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LGBTs confront persecution
Campus group offers support to LGBT students

BY TYLER LEHMANN
FEATURES CO-EDITOR

Recalling dirty looks on campus and harassment in dorms, Northwestern College’s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students said they are “persecuted” at the school. In response, NW’s unofficial student-run LGBT advocacy group has expanded its efforts to raise awareness of perceived LGBT discrimination on campus.

“We should have a place where they feel safe and free to be who they are and not feel judged or persecuted, and we want to be that for anyone who needs us,” said senior Keely Wright, executive administrator of LEAP, an organization for LGBT-affirming students that is unaffiliated with NW.

Taking its name from the acronym “Love, Education, Acceptance, Pride,” the group clashes with NW’s official position that homosexuality is immoral on religious grounds. It’s a view the college holds as part of its affiliation with the Reformed Church in America.

Although NW denounces homosexual relationships, the administration does acknowledge homosexuality as a genuine sexual identity.

“We affirm gay and lesbian students’ understandings of who they are and how they identify themselves, but we don’t affirm expression of that in a relationship,” said Dean of Students John Brogan.

“The question becomes, can we still be a welcoming, supportive community without taking that final step of affirming gay and lesbian students’ sexual desires?”

Brogan said the policy is intended to provide a safe environment for LGBT students while also satisfying the college’s generally conservative constituents.

LEAP members, on the other hand, said they believe the school’s stance has unintentionally bolstered negative treatment of LGBT students on campus.

Sophomore Isaac “Fargo” Gross, a gay student and LEAP member, said he experienced harassment on campus because of his sexuality.

“If your goal is to convince people that you’re right, hurting them is not going to do anything,” Gross said. “Christians get persecuted all the time, so why would you do that to another group of people?”

COMING OUT EXPERIENCES AT NW

Gross first experienced rejection at NW for his sexuality when he came out in January after hiding it the first semester of his freshman year.

 “[Living in the closet] was really constricting,” Gross said. “It was very wearing emotionally. I would say that was the worst part. I was emotionally drained all the time.”

Although coming out gave Gross inner relief, it also brought him new troubles. When news of his sexuality spread, Gross faced exclusion and harassment. Gross said he was the target of indirect verbal abuse from other students in his dorm.

“Not only as a Christian but just as a human being, to stand by and let others treat people that way, that’s never OK,” Gross said.

See “LGBT” on Page 4

Airband to take the place of NBDC

BY GILLIAN ANDERSON

A once-popular Northwestern event, Airband, will be introduced to a new generation of students.

Airband is a competition in which groups create a lip-syncing performance to a song or mix of songs.

“It is lip syncing but not the band type of lip syncing,” said Aaron Beadner, director of student programs.

Most students were still in high school when Airband last took place on campus four years ago. Some former students who remember it are now working for NW, and a few current students have heard about it from recent graduates.

“I remember Airband as a student,” said Drew Schmidt who graduated from NW in 2005 and is now the audiovisual technician at NW. “I did not participate, but that was probably a good thing. I thought it was supposed to be just a band with air guitars, air drums and, most boring, air keys. Quite the contrary — it was acts choreographed to music in clever ways.”

Airband will be replacing popular NW event NBDC (Northwestern’s Best Dance Crew).

“We looked at NBDC and felt like there was already Rush and that it was not going to be something different or unique,” Beadner said.

Airband is designed to be something that anyone can participate in whether or not they are good at performing.

“This event is different because it is open for everyone,” said sophomore Ayrrn Mazon, an SAC member who is in charge of the event. “If you are good at dancing you do rush or NBDC.”

See “Airband” on Page 8

Students make plans to shop through the holidays

BY HEIDI GRITTERS

Black Friday has become a major part of the Thanksgiving holiday. For some, shopping for toys at midnight is a beloved tradition; for others, it is a sad picture of American materialism.

Senior Adam “Pots” and freshman Josh “Tans” Potter celebrate Black Friday with a tradition of their own. These Chicago residents begin waiting in line at Best Buy as early as 3 p.m. on Thanksgiving in hopes of getting the first-come, first-serve deals for their friends and family, who in turn pay them for their time in line.

Last year, with their coupons and earnings, they got a $200 widescreen TV for free. In the midst of the fun, they keep the spirit of Thanksgiving in mind by rotating who gets to go home and eat with their families in the evening.

Black Friday isn’t just about good deals, though. For many, the experience is every bit as important.

“The best part is sitting in line,” said junior Ethan Raysby.

Best Buy puts on a show while their customers wait, complete with a TV truck, a contest and free cheesecake.

“We sit out all night, so you have to make friends with the people around you and entertain each other,” Adam said.

One year, the brothers were interviewed by a reporter and joked that they were there to buy their dad a Shake Weight, an item Best Buy does not actually sell.

However, there are some NW students who do not enjoy the Black Friday madness as much as the brothers.

“I just think it’s a disgusting display of American consumerism,” junior Katie Krebs said. “Americans are really good at turning holidays into something full of greed and possessions. We’re supposed to be thankful for all we have, but people kill themselves to buy a big screen TV.”

The Potter brothers experienced this violence last year while they were standing in line, when a group of people wearing masks ran over their beanbag game with a

See “Black Friday” on Page 5
How early is too early for Christmas music?

BY KARA NONNEMACHER

With Thanksgiving right around the corner and Christmas break following shortly, students and faculty should be prepared for the carols to burst forth.

With decorations already up, the debate begins when should the Holy Nights and Santa Claus melodies swirl through the air on the cheery Christmas winds.

Faculty and students remain divided on the topic.

Junior Brooke Scharn takes a common stance when it comes to the issue.

“I think it’s appropriate to start listening to Christmas music after Thanksgiving so I don’t get sick of it before Christmas,” Scharn said.

She has a point — just how many versions of “Silent Night” or “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” can cycle through the local radio station in a day?

“Sometimes the variety in versions is nice, but a lot of them are annoying because they just don’t sound good,” Scharn said.

If you choose to listen to Christmas tunes before Thanksgiving, you won’t necessarily like all the songs that get played.

Then there are others, such as sophomore Lauren Rensink, who disagree with Scharn’s way of thinking.

“I personally love Christmas music and listen to it year-round,” Rensink said. “It is simply the most wonderful time of the year, and who wouldn’t want to be reminded of that?”

Director of Academic Support Tom Truesdell has similar opinions to Scharn, but is open to being flexible as to when Christmas music can be played.

“Normally, I would say wait until after Thanksgiving, but my daughter just performed a dance recital to three Christmas songs in her bedroom, and it may have to relent on the Thanksgiving rule,” Truesdell said.

Whether you like it or not, the holiday fever will soon spread through every dorm and building on campus. If you’re like Rensink, you’ll have your Christmas Pandora station playing all day.

This way, she gets her preference of “a good mix” of tunes.

Campus can also look forward to the first day that Zwemer Hall plays music from the bell tower to spread the cheer.

And the ever-reliable H* Radio hosts, seniors Adam Potter and Taylor Biggs and sophomore Andrew Mulvey will provide yet another outlet of holiday music for campus.

“We will have one day of complete Christmas music,” Potter said. “We will be taking requests as always on the H* Radio Facebook page.”

The Babies learn to work together

ALBUM REVIEW

BY KATI HENG

The Babies aren’t as new to the music scene as their name would imply.

In fact, they’ve been called a supergroup, but to be fair, it’s hard to say that Cassie Ramone and Kevin Morby, plus two other musicians from bands you’ve probably never heard of, can earn that title.

Ramone, the lead singer of garage-pop group Vivian Girls, and Morby, the bassist from lo-fi band Woods, began their collaboration, later dubbed The Babies, while living in Brooklyn. Both had been recording, touring and gaining success with their groups and were looking for a way to play music and trade ideas without the pressure.

They couldn’t keep the music to themselves, apparently. Since 2010, The Babies have been touring across North America, and earlier this week, they released their second full-length studio album, “Our House On the Hill.”

Since their first album, which was probably a lot of fun for the musicians but not so great for the listeners, The Babies have learned to work together to make art, rather than just have a good time. They’ve cleaned up their sound, and learned to feed off each other’s strengths.

There’s less of the rustic, party-in-the-trailer-park, acoustic sounds than their first album, and it’s replaced by a more classic rock sound.

Ramone’s vocals are actually stronger, more enjoyable than when paired with the other Vivian Girls. Morby isn’t doing as much of his twangy sound, but he did earlier. Even when the music gets on the edge of campy, it sounds more like Edward Sharpe heading into the garage than anything else.

Ramone and Morby are trading lead on songs instead of assigning one of them to permanent backup status. Granted, Ramone does a fair share of “ooh-ing” and “ahh-ing” throughout many songs, and there’s one too many songs with Morby leading that edge on comic because of his mock-country vocals, but overall, the songs balance out nicely.

“Our House On the Hill” is a great album to try out. It gives a taste of Vivian Girls, Woods and what they can do together.

Rating: ★★★★★

Key Tracks: “Moonlight Mile” and “Get Lost.”

‘Call of Duty’ stays the same

BY MICHAEL GUTSCH

“Call of Duty” has never been high art, but it’s the piece de resistance of the stereotypical shooting videogame. It even surpassed “Halo” as the series people complain about their children playing too much.

No insult is meant to be directed at the genre or at “Call of Duty: Black Ops 2,” but we now live in the post-“Spec Ops: The Line” universe. Once an incredible deconstruction of the military shooter has been made, it is difficult to just go back to the military shooters. Yet here we are on the precipice of such a return.

The campaign mode is not the best in the series and lacks the same impact or even the same basic quality of setpieces and level design that previous “Call of Duty” games have delivered.

Branching paths and equipment customization are a small addition to the mixing pot of conventional single-player shenanigans, and the story is at least trying something a bit different.

But ambition, however admirable, cannot guarantee success. The single-player might fall short, but the multiplayer once again will probably be the only thing that a good majority of people care about or remember.

As invariably as the tide, revisions to the multiplayer structure beat for attention, although in this iteration their coats are shiny, their horns curled and their limbs multi-jointed, drawing longer and more thorough gazes.

The overarching of the class system, for example, that enables players to specialize or discard parts of their loadout is a welcome change.

Choosing weapons and combinations that no one really uses in practical play happened often in previous games, but now players are able to acquire another perk in lieu of a secondary weapon or another attachment instead of a perk.

Score-streaks replace kill-streaks for acquiring big rewards and help to diversify objectives and encourage teamwork instead of competition with teammates to amass the highest kill-to-death ratio, although that still happens. Constantly. It just isn’t mechanically rewarded now.

The metagame might have changed, but under the surface the whirring gears and grinding belts all beat the same cadence that has become part of the annual respiration of the gaming industry. When November comes to call, out pops another “Call of Duty” game. Again and again and again. The regenerating health, the ionsmarts, the riot shields, the airstrikes. Whether the return of such familiarity is welcome or stale is a subjective point.

Regardless of the franchise as a whole, game developer Treyarch has always been so much better than Infinity Ward at not taking itself too seriously. The marketing campaigns are more tongue-in-cheek, the writing styles are more open to experimentation and not drowned in self-continuity, and Treyarch games have a zombie mode. Why not? Zombies are a thing nowadays. They’re still a thing in “Black Ops 2,” but compared to the impressive multiplayer improvements, the redirection of the zombie modes are limited.

“Call of Duty: Black Ops 2” eventually shows its true colors as an unrefined, somewhat buggy game in single-player but an excellent multiplayer experience when measured against others of its ilk.

So if that’s the sort of thing that gets people going, then it’s fair to declare the game an overall success.
Artwork gets more notice in the lobby of Van Peurseum Hall

BY KALI WOLKOW

The Korver Visual Arts Center is in the boonies. If students wish to see the artwork displayed at the Te Paske Gallery, they must first muster the motivation to cross two crosswalks and wait for the stoplight. It’s simple enough, but add some wind to that equation, sprinkle in a little snow and a layer of ice, and the result is that student artwork goes unnoticed.

Last year Professor Carlson, along with senior Jordan Chambers and junior Becca Lokker, spearheaded the installation of students’ artwork in the Fern lobby. This year, due to construction at the cafeteria, the gallery was moved to its current location in the lobby by the east entrance of VPH.

This exhibit area creates a valuable platform for art majors/minors to display their handiwork as well as allowing other students to see the creations from the art building.

“I think it’s really important for the greater campus community to be aware of the visual work students are creating in the art building since we are on the ‘fringes’ of campus,” said Professor Emily Stokes. “The significance of the student gallery goes beyond the trudge to the art building.

“On a larger scale, there is a movement toward consciously integrating art into everyday, accessible spaces,” Stokes said. “The student gallery helps do that here on campus.”

Currently, four black and white paintings hang in the eastern VPH lobby from this semester’s painting class. The students were assigned to depict an interior space that held a special meaning for them. Using only black and white, they were to capture the ambiance of their special places and give them life without color.

With subjects that include a window view with a tree and a basement with a bar, these paintings speak volumes.

“You can see how each of us created something with the same idea behind it [the interior space], but we each had very different styles and ideas of what that interior space means and looks like,” said freshman Maria Vander Plaats.

Four different perspectives, those of Vander Plaats, senior Alyssa Ronchak, sophomore Karen Hutson and junior Ann Calsbeek, are available for viewing in VPH. They all have the same premise but different stories to tell.

“It’s pretty exciting to have our work in VPH since most of the time the only people who see our art are our professors and classmates,” Calsbeek said. “The gallery is a small reminder to Northwestern College that the art department still exists.”

Students can view the current paintings for the next few weeks. When that artwork is taken down, more will be available in the eastern VPH lobby.

MOVIE REVIEW

BY MATT LATCHAW

There have been terrible Bond movies, gritty Bond movies and silly Bond movies. “Skyfall” is the incredible kind.

Daniel Craig is back as British super-spy James Bond. “Skyfall,” the 23rd entry into the legendary film franchise, marks the 50th anniversary of 007 on film. “Skyfall” is Craig’s third appearance in the latest sequence of Bond films, that began with 2006’s “Casino Royale” and 2008’s “Quantum of Solace,” which show the beginning of Bond’s career as Agent 007 in the UK’s secret intelligence agency, MI6.

The movie opens with an action-packed chase scene with Bond and another agent, Eve (Naomie Harris), pursuing a stolen hard drive that contains the identities of undercover NATO agents. The director of MI6 (M. Ennio Morricone), makes a decision that results in the supposed death of Bond and the loss of the hard drive. M is asked politely to retire by her political higher-ups, and the MI6 headquarters are attacked. Much of the plot revolves around M’s control over her agents and their unquestioning loyalty to her.

This film explores new territory in the series. Bond’s own past, the dysfunctions of MI6 and the British government play large roles, and character development is more important than spectacle.

But “Skyfall” is much more like the classic James Bond film than “Casino” or “Quantum.” Complete with witty one-liners, banter, charm, seduction, death-defying stunts, close calls, intuitive fixes, gadgets and a slightly disfigured supervillain, this is the time-honored Bond that fans love.

Beyond these similarities, the filmmakers also pay homage to the forerunners. Die-hard fans will recognize quotes, musical cues, gadgets, cars and more favorites.

Under the direction of Oscar-award winner Sam Mendes, “Skyfall” takes itself seriously but not too seriously. The huge fights and chases are balanced by slow-paced and suspenseful scenes that keep the viewer’s eyes glued to the screen, and the cinematography is impressive without being burdensome.

Each actor performs to his or her full potential, but Dench and Bardem’s performances are easily Oscar-worthy. In the same way, Adele’s huge opening theme song will likely be in the running for Best Original Song.

Modern classics such as the Bourne series and Christopher Nolan’s Batman trilogy have revolutionized the action genre, and movies have been emulating them ever since their debut.

Although “Skyfall” was obviously influenced by this style, it separates itself in a way that is uniquely James Bond. Fans of the series will have no reason to dislike this latest entry.

Rating: ★★★★★

MOVIE REVIEW

BY JEFF HUBERS

“Cloud Atlas” is one of those movies that, as soon as you see the preview, you must see it to answer all the questions about what in the world is going on. Watching the film certainly didn’t answer all questions, but it was an enjoyable ride.

“Cloud Atlas” contains a wide array of visual thrills and interesting characters, all played by the same core cast spanning the various roles highlighted by the film’s immense timeline. There are some great actors and actresses in this film, and it’s entertaining to see Tom Hanks and Halle Berry among the famous faces fitted time and again into the expanse of diverse cultures of the film.

From a philosophical standpoint, this movie does wonders for the deep thinkers and viewers. Its stunning visuals, particularly from some of the futuristic settings, are beautiful.

The movie does a great job of presenting realistic societal structures based on the varying time periods and the injustices alive in those structures. Viewers will connect with the good vs. evil motifs that span the centuries.

From a film standpoint, “Cloud Atlas” is on the long side, and it can take a little getting used to because it jumps time periods and characters at random. Viewers might scratch their heads as they are suddenly introduced into characters’ lives and then thrust into another character’s life, played by the same actors. “Cloud Atlas” doesn’t always wait for viewers to get the “point” of the scenes.

Overall, “Cloud Atlas” is beautiful, bizarre and a philosophical delight.

Rating: ★★★★★

Five Star Guide

Classic: ★★★★★
Good: ★★★★
Excellent: ★★★
Fair: ★★
Poor: ★

Campus Quotes

“I’ve always wanted to say this for real: More cowbell!”
- Professor Tim McGarvey during band rehearsal.

“I can’t stand it when little kids are telling me I’m a bad driver. Shut up, kid.”
- Chaplain Harlan Van Oort during chapel.

Send your Campus Quotes, with context, to beacon@wciowa.edu

MOVIE REVIEW

BY EMILIE BERRY

From left; Junior Jessica Kempema and freshman Rachael Hecht admire student art in the Van Peursem Hall lobby.

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Rating: ★★★★★
LGBT group comes out about hardship on campus

FROM PAGE 1

Wright said. “Things do need to change, and this place isn’t exempt from that rule.”

Most LGBT mistreatment at NW, however, has taken a less targeted form than what Gross experienced. Brielle Giesen, a former NW student who transferred after the spring 2012 semester, left school partially because of a general attitude on campus that she said was unfriendly toward LGBTs.

“I just felt uncomfortable surrounded by people who, even though they didn’t say it out loud, thought I shouldn’t have been there,” Giesen said. “There was a lot of judging and dirty looks, but that was to be expected.”

Although Giesen’s close friends at NW accepted her as a lesbian, she said the general campus community tried to sweep her sexuality under the rug.

“It’s just that people wouldn’t acknowledge it,” Giesen said. “If people would have just acknowledged it, that would have helped.”

Now a junior at Minnesota State University Mankato, Giesen said NW needs greater awareness of the LGBT presence on campus.

“There needs to be more recognition of the LGBT community [at NW],” Giesen said. “A lot of students at NW don’t even know it exists. LGBT students are there just like everyone else.”

Brogan said the underground nature of NW’s LGBT community might have resulted from the school’s predominantly conservative student body.

“We have many students who come from a restrictive view [of homosexuality], and if we’re not helping them to understand why we allow homosexual students to come here, maybe our policy does have the potential to create a hostile environment,” Brogan said.

THE STORY BEHIND LEAP

Fostering acceptance of NW’s LGBT community has been LEAP’s goal since its inception in 2009. Founded by 2011 NW alum Greta Floding, the group initially hoped for sponsorship from NW’s Spiritual Formation Center. When the Center’s leaders disagreed with the idea, Floding launched the group, anyway, as an unaffiliated body.

In 2011, the group adopted its makeshift name, “The Gay Support Group” (GSG). After leadership transferred to Wright, the group received its current, permanent name in spring 2012. LEAP’s new name was designed to be inclusive of not only gays but also lesbians, bisexuals and other sexual minorities.

With the name change, LEAP members revisited the possibility of affiliation with NW. After talks with Brogan, though, the group decided official status wasn’t in its best interests. As a NW-endorsed student organization, LEAP would be required to change its stance on homosexuality to reflect that of NW.

“If we were an official campus group, we would have to get rid of the ‘P’ in our name because ‘P’ stands for ‘pride,’” Wright said. “Then we wouldn’t be LEAP anymore, unless we came up with something else for ‘P,’ like ‘Purgatory,’ maybe.”

Preferring autonomy of their beliefs, the group members decided not to apply for official recognition.

“We don’t see [homosexuality] as a sin, and we don’t want to cross that line where we have to change that,” Wright said. “The place where we can be the most free, and the most true to ourselves, is outside NW.”

As an unaffiliated organization, LEAP has forgone the privileges, such as hanging posters on campus and using NW equipment, given to official student groups. Although LEAP members expressed frustration over the restrictions, they said they intend to honor the stipulations in order to maintain good relations with NW.

“We don’t want to infringe on the stance of the college or step on anyone’s toes,” Wright said. “We’d like to keep our relationship with the administration a friendly, diplomatic one. We don’t want to push buttons.”

However, LEAP has been known to ruffle feathers in the local community. In March 2011, the group’s first public event, a screening of a documentary supporting nontraditional Christian views on homosexuality, drew in a crowd of outraged locals.

“It didn’t go the way we had hoped,” Wright said. “We’re trying to spread awareness and hopefully achieve greater communication and understanding between us and our community. We don’t want to be segregated. We’re always trying to bridge that gap, to get rid of the ‘us’ and ‘them.’”

LEAP’s most recent events, though, have provoked less resistance. In a session for NW’s 2012 Day of Learning in Community last February, the group presented a dramatization of real letters concerning bullying and abuse.

The group’s most successful event so far was an LGBT open-mic night last April called Late Night Lit Night.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH LEAP

LEAP members said they have formed a close-knit group that meets weekly for both casual socializing and serious discussion.

“We instantly have a connection because we have a very, very big thing in common,” Gross said. “You feel alone, and LEAP gives you a place to come where you know that everyone in that room is for you as a person and loves you, and you won’t ever have to question that.”

Further information about LEAP is available on the group’s website at leapwcwes.com. For privacy reasons, the meeting schedule is confidential. Prospective members are invited to contact Wright at keely.wright@nwciowa.edu. “No matter where you are on your journey — if you’re not sure about yourself, or if you are sure but you’re nervous about it, or if you don’t know where you stand — we’re here for you 100 percent,” Wright said.

The public is invited to attend LEAP’s open house at 7 p.m. on Dec. 3. The location is to be determined. At the event, members will share their thoughts with visitors and answer questions. Refreshments will be served.

Those interested in supporting LEAP may purchase gay pride rainbow bracelets from the group for $3 each. Orders can be placed with Wright. Proceeds benefit LEAP.

Students promote global awareness

BY JASMINE SMITH & SHWETA BANIYA

As college students, our minds get caught up in the hustle and bustle of our Orange City lives. With wing events, campus meetings and hours devoted to Pinterest, it’s easy to forget there exists a larger world in which humanity suffers from oppression, poverty and injustice.

In honor of Global Vision Week’s end on Friday, Nov. 16, the multicultural interns would like to challenge and ask the campus to remember those outside the U.S.

We challenge you to be aware of world issues dominating headlines, become familiar with nonprofit organizations striving to make a difference and remember our friends in different countries.

And most of all, with Thanksgiving around the corner, we request that you be appreciative of what you have been blessed with, whether large or small.

Prayer is needed for unrest in Syria, North Korea, Palestine, Iran and Darfur. Prayer is also needed for sex trafficking, religious animosity, global poverty and energy conservation.

If you find yourself in silence for a few minutes today, take the time to pray. Prayer is the least we can do.
Black Friday frenzy

Even the Potter brothers admit their family’s Thanksgiving celebration may be compromised because of Black Friday.

“It’s cutting into the true meaning of Thanksgiving,” Josh said. “My family still celebrates it for the right reason, but my mom doesn’t like that we go to Black Friday so early. She still wants family on Thanksgiving.”

Sophomore Sarah Wittenberg and junior Nicki Bogaard are friends, roommates and soon to be sisters-in-law.
Black Friday reveals an unthankful culture

BY THOMAS WESTERHOLM
Arts & Culture Editors

I’m not going to tell you that you shouldn’t go shopping on Black Friday because if you like shopping, you probably are going to do it anyway.

And if you’re like me and the only thing you hate more than shopping is getting up early and THEN going shopping, then frankly, you are going to avoid any retailer on the day after Thanksgiving. That going shopping, you probably aren’t a good option for me.

I’ve worked part-time at Wal-Mart for more years than I care to admit, and for three consecutive Black Fridays (whoops, I admitted it) I’ve seen shoppers descend on the store like a particularly aggressive pack of wolves snarling at each other, snatching at things that will be purchased in a fit of rage only to be wrapped up and delivered with tidings of comfort and joy a month later.

For an event that takes place the day after we give thanks for gluttony and football, Black Friday is the Mike Sorrentino of holidays, completely unaware of itself, oblivious to its own irony and blindly followed by a flock of consumer-driven sheep. I guess if I’m trying to make a point here, it’s that Black Friday shoppers look like Jersey Shore sheep. Do with that what you will.

So if I was angling for one of a limited number of underpriced and understocked PlayStations, not only would I want the cheap deal because I’m broke but I’d also want it because I hate the woman behind me who keeps bumping my knees with her cart, I hate her kid who won’t stop crying, and I’ll be DEAD before she gets this PlayStation ahead of me. Or she’ll be dead. Either way, Black Friday shopping isn’t a good option for me.

Because Black Friday is a huge pile of manure.

Black Friday reveals an unthankful culture

Feeling opinionated?

Email letters to the editor to beacon@nwciowa.edu.

The Beacon editorial staff reserves the right to edit submissions for style, length and clarity.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

4 2 7
2 7
5 4 1
1 9 5 4 7 6 5 2 3 5
3 6 5 2 1 4

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Beacon Abroad

Christianity meets secularity in London

BY ALI SONDREAL
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

LONDON — During the past month or so, I’ve realized that the identity of my school has become something I can hide behind.

I’ve found myself in conversations where religion comes up, and rather than saying I’m a Christian I say, “Yes, I go to a Christian school.” Of course, people can conjecture that I am a Christian by that statement, but it surely isn’t as bold or quite as exciting.

And if you’re like me, you get worn alone for a while, but it’s more important to witness to them. That being said, we should take the example of our Christian friends and practice being bold now. It’s great that we know the Word, but it’s more important that we live it out and, in my case, speak it out.

Yes, I am a Christian.
Miller time: two clutch buckets give NW win

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
SPORTS EDITOR

The No. 7 Northwestern men’s basketball team picked up its first win at Briar Cliff since the 2005-2006 season in overtime on the heroics of senior guard Ben Miller.

The dramatic win gave NW a 1-0 record in the GPAC and 5-1 overall on the young season.

In a game in which no lead was more than seven points, the Chargers best chance to pull away came when they held a 54-47 advantage with 12 minutes left in the second half. The Raiders stopped the bleeding and fought to stay within striking distance.

NW did not find themselves ahead at all in the final 17 minutes of regulation.

Briar Cliff led at 83-80 with five seconds left in regulation. The Raiders had the ball to be inbounded.

Miller caught the pass and drained the 30-foot shot to force overtime.

“I noticed that it looked like it was on line when it was about halfway there,” Miller said. “I was just hoping that it went in. Luckily it went through the net.”

Neither squad had more than a possession advantage in the extra period.

A Charger three-pointer gave the home squad a 93-92 lead with 20 seconds left, and NW had one chance to go for the win.

Coach Kris Korver took a timeout with 2.5 seconds left to set up an inbounds play.

Miller threw the pass to senior guard Josh Vander Plaats, who passed the ball back in to Miller who found his spot on the left side of the lane to make the game-winner.

“We had a couple of other options drawn up that BC took away,” Miller said. “[Vander Plaats] was open, and he had the decision to keep it or pass it.”

Senior Dan Van Kalsbeek dominated the post for a season-high 21 points on 9 of 15 shooting.

Vander Plaats had a career day in netting 16 points. Miller had 15 points but also contributed as he hauled in eight rebounds to lead the Raiders. Senior post Stu Goslinga also had seven boards of his own.

The Raiders shot poorly in the first half at 41 percent from the floor and 13 percent from beyond the arc. They improved those numbers in the second-half to 51 and 56 percent, respectively.

NW will return to the hardwood at 4 p.m. Saturday against Midland in Fremont, Neb.

Wrestling program already full of national experience

BY JORDAN DYKSTRA

Last spring, Northwestern qualified 11 wrestlers to the national tournament and had one named an All-American.

This season, the Raiders are looking to up those statistics even more.

They have a record breaking 34 men on the roster and a schedule filled with formidable opponents, including NCAA D-I Air Force, NCAA D-II Augusta and last year’s NAIA national champion, Grand View College. With only two seniors on the roster, the NW wrestling team is youthful but eager to compete.

“We definitely want to compete and finish in the top five in the GPAC,” said sophomore 165-pounder Tyler Schaefer. “We are very young, but that just means that we have go as hard as we can and condition both physically and mentally to achieve those goals.”

In addition to a tough schedule, qualifying for the national tournament is now tougher than previous years. Instead of qualifying by placing at any open or invitational, wrestlers can now only qualify through the NAIA Qualifying Tournament. This drastically limits the opportunities to qualify. There will also be some “wild card” bids for some that finish just outside the standard margin.

The 125-lbs. weight class, freshman recruit Lupe Flores will be looking to fill in the void of senior national qualifier Diego Angelo Quintana, who is redshirting this season.

In the 133-lbs. weight class, returning sophomore and national qualifier Richard Ortiz and senior Pedro Ruiz are hoping to be wrestling in March. Freshman recruit Tyler McWilliams will complicate the fight for a varsity spot as well after not being allowed to lose the weight needed to compete at 125-lbs.

The 141-lbs. weight class features redshirt sophomore JL Mayo, freshman Jon Grevengood and junior Nathan Manfull.

At 149-lbs., sophomore Brett Gudeman is expected to build off of a season in which he qualified for the nationals. Junior transfer John Lynch and freshman Steven Schaffer will also compete at the position.

In the 157-lbs. weight class, junior Mark Evjen and sophomore Jason Swets are the front-runners in a wide-open class.

All-GPAC sophomore Zach Fishman, who had an impressive 30 wins last season, moved up in the lineup to now wrestle in the 165-lbs. weight class. He will be joined by Schaffer and junior Jesse McCam.

For the 174-lbs. weight class, redshirt junior Aaron Russell and sophomore Isaac Ruiz will both look to repeat as national qualifiers.

Junior Chris Michael, and possibly Russell, will battle at 184-lbs. Both wrestlers’ normal competitive weight is 174-lbs.

Returning sophomore letter winner Forrest Marx is expected to lead the 197-lbs. weight class, and will fill the shoes of graduated All-American Nic Leitner. Marx spent most of last season battling out of class in the heavyweight division.

At this time, the Raiders are without a wrestler to fill the 285-lbs. weight class.

“For us younger guys, it’s important that we get used to the quicker pace in college,” Schafer said. “Coach [Rik Dah] tells us how we cannot base our whole season on one dual and that early in the season it is more of a learning experience.”

The Raiders return to the mat at 7 p.m. Friday at St. Johns in Collegeville, Minn.

Blowout win over Dordt leads Raiders into NAIA playoffs

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
SPORTS EDITOR

Calling the annual gridiron battle between Dordt’s and Northwestern football teams a rivalry might be doing a disservice to the term.

The latest installment of the matchup ended in a dominating 55-7 win for the 9-2 (7-2) Raiders, who moved up to No. 12 in the standings and earned a place in the NAIA national playoffs.

NW’s offense amassed 303 yards on the ground and 239 yards through the air.

Senior running back Brandon Smith rushed for 125 yards and three touchdowns in his final home game.

Junior running back Theo Bartman also contributed 108 yards and a score. He has scored in every game so far this season.

Junior quarterback Davis Bloemendaal had all of the Raider passing yards and three touchdowns.

Senior receiver Tyler Walker had 124 yards receiving and two scores. Junior receiver Brice Byker added another touchdown.

Junior linebacker Nate Van Ginkel accounted for one of NW’s scores by returning a fumble recovery 30 yards to paydirt.

The real victory of the week was when NW found out they had made the playoffs and would be traveling to Indianapolis to play No. 5 Marion.

NW has been one of the best squads in the country on the outside looking in for the past few seasons.

Players have fought the urge to be content with simply making it to the final 16 teams in the nation.

“Our word for the week is opportunity,” Bloemendaal said. “While we’re happy and thankful for this opportunity, we know we need to take advantage and get the job done.”

This part of the season brings out the do-or-die mentality in many teams, but the Raiders have been dealing with the psychological pressure for almost half the season. After falling to both Morningside and Concordia, the squad knew that another defeat would make the season a bust.

“Ever since the Concordia game we’ve had the mentality that we were in the playoffs,” Bloemendaal said. “If we lose, our season is done. So really we’ve been preparing for the playoffs for five weeks.”

Kickoff will take place at noon Saturday. The game will be broadcasted on radio through KSOU 93.9 or www.nwcraiders.com

RECAP OF THE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM’S EARLY SEASON TESTS ONLINE AT BEACON.NWCIOWA.EDU
Around Campus

Airband
SAC will host a lip-syncing competition called Airband at 10 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16, in Christ Chapel.

Theater
NW’s production of “Ah, Wilderness!” will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16, and Saturday, Nov. 17, in the England Theatre of the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center.

I-Club coffee
Students from a variety of cultural backgrounds will share their talents at the International Coffeehouse at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 17, in the Hub.

Vocal recital
A vocal recital will be given by senior Kelby Robinson at 8 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 18, in Christ Chapel.

Football playoff
The NW football team will play its first playoff game at noon on Saturday, Nov. 17, against Marian University in Indianapolis. The game will be available for broadcast through nwcraiders.com.

from page 1

NW offers $500 to winners of lip-syncing contest

There’s nothing like the surprise that comes from the creativity of other people.”

In the coming years, SAC members hope to get more people involved in this event.

“It will take time for the campus to get involved because this is a new event,” Beadner said. “Eventually we would want to have more performers and fewer spectators. It would be great if it became a competition between groups on campus or even wings.”

Other colleges have lip-syncing events similar to Airband that have been very successful.

“Calvin and Taylor University each have [a lip-syncing performance] under different names that are essentially the same thing,” Beadner said.

This year, only six groups are involved in Airband.

“All of the groups have great ideas,” Beadner said. “One features nuns. There could be a Disney rendition or ’90s pop.”

People from around campus will judge the competition. The winner of the competition will get a $500 prize.

“The judges will be more humorous, and they won’t decide the vote,” Maznio said. “We will have a variety of judges, and it will be more on the entertainment side.”

Students will vote to determine the winner.

Airband will be held at 10 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16, in Christ Chapel.

Regina Spektor meets Korean pop at I-Club Coffeehouse

Culture and coffee will come together at the annual International Coffeehouse.

This year, I-Club president Shuhei Ho, and the club’s core members have lined up a variety of acts that showcase the cultural backgrounds of Northwestern students.

“I’m doing a dance to K-pop,” Ho said. “K-pop is Korean pop music.”

Ho is performing with I-Club members Na Heai Kim, Mariko Komatsu and Naoko Oura.

Meanwhile, junior Laura Glendenning has selected a few American songs to sing for her performance.

“I haven’t been a part of the Coffeehouse prior to this, but I’ve performed occasionally around the Omaha area,” Glendenning said.

Glendenning was encouraged by her roommate, Ho, to share her vocal talent at the International Coffeehouse.

Junior Yukiko Higashino is making her third appearance at the International Coffeehouse.

“I do not have any idea how to describe what cultural style my music comes from,” Cadwell said. “So maybe I would say that I mixed the song styles of Regina Spektor and Ingrid Michaelson.”

According to Ho, the International Coffeehouse is meant to give people a chance to see what the I-Club is all about.

“Many people will think it is only for international students, but it is not,” Ho said. “The I-Club is for everyone who is interested in other cultures.”

Glendenning agreed with Ho and said he finds much value in being a member of the I-Club even though he is not an international student.

“We will be happy to engage with our own culture,” Glendenning said.

“We are still international, and we still have much to offer to the cultural conversation.”

The International Coffeehouse will be held from 7:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 17, in the Hub. The event is free, and all drinks will be $1 off during the show.

Chapel

Monday
• Dr. Lila Sybesma, education

Tuesday
• Thanksgiving chapel

Wednesday
• No chapel during Thanksgiving break

Friday
• No chapel during Thanksgiving break

Photo by Emilee Berry

Junior Laura Glendenning practices for her performance at the International Coffeehouse.

By Julia Lantz