White remembers getting a long board after having his skateboard stolen during his freshmen year. At that point, he was one of the few long boarders on campus. The number of long boards has multiplied since that time, and their appeal is understandable. “It’s just really easy to get from place to place and it’s really fun,” said White. “It’s just very relaxing and quite. You can literally just cruise.”

And, added sophomore Devin Thompson. added that long boards “go faster than a scooter and there is a lot more freedom and mobility to them. They’re effortless.”

For the most part, people seem to not mind about the increase of scooters and long boards as they weave through tangled groups of people; as long as no one gets run cramped, people seem to stay happy.

Yet, the winter months may force some of these scooters and long boards indoors, but even then, they have the chance to frequent the hallways and wait for sunny days to come again.

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Among the many cultural differences that I have noticed during my time in Spain, the one that I find most interesting is the siesta. Each day, from 2 to 5 p.m., nearly everything in the city shuts down, similar to Orange City on a Sunday. For those three hours or so, everybody in the city returns to their homes and has a midday break.

Afternoons in Spain can reach well over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, meaning it’s rather uncomfortable to go outside during that time, let alone work. A long time ago, people decided that it wasn’t worth trying to work during this period. Thus, we have the siesta.

The word siesta in Spanish translates from the Latin phrase “hora sexta,” which means “the sixth hour.” The custom is probably best known to Americans as the time when people go home to take naps.

While it’s true that many people choose to spend part of their siesta sleeping, this period is so much more than just naptime. Most people only spend about half an hour sleeping, if at all. Other siesta activities during this time include watching television, eating, and spending time with loved ones.

The main purpose of having a siesta is so that people can rest anyway they choose during the middle of the day. Taking a break from working or studying can really help to restore and revitalize a person to continue on afterwards. I know that whenever I’m done with siesta, I feel completely revitalized, even if my day has been incredibly stressful until that point.

Also, in the United States, lunch is the largest meal in Spain. And it is eaten much later in the day, usually during the siesta. Instead of eating at the office or at a nearby location, Spaniards are able to do so with their families.

During siesta, families and friends are able to come together and spend time with each other. It is regarded by many as a sacred time, one that should not be neglected. Spain is just one of many countries to have a tradition similar to the siesta. Several others around the Mediterranean, as well as nearly all of Latin America also practice it.

Being able to sit back and rest for a few hours every day is an incredibly relaxing experience, and I’m pretty sure that most of the other American students studying here with me would agree. Sometimes I sit in my room during siesta and think that siesta is probably one of the greatest pieces of Spanish culture that I’ve encountered. Why don’t we have it in the U.S.?
BY ANDREW LOVIGREN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It was Homecoming Day. The crowd of students, faculty and staff and alumni alike wanted to see their team victorious. They got what they came for.

The No. 14 Northwestern Red Raiders are back on track after a blowout 35-6 victory over Concordia in conference play Saturday.

“We were pleased without play,” said Head Coach Kyle Achterhoff.

“It was an improvement over a week ago at Dana.”

The Raiders shut out their opponent for the first half of the game, while scoring on an eight-yard run by junior Taylor Malm and an 11-yard strike from senior Brad Payne to sophomore Jameson Rexilious. Junior Ben Raselske connected on the point after attempts to put them up 14-0 at halftime.

“There were still too many penalties, and we hurt ourselves on first downs in the first half,” Achterhoff said. “The two scoring drives were great drives by our offense.”

NW opened the second half of play with a 60-yard drive, capped by Malm’s second score of the afternoon on a four-yard burst into the end zone.

The defense added six more to the score when junior David Butler ran an interception 24 yards to paydirt to make the score 28-0 halfway through the third quarter.

“We played more consistently in the third quarter and showed what we can do when we play both offensively and defensively at the same time,” Achterhoff said. “When we play like we did the first three quarters we are one of the best defenses in the nation.”

Concordia found their way onto the scoreboard late in the third after Darius Smith broke a 34-yard run. However, the Raider special teams unit responded quickly, blocking the extra point to make the score 28-6.

“Our special teams have been solid all season; Saturday was no different. We blocked a kick to keep them at six points and won field position,” Achterhoff said.

Leading the special teams, sophomore punter Nathan Kuik punted five times with an average of 40.6 yards per kick.

NW received their final points on a 60-yard bolt by freshman Brandon Smith to make the end score 35-6.

Next week NW travels to Midland Lutheran (4-0 in conference) in a tough conference match-up.

“Midland Lutheran is a big athletic team that is 4-0 in the conference,” Achterhoff said. “We need to be ready to play a full 60 minute complete game and match their enthusiasm. It should be a fun day in Fremont.”

Homecoming scores a win

FOOTBALL

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BY ANDREW LOVIGREN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Both Northwestern’s men and women’s golf teams close out the second portion of their season with the second of four GPAC conference meets.

The women’s team traveled to Lincoln, placing seventh overall, with junior Andria Hinz placing 19th individually.

“The effort was there,” said Coach Harold Hoftyzer, “but the results weren’t.”

The team will enter into the fall season placed seventh overall through the first two GPAC meets.

“It’s ‘halftime’ in GPAC competition,” Hoftyzer said. “We have two additional meets this spring to get to our pre-season poll and goal of third or second in the GPAC.”

Individually, junior Maggie Achterhoff has the best placing for the Raiders overall in a tie for 12th.

“It’s time for us to focus on academic studies, continued good life choices, start weight-lifting, workouts and mental game videos,” Hoftyzer said. “It’s all preparation for us to get our position back as a top 3-4 spot in the GPAC like we are capable of playing.”

The men traveled to Lincoln to compete in a second GPAC meet of their own, finishing fifth in the round to give the team a fourth place rankings the GPAC.

“We played OK despite very trying conditions,” said Coach Mark Bloomendaal. “Luke played solid again and kept himself in contention for the conference championship. Michael Dykema had an exceptional back nine to keep us in contention.”

Individually, senior Luke Vermeer moved into second place overall after shooting a 78 overall Tuesday.

“We will need to make up some strokes in the spring, but we were able to hang on pretty well on a very tough course with challenging weather conditions,” Bloomendaal said. “We will continue to practice some until the course closes and will begin our off-season conditioning in a couple of weeks.”

Golf finishes fall
**Sports**

**Volleyball 3-0 this week and ranked No. 5**

BY CAMERON CARLOW  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Northwestern volleyball team is ranked fifth this week and showed why with three GPAC wins against Dana, Midland Lutheran and Concordia.

“This is a necessity with twelve games left to make it to the playoffs,” Head Coach Kyle Van Den Bosch said. “Our JV team and our varsity team both are competing at a high level.”

On Oct. 2, the Raiders hosted Dana. The Raiders wasted no time, sweeping Dana 3-0, winning 25-7, 25-20 and 25-13. This bumped NW’s record to 19-2 overall and 5-0 in GPAC play. Since 1989, the Raiders are now 31-0 against Dana.

Sisters senior Randa and sophomore Rylee Hulstein both put up big numbers against the Vikings. Rylee had 10 kills along with five digs. Randa threw down 13 kills with 11 digs and two blocks.

Hilary Hano had a big night as well with eight kills and eight digs. Lofting up 36 assists on the night was junior Kaitlin Beaver.

The Raiders had a quick turnaround after the victory over Dana. The next day, Oct. 3, Midland Lutheran came to Orange City to compete against the Raiders.

Midland Lutheran competed well in the 3-1 Raider victory. NW won by the scores of 25-17, 25-20, 15-25 and 25-11.

Hano led NW with 25 kills, hitting .553, popping up 9 digs and recording 3.5 blocks. Bobbie Jean Rich also put up good numbers, hitting .611 and spiking down 12 kills along with her 3 digs. Randa Hulstein had 11 kills and 15 digs on the night while Rylee Hulstein had 12 digs and received 23 serves for the Raiders. Beaver had an amazing night with 58 assists.

On Tuesday, the Raiders hosted Dak. Wesleyan, who came into the game 11-12 and 1-5 in the GPAC. The Raiders were victorious, winning three straight games 25-11, 25-14 and 25-15.

In the eighth straight Raider win, Hano led the way. She shot down 10 kills, hitting .529. Randa Hulstein had nine kills, bringing her season total to 300, along with six digs. With seven kills, eight digs and 11 serves received, Rylee Hulstein also put up big numbers for the Raiders. Beaver tossed up 31 assists in the match as well.

On the week, VanDen Bosch feels as if his team has “been making an intentional effort for play for [God’s] glory.”

This week, the Raiders travel to Concordia on Oct. 9, then head to Hastings on Oct. 10 and finally return home to take on Mount Marty on Oct. 14.

The Raiders went on to win the match 3-1.

**Photo by Kate Burkema**

**The Raiders took on Midland Lutheran in last weeks Homecoming game. The Raiders went on to win the match 3-1.**

**Soccer teams drop to Midland Lutheran**

BY SARA ADAMS  
STAFF-WRITER

Saturday, Oct. 3rd, ended up being a rough game for our Raider men’s soccer team.

The game was against Midland Lutheran, who was 4-4-1. The men put forth a good effort. Four shots were taken by the Raiders in the first half, two of the kicks are accredited to senior defender Tyler Systma, one to junior Aron Pall and one to freshman Brandon Hammack. Only one of the NW shots was off target whereas three of Midlands failed to reach goal range.

Goal keeper Jeff Lanser, a junior, made three saves throughout the game. For the duration of the game, the two teams were tied 0-0 and the Raiders suffered a loss from a penalty kick in overtime. Although this loss puts their record at 8-2-1, the NW men still have enough games left to make it to the playoffs, which is one of the team’s goals for this season.

Head Coach Daniel Swier believes “if we play the way we are capable, we will be competing in post-season play.”

Swier also sees strength in the newest freshman members of the team who “are getting stronger with each contest.” He believes that the team has built a lot of “team chemistry” thus far in the season. This is a necessity with twelve new recruits joining the team coming from as far as Fresno and some from right here in Orange City. The team is continually being reinforced as they get used to some from right here in Orange City. The team is continually being reinforced as they get used to the team, the women are aiming to be a rough game for our Raider men’s soccer team.

Strengthening also brings them closer to a team goal of finishing in the top half of the conference. Krohn stated that their main goal was to beat Morningside and they came close to achieving that goal, ending the game in a tie.

One of the most exciting moments for the team this season was winning the game against Nebraska Wesleyan. The Raiders hope to add another win to their record in their next game, which is against Dana College on Oct. 10th, at 2 p.m. on Korver Field.

PHOTO BY EMILY GOWING  
**Junior Kaitlin Beaver sets the ball to senior Randa Holstein in last weeks volleyball action.**
"RED" art show to feature three artists

BY SARA JANZEN
STAFF WRITER

The first senior art show of the semester will begin Oct. 12 and run until Oct. 23. Entitled "RED," it is a joint show between senior art majors Katie Dykstra, Kent Eisma and '09 graduate Brenda Ream. The opening reception will be held Friday, Oct. 16, from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

The name "RED" is a combination of Ream, Eisma and Dykstra's last names and was originally mentioned as a joke by Eisma.

"The only real word our initials formed was red," Eisma said. "I thought it would be funny to name it that and then have no red on the show's poster." The name stuck, as did the idea of having a monochromatic poster.

Dykstra draws inspiration for her art from nature. "I'm a visual person," Dykstra said. "I find nature to be a very beautiful thing, It's God's canvas and doing art is my way of showing appreciation for what he's created." Although nature is not represented directly in many of her pieces, she tries to incorporate it into most of her art.

Lately Dykstra has been drawn to photography. Among some of her favorite pieces are photographs she took while studying abroad in Sicily, Italy.

"It's a really satisfying medium," Dykstra said. "You can get what you want, but you can still manipulate it and it remains similar to what you're trying to portray."

Dykstra will be graduating in December and is still keeping her options open. She has considered going into photography, going abroad for missions or just travel, or using her psychology minor by working with an organization such as ATLAS or Family Crisis Center. For now she plans on staying in the area.

Ream took advantage of the opportunity to prepare for the show during the summer instead of rushing to fit it into her senior year. Like Dykstra, Ream said she draws much inspiration from nature and the vibrant colors found in it. Among some of her favorite pieces are close-up photographs of different types of fruit and leaves.

Besides photography, Ream said she also enjoys painting. One of her favorite paintings is an abstract of autumn leaves. "I love the vibrant colors you see in autumn," she said, "and I don't think they're really appreciated. I like looking at the things that are underappreciated."

Ream is currently taking classes in graphic design at Western Iowa Tech Community College in Sioux City while searching for an internship in graphic design.

Eisma's love of art began in high school when he began drawing anime cartoons. With the guidance of teachers and friends, he began to branch out to other art forms. Among his artwork in "RED" are photographs, pencil drawings and graphic design pieces. His favorites are some fake comic book covers he designed and plans to assemble into actual comic books for the show.

"Since I want to be a graphic novelist, it's cool to create something that's like a graphic novel," Eisma said. "It will be neat to see that in physical form."

Eisma identified stories as one thing that moves him to create art, "I get inspiration from stories, that's why I like graphic novels. I get inspiration from movies or video games or any story that intrigues me."

After graduating in December, Eisma hopes to teach English in Japan and one day would like to author and illustrate comics or graphic novels.

Housing decision leads to tension

(article continued from pg. 1)...

Weary was "shocked" to hear that the board had voted for the suite-style dorms. He first heard that they were considering this type of building last Friday, and he was surprised that they would choose a building that had hardly been discussed over the designs for the men's dorm they had been working on for the last year.

Moriarty sees the suite-style dorms as a "quick-fix" that does not fit what Heemstra is as a community. According to Moriarty, the purpose of suite-style dorms is to break large buildings into smaller communities. However, he pointed out that Heemstra already has a successful community that should not be broken.

NW has "taken the cheapest route possible," Moriarty said, which he says has caused the Heemstra residents to see this decision as morally wrong. He believes that the Heemstra residents deserve a building more suited to their style.

"The reality is that for over ten years, Heemstra's been living in conditions that are not appropriate," Moriarty said. "It's been inappropriate and morally deficient at times the way that students have been asked to live."

"The issue is not that Heemstra guys want a really nice building," Moriarty said. "They feel that there's a moral issue at stake."

He mentioned the fact that NW has allowed its students to live in below-standard conditions for so long. Plus, they never consulted the students about the suite-style dorms. In regard to the recent Heemstra demonstrations, Moriarty says the Heemstra residents "have every right to express themselves."

He hopes the demonstrations will make the NW administration realize that "they can't treat students like this."

Whatever the final decision is, Moriarty still has faith in the Heemstra community: "The Heemstra guys can make this work. I have no doubt about that."

Chapel speaker Dolphus Weary to address how grace is greater than race

BY LIZ LAWRENSEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Racial reconciliation leader Dolphus Weary will be speaking in chapel Monday, Oct. 26, and Tuesday, Oct. 27.

Weary was born in 1947 in rural Mississippi. He experienced a life of poverty from the time he was a child, abandoned by his father. As a boy, his goal was to leave Mississippi and get as far away as he could.

"My heart's desire was to leave Mississippi and never come back," Weary said. He set off to California, where he attended Piney Woods Junior College and Los Angeles Baptist Theological Seminary. Although Weary loved what California had brought to him, he felt God telling him to go back to his roots.

When Weary set off to California, one of the biggest things he was trying to escape was the issue of racism. Although California was different, Weary found some of the same issues there. "I found I was running away from the problem," he said. "God wanted me not to run away from the problems of poverty, racism and injustice but to stay and be a part of the solution."

Weary headed back to Mississippi where he became the leader of Mission Mississippi, a group focused on healing racial hurt and addressing the issue of racism today. The group uses themes such as "Grace is Greater than Race" and tours the country with Weary as one of its main speakers.

The group is also the host of interracial rallies against racism as well as the separation of Christian believers. Weary explained, "There is a racial, political and denominational gap. We're telling people they don't have to change their denomination, but change their attitude of separation."

Besides touring the country, Weary has also authored the book "I Ain't Comin Back," which has been featured in several education classes at NW. The book talks about his journey and how different events in his life have brought him to where he is today.

Weary is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Wheaton College Board of Visitors, World Vision and Belhaven College.