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Beacon Staff

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Sex Education

BY EMILY WALLACE

Julie Elliott is starting her second year as Northwestern's Dean of Student Life with a bang as she introduces a whole new program to the campus.

Last year she established Campus Conversations, but this year she has partnered up with Hannah McBride, Resident Director of Stegenga Hall, to create a Sexuality and Love workshop series.

"We wanted to host conversations that were important to students, and this year we chose the topic of sex and love," Elliott said.

The series will be broken into eight sessions, with each focusing on a different issue.

"We felt like making the conversation into eight different parts throughout the year would make it more manageable and hopefully easier for students to attend," McBride said.

The eight topics to be discussed are sexual myths, same-sex relationships, singleness, sexual abuse and harassment, gender roles, pornography, marriage and dating and the biology of sexuality.

"The idea for this new series came from the popularity of the Steggy sex panel. "So many people found that (Steggy sex panel) helpful and informative," McBride said. "It was just a great way to start conversation. We wanted to try and move it to an all-campus conversation."

To make the environment as comfortable as possible for the student, the majority of the hosts for the sessions are RDs or faculty members.

"The idea is that this is a place that students can come and safely and openly share their ideas on these topics," Elliott said. "That's why we've made these events for students rather than for the larger community."

Each session will have a different format. Some will be a panel. Others will be a single speaker. They will all have one thing in common: conversation.

"Every session will have an interactive part to the discussion," Elliott said.

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Progress made on athletic facilities

BY BAILEY VANDE WEERD

The recent destruction of the grain elevators just southwest of the Rowenhorst Student Center have only heightened Northwestern coaches and student athletes' excitement for the new athletic facility that will be built in that location.

A committee made up of several people from NW's campus contributed to the planning of the facility.

"A little over a year ago we developed the committee to examine indoor and outdoor athletic facilities on campus," said Earl Woodstra, Athletic Director at NW. "We tried to focus on what our highest needs were and what we could do to meet those needs and utilize space."

The athletic facility will feature a multi-purpose area, a weight room, an athletic conditioning space, a golf putting green, golf hitting nets and batting and pitching cages for baseball and softball.

"I think this will benefit the golf team in many ways," said Courtney Hummel, a member of NW's Women's Golf Team. "First of all, we will have a much bigger area to hit and we will be able to tell if our ball goes straight or not because right now we are only putting to a net right in front of us, which makes it difficult to tell. It will also benefit us because we will have an actual putting green instead of a little piece of carpet."

The additional space will hopefully ease some of the overlap in athletic team's practice schedules as well.

"One of the really positive things about the new athletic facility is that athletic teams will be able to practice at more ideal hours," Woodstra said.

"There will be a much better opportunity for athletes to be students and athletes."

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Culture is defined by Webster as "the beliefs, customs, arts, etc., of a particular society, group, place, or time." From a cultural standpoint, Orange City is a salad bowl with a lot of lettuce. This is not a bad thing; rather, it's an interesting environment to host a college. Even as a relatively homogenous campus, Northwestern is more diverse than the surrounding community. That diversity is not limited to the ethnic groups that exist within the grounds. Rather, it exists in thought processes and the accessibility of the world based on the events surrounding campus. Webster was right about beliefs and customs, but it goes much deeper here.

Culture can be as trivial as a clothing trend that shows up on campus or as intense as the different available worship styles. Culture is the movie theater full of college students on S2 Movie Night. It is the art show and theater production and multicultural fair. Culture is the dorm Twitter feed and cafeteria Instagram account. It's all the ideas that surround campus, and it is the reactions to those ideas. Arts and culture articles are varied, and occasionally miles apart. Some may think that colored skinny jeans are obsolete, and still others will not be able to care about the video game review or album from a country singer. But those elements of the culture are elements of NW, and they are what make students more connected as a whole.

The differences in cultural elements affect the 18-25 year olds in society because culture is all we know. Older generations didn't need to know about what happened elsewhere on the planet because it didn't affect them much. Now, the world spins because people are aware of what goes across the world. The racially-triggered events on Harvard's campus, along with the response to those events, infiltrated the student body at NW. The political train took a stop on campus as well, with some students attending with joy and others turning away with disgust. The culture here is dependent on the culture outside; perhaps the reverse is also true.

Look around. The clothes people wear, the books they read, the music they listen to and the technology they utilize make NW a cultural hub. Most campuses are similar, because college in itself is a culture. There will never again be a point in life where more than 1200 people are living in the same space, using the same facilities, eating the same meals and existing harmoniously. But what a culture it is.
‘Oculus’ chills with crime, mystery, horror
BY ELLIOT STOLTZ

Although “Oculus” certainly doesn’t try to break away from certain clichés that we have all become accustomed to within the horror genre, it still manages to place an uneasy feeling of true fear. “Oculus” follows the story of adults Kaylie (Karen Gillan) and Tim (Brenton Thwaites) as they attempt to keep a promise they made after a traumatic experience when they were children.

Ten years prior, odd occurrences began after Allen and Marie Russell decided to move into a new home with their son Tim and daughter Kaylie. Over a couple weeks, the family balance slowly unravels as Marie has a mental breakdown and Allen becomes increasingly attached to an antique mirror, the lesser glass, in his office. Tragedy strikes when Tim is convicted of murdering his parents. Before he is taken away, Kaylie has him promise to never forget what really happened that night.

Cue modern day. Tim is just being released from a mental hospital where he has spent the last ten years coping with the aftershock of that horrifying night. While Tim has been locked away, Kaylie has been searching for the mirror. She isn’t convinced that Tim committed the murders. She believes that a supernatural force from within their father’s antique mirror is the cause for the tragic deaths of their parents. With the mirror finally in their possession, Kaylie and Tim hope to prove their deepest and darkest childhood memories as well as hold their promise to destroy the lesser glass. However, once the siblings begin having horrible hallucinations, they have realized that their darkest nightmare has begun again.

The director did an excellent job captivating the viewer, and it was really easy to become wrapped up in the story. The film has a restrictive feeling to it; it’s as if the main characters are having their lives slowly squeezed out of them. The scariest part about “Oculus” is the hopelessness that resonates throughout most of the film. Tim and Kaylie find themselves trapped in a house with the lesser glass with no hope of a happy ending. Viewers are left feeling just as trapped as the two of them; there is seemingly no way out of this awful nightmare.

The only downfall of the movie is that you can’t always tell what is real or what is not. The director blends the character’s reality and hallucinations so seamlessly that some parts can be quite confusing. It’s very easy to find yourself asking, “Wait, did that really just happen or not?” “Oculus” is well made, which can be rare for horror films, and it is definitely one of the scariest movies released recently. It is certainly worth watching but remember to turn off the lights.

Rating: ★★★★☆

Album reviews: Best beats of summer 2014

BY LYRIC MORRIS

As the temperature takes a surprisingly drastic turn this week, here are a few of summer’s best albums to help transport us all back to those sweet summer days when short shorts were in abundance and homework was the farthest thing from anyone’s mind.

1. First Aid Kit: Stay Gold

Though they’re a personal favorite, I generally wouldn’t recommend First Aid Kit to anyone who’s not a lover of folk music — the group’s past work has almost all been wholesome folk harmonies layered over simple guitar parts. Stay Gold, however, shatters that simple view of these Swedish sister duo’s work. These are perfect summer tracks. The large anthems and sweeping instrumentals of “Master Pretender” and “Stay Gold” beg you to roll down your window and jam on your way out west for an iconic summer road-trip.

BEST TRACK: “Stay Gold”

2. The Antlers: Familiars

It’s easy to get lost in Familiars. The album, which features only two songs just under the 5-minute mark, is jam-packed with textured atmospheric power ballads. Each track is layered with electric ambiances, big-band jazz hooks, and the flawlessly diverse vocals of front man Peter Silberman. This album belongs in the iTunes of every 20-something — Silberman’s lyrics are incredibly relatable and probe into the struggles of love and loss that face us all in young adulthood.

BEST TRACKS: “Hotel, ” “Palace”

3. Lana Del Ray: Ultraviolence

Ultraviolence feels like a sort of coming home for Lana Del Ray. The artist, whose muddled line between self and alter ego has left many befuddled for the past few years, seems to finally have blazed her own trail. Ultraviolence leaves the kitschy lyrics of her past albums behind and trades them in for hauntingly dark, atmospheric ballads, featuring her signature smoky vocals. Despite her recent growth, there’s certainly still progress for the artist to make; at moments throughout the album, her rawness can come off as pining and desperate.

BEST TRACK: “Brooklyn Baby”

4. Ed Sheeran: X

I’m convinced that it’s actually impossible not to like Ed Sheeran. This album was perfect to jam out to this summer, because it’s just so fun. If you’re looking for thoughtful lyrics or musical complexity, look elsewhere. But if you’re looking for something lighthearted, X is the perfect head-bobbing, pool-splashing, burger-grilling soundtrack of the summer. The English pop-folk artist knows how to create catchy hooks that will be stuck in the heads of listeners for weeks.

BEST TRACKS: “Sing,” “I See Fire”

5. First Aid Kit: Stay Gold

The only downfall of the movie is that you can’t always tell what is real or what is not. The director blends the character’s reality and hallucinations so seamlessly that some parts can be quite confusing. It’s very easy to find yourself asking, “Wait, did that really just happen or not?” “Oculus” is well made, which can be rare for horror films, and it is definitely one of the scariest movies released recently. It is certainly worth watching but remember to turn off the lights.

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Features

Ramaker receives makeover

BY BAILEY VANDE WEERD

Over the past few years, Northwestern has undergone many changes and renovations on campus. One major renovation that students, staff and faculty members are able to enjoy this year is the recently updated Ramaker Center.

Ramaker Center, formerly known as Ramaker Library, has been revamped into a modern student development center. The construction of Ramaker Center began last spring and was finished this fall for the beginning of the school year.

Many of the offices from the Rowenhorst Student Center relocated to Ramaker Center. The departments of student life, global education, integrated general education, Northwestern Honors Program and the Franken Leadership Center all made the transition.

Although it is quite the adjustment for many, Julie Elliott, Dean of Student Life, has appreciated being able to connect on a regular basis with the many departments she oversees.

“I oversaw departments in the RSC, but I also oversaw other departments in the Franken Center,” Elliott said. “While being in the RSC, it was hard for me to feel like I was giving enough time to the Franken Center — being in separate buildings made that difficult. Now that we are in the same building, departments are naturally just collaborating more.”

Student benefits were often taken into account when considering the many decisions involved in designing Ramaker Center.

“We would love to see this be a major hub of student activity; it is a great place to study or work together,” Elliott said. “It would also be nice to relieve some of the busyness from the Learning Commons and have students come here.”

The focus on student’s needs set the tone for the modern building design.

“The architects we hired gave us many different design options, and from those we were able to comment on what we liked,” Elliott said. “We wanted to make sure the look and feel would satisfy the students. Furniture was also an important aspect we were careful on. We wanted students to feel comfortable.”

The open layout of Ramaker Center also provides a great location for events. La Mosaic has already utilized this space for club activities, and plans to continue this in the near future.

“We hosted the kick-off dance and it went really well,” said Nayely Becerra-Balbuena, a core leader of La Mosaic. “We would love to host more events here and also be able to connect with other groups who may be using the building.”

Perhaps one of the most talked about features of Ramaker Center is that it will be open 24 hours for students. Currently, 24-hour areas are located only in dorm lounges.

“We are responding to what students said they wanted,” Elliott said. “I am cautiously optimistic. I am excited for students to have somewhere they can go, and I think it will be a great thing if it is not abused.”

The excitement of a 24-hour area for students also brings up the question of how security will be handled. Pete Boerema, Director of Campus Safety and Environmental Health, has a plan that is ready to be put into action.

“As of right now, the plan is to have security student workers work night shifts from Saturday midnight-5:00 a.m. and from Sunday midnight-5:00 a.m.,” Boerema said. “It is a pretty big commitment to ask of them so I am trying to find eight students who are willing.”

Along with security workers, eight security cameras have been installed in the building, and Ramaker Center will also be locked after midnight, which will require students to use their student ID cards to enter. This is to keep the building secure from anyone who does not attend NW.

Despite a few minor details that need to be completed, Ramaker Center is fully open for students and staff.

“Everything that we wanted to have happen for Ramaker Center is happening,” Elliott said.

SGA seeks fresh perspectives from NW community

BY JULIA VANDYK

The Student Government Association, better known as SGA, exists on campus to hear your voice. You call; they’ll answer. SGA wants to give students a say at NW — whether it involves Caf food or dorm hours or the Red Raider Cup.

One of the ways SGA is working to achieve their goal this year is by adding a new commuter representative position as well as electing representatives from each dorm.

“We really want each dorm to have a voice in everything we talk about,” SGA Secretary Kellie Goedeken said.

“Last year we had SGA members from each dorm,” SGA Senior Representative Anthony Wubben said. “With the suggestion from Julie Elliott, we decided to encourage this across-campus diversity by structuring SGA with both class and dorm representatives.”

The leaders of SGA recognize and are working to give a voice to the diversity of opinions and concerns around the NW campus.

“Dorm life is specific to each dorm students live in, and we want to capture the feelings and thoughts that go on in each dorm, so we’re not generalizing from a couple of dorms and thinking that represents everyone,” SGA President Erin Van Horn said.

“We want to have a more thorough and wide perspective.” In an effort to further expand the campus viewpoint, SGA decided to add a commuter representative position as well.

“The additional commuter representative position has the potential to bring a new perspective to SGA that may have been overlooked otherwise,” Wubben said.

Amber Beyer commutes to campus every day from an apartment on the edge of town.

“It is a bit different to be a commuter,” Beyer said. “Relationships on campus have to be a lot more intentional. It takes more work if you do want to be involved in something, because it takes a lot of extra time to be here. You can’t just run over from your dorm to go to a meeting.”

Because commuters aren’t as consistently immersed in the campus culture as students who live on campus, students who commute could add more of an outside viewpoint to SGA’s collection of perspectives.

“The main purpose would be the change in perspective,” Van Horn said. “Just to get a fuller view, different ideas. We want to have as many students and their backgrounds represented on this campus as much as possible.”

SGA seeks to help students express their opinions about various aspects of campus.

“If students have an idea of what they want to see on campus or suggestions of improvement, SGA is a good way to be heard,” Van Horn said.

With the help of Julie Elliott, SGA was able to facilitate a campus conversation about closed-dorm hours this past spring semester. That conversation was inspired by both SGA and Julie Elliott, Van Horn said. “We heard a lot about it, and some things that students weren’t happy with.”

As a result of the cooperation between Elliott and SGA, the campus conversation led to the extension of dorm hours campus-wide. However, dorm hours aren’t the only issue being brought to SGA’s attention.

“Over and over we hear about the eateries on campus,” Wubben said. “We talk to Ned about the cafeteria, or we send e-mails out to other people and work things out at our meetings.”

SGA works with events such as Professor of the Year, the Red Raider Cup and Campus Conversations. It is also able to provide a student voice on faculty committees such as the Academic Affairs Committee in addition to the Strategic Planning Committee.

“There are always opportunities to be involved, whether or not you think you have time to be a fulltime member,” Van Horn said. “Don’t hesitate to tell us your ideas or suggestions. We want to know what the heartbeat of campus is, and we’re always open to more conversation.”

Student Government Positions

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Class Representatives
- Dorm Representatives*
- commuter Representative*
- Apartment/Plex Representative
- At-Large Representative

*Newly implemented positions
Elaine Peacock and her husband lead squaredancing on campus last Fall. Rock, South Dakota, attended her first caller's education uncertainty during her 20 years of work. The native of Elk calling for their lives. “I think this has its benefits because I think it isn’t a conversation that happens often, especially in Christian circles,” Brett Gudeman said. “So it’s kept hush-hush in your youth group growing up in the church and so kind of what you know about sexuality is what you’ve heard from your friends or it’s through the grapevine.” Other students agree that the school will benefit from an open discussion on sex. "The benefits are the information the students will receive," Jaclyn Dykstra said. "I think people should be informed because it’s a part of life. I think we should talk about it, even though it is awkward.

"I think students on campus will benefit from this because they are now opening communication on campus," Angie Gorinik said. "We need to be able to talk about sex in a healthy way in our Christian community.”

"Square dancing is really fun in itself but you also get to dress up," Jennifer Koehn said. "My friends and family, Peacock continued her career. After remission in 2010, she wasn’t sure if she could go back to being a caller or even singing. With the encouragement of friends and family, Peacock decided to attend the National Traditional Country Music Hall of Fame. She was also recognized in 2010 by the South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame. "Never give up on your dream because God has a great plan for you, he prepares us with what he wants us to do with the gifts he gives us," Peacock said. "It might not be in our time but it’s always in his time.

"Having speakers that come from both sides of the argument made it comfortable to talk about difficult issues," Katie Thomson said.

The majority of students left the session with more questions than answers. "I feel like this encouraged us to talk more and discuss what we thought about things and what we thought was true and wasn’t," Maddie Booher said. "It opened a lot of questions for us to think about.

Students are encouraged to attend the next Ngage session on October 8 entitled "Theology of Sex and Marriage" hosted by Elliott and Harlan Van Oort.
Stop leaving church

BY JACOB CHRISTIANSEN

I think you’ve probably seen them — the plethora of headlines that are pervading our social media sites, all saying functionally the same thing: “Why Millennials are Leaving the Church.” “11 Reasons Churches Are Not Reaching Millennials.” A new version of this same old tune gets “shared” on Facebook every few months; the titles are simply variations on the same principle. What’s fascinating to me is that these articles don’t seem to suggest millennials are losing their faith or leaving Christianity, but rather that they’ve simply decided church isn’t for them. Rather, it’s the church that needs to change.

These are good questions, and I hope that these discussions are leading to positive change within the church. But this thinking seems to let us millennials off the hook for something that is, at its core, our decision. It allows us to get away with abandoning the church, the bride of Christ, and feel justified in doing so, because all of our friends are sharing the same articles as us. We seem to assume that flaws within the church are a viable reason for us to leave, and so we pick out issues we have and off we go.

I’ll be the first to say that I have some issues with the contemporary church — there are things I’d like to change. Christ had his own issues with the church of his day. Paul wrote letter after letter addressing problems that were arising. The church being imperfect, being flawed... it’s nothing new. In fact, it will inevitably be imperfect (until the day of Christ’s return), because it is made up of imperfect people. But just like we can’t abandon our fellow human beings for being imperfect, millennials need to stop abandoning the church for the same. As a generation, we espouse grace and love as Christ’s most important teachings, and yet we seem unwilling to offer that same grace to the church. We lay out the things within the church that need to change but refuse to do that changing ourselves.

Let me do a little bit of qualifying. There are legitimate reasons to leave a specific church. It doesn’t take much to imagine a bad enough scenario for someone to be justified in finding somewhere else to worship. I’m not asking anyone to stay in situations that are unhealthy or destructive for them, as we’re all aware some churches can be.

As a body, millennials have power. The fact that churches are scrambling to find ways to get us back is evidence of that, but it seems that many of us have chosen to use that power in leaving. We hope our absence will create the change we desire, and we seem unaware that our presence would be all the more effective. What if, instead of leaving, we find ways to get us back is evidence of that, but it seems that many of us have chosen to use that power in leaving. We hope our absence will create the change we desire, and we seem unaware that our presence would be all the more effective. What if, instead of leaving, we find ways to get us back is evidence of that, but it seems that many of us have chosen to use that power in leaving. We hope our absence will create the change we desire, and we seem unaware that our presence would be all the more effective. What if, instead of leaving, we find ways to get us back is evidence of that, but it seems that many of us have chosen to use that power in leaving. We hope our absence will create the change we desire, and we seem unaware that our presence would be all the more effective. What if, instead of leaving, we find ways to get us back is evidence of that, but it seems that many of us have chosen to use that power in leaving. We hope our absence will create the change we desire, and we seem unaware that our presence would be all the more effective.

Contribute to h* radio on your Twitter account

BY DAVID LI

Do me a favor and rewind your memory back two Fridays ago. Stop the clock at 2 p.m. It was raining. (Well, the more recent Friday was also raining. What’s up with the weather this year?) The air had a chilly effect on the body, but it was still humid and felt like we were all in Taiwan or something. You might have just gotten out of a class or were on your way to one like myself. At 2:05 p.m. I pressed the play button to begin the playlist of personal favorites that I meticulously selected from my iTunes library. As I was texting my roommate to let him know when it was alright to stop increasing the volume, I saw a girl stop in her tracks and turn around in the direction of our room. She smiled and started head-banging to the Foo Fighters’ “The Pretender.”

That moment is what my roommates and I are aiming for all of you to have sometime this semester. The light bulb, “ding,” smile because your happy moment when you recognize your all-time favorite song to come on, which puts a smile on your face. My name is David “Pinky” Li; my roommates are Mark “Sweaterback” Peterson and David “Snake” Green. This year, we’re in charge of Heemstra Radio, and we intend to rekindle the tradition.

Typically, h* radio plays music from the 3-man room up on the 3rd floor of Coly after Chapel every Friday and then again in the afternoon from 2-5 p.m. This is our air time for the semester until more time is otherwise granted by the faculty. In the past, we used to enjoy the liberty of playing music more often during the week after classes or even on weekends. Unfortunately, that isn’t the case anymore due to past complaints made by faculty and staff regarding high volume and less-accepted genres of music.

Initially, h* radio was far from professional or organized. Like how most Heemstra traditions began and continued, a couple of guys had simply decided to play some music out of their dorm windows from time to time just for fun. Eventually, it became a timely event which the NW community could enjoy regularly.

After hearing community concerns, we recognize that we’ve been too casual in the past with our efforts. So, to combat past issues, we’d like to extend some of the involvement to you this year and the rest of the student body. We’re really hoping that people in this community will give us a bigger and better reason to keep this tradition of ours going on. If it wasn’t for you guys, our peers, classmates and friends, in the end we’d just go back to being a few guys sticking our speakers out the window.

To be more involved and to see what we’re up to follow our Twitter feed @heemstra_radio and tweet us what songs you’d like us to play on Fridays. I’d also invite anyone and everyone to come up and visit us to get to know us or to just hang out. So help spread the word, follow us and tweet us your suggestions. If we can quantify how much we matter to this campus with the number of followers or tweets we get, it could potentially allow more air time.
The NW volleyball team finished off rival Morningside 3-1 to open up conference play on Sept. 10. On a ten-game winning streak, the fifth-ranked NW squad improved to an 11-1 record.

In the first set, NW was neck and neck with the Mustangs. With the set tied at 21 and then again at 24, senior outside hitter Kaitlin Floerchinger and junior rightside hitter Karlie Schut finished the set with back-to-back kills.

NW fell 25-19 in the second set. Morningside hit .364 for the set compared to NW’s .100.

“We didn’t have the right attitude in the first two sets,” said freshman hitter Jessica Van Beek. “We turned our attitude into more of an angry determination and made them defend our best.”

In the third set, NW held onto a 16-9 advantage by closing on a 9-6 run ignited by Van Beek’s three kills. NW finished the set with a 25-15 victory.

In set four, NW got on top early with a 12-8 lead. The Raiders then embarked on a 13-4 run to close out the Mustangs.

Three Raiders recorded double-digit kills for the match. Floerchinger led the squad with 17 followed by Schut’s 14 and junior middle hitter Payton Samuelson’s 12, which matched a career best. Van Beek notched nine kills, who also hit a team best .529. Senior defensive specialist Alexis Bart recorded 19 digs.

NW will return to the court today with a matchup against St. Ambrose for the Saints Invitational in Clinton, Iowa. The match will begin at 9 a.m.

With the loss of quarterback Davis Bloomendal this past off-season, the Raiders have a few new faces taking snaps including sophomore Braden Miltenburger, sophomore Craig Brunsma and redshirt freshman Isaac Hurd. Miltenburger saw some playing time as a freshman in 2013 and completed 16-33 passes for 266 yards and four touchdowns in his six game appearances.

Junior Jessie Riley and sophomore Paul Hutson are the two main returners to the backfield from last season. Hutson rushed for 439 yards on 83 carries with three scores last year. Riley racked up 384 yards on 66 carries and two touchdowns for the Raiders in 2013.

The receiving group this season is led by senior Ben Green and junior Levi Ettleman. Green enters his senior season after receiving first-team all-conference honors after collecting 882 total yards on 56 receptions last year. Ettleman returns for his second season as the Raiders’ starting tight end after catching 10 passes for 80 yards last season.

On the defensive side of the ball, NW returns nine of its 11 starters from last season after losing linebackers Isaiah Twitty and Nate Van Ginkel.

With most of the starters returning, Achterhoff said he’s looking forward to this defensive group doing some great things for the team this season.

The linebacker position is full of potential and experience as the team heads into the 2014 season. Senior captains Greg Hegstad and Brett Coston will lead the team in the middle of the field and will be accompanied by seniors Josh Treymbal, Levi Dyshorno and Mitch Jansen as well as juniors Andrew Powell and Caleb DeHaan.

Rounding out the defensive lineup is senior Jermaine Ambrose, junior Jake Zylistra and junior Justin Wohletz, who all return as starters. Junior Jesse Walnofer and Nathan De Hoyos will also see some playing time and look to make an impact in the defensive back position.

The Raiders have already played one game this season as they opened their season at home against the Bacone Warriors from Oklahoma. Despite leading 27-8 at the half, the Raiders fell 41-33. NW will play its first conference match-up Saturday against the Doane Tigers and look to avenge last season’s 34-27 loss.
Plexes perplexed by incidents

BY SARAH WEDEL
NEWS EDITOR

August was an interesting month for some residents of the Courtyard Village, better known as the plexes. Most recently, on the evening of Thursday, August 28, a carbon monoxide detector in the mechanical room in the North plex basement went off.

Campus maintenance was notified, and they discovered a ventilation problem. Head of Maintenance Scott Simmelink said that because it had been a very hot and humid day, the ventilation system that releases carbon monoxide outside of the building had not been working well.

Maintenance called the city gas company who measured the carbon monoxide levels in the mechanical room and in the plex rooms. The levels of carbon monoxide were considered safe and were far below the carbon monoxide exposure standard.

“We initially evacuated everybody (10 plexes) just to be on the safe side though,” said Marlon Haverdink, Director of Residence Life.

Because of the basement plexes’ proximity to the mechanical room, these rooms were the most affected by the ventilation issues. The residents of the basement plexes were given the option to return to their plexes or to stay somewhere else for the night.

Carbon monoxide detectors are located in the basement of each plex. Haverdink said the detectors are checked regularly to ensure they are working properly. After the carbon monoxide gas inspection, improvements were made to the ventilation system to prevent future problems.

Although Northwestern’s campus has experienced issues with carbon monoxide before, another event that occurred on Friday, August 22, was a “first” for the college.

Around 6 a.m. a woman, whose identity is not being released, entered the basement of the South plex. She proceeded to enter one of the rooms — which was not locked — and took the room’s fire extinguisher. The woman re-entered the hallway, opened the door of the other basement plex and discharged the fire extinguisher at pipes in the ceiling which were exposed by a missing ceiling tile.

The beeping of the fire alarm woke Ashley Carhuff, who lives across the hall from the room the woman had entered first. When Ashley walked out of her bedroom into the living room of her plex, she saw the unfamiliar woman in the hall through the open door. There appeared to be smoke.

Carhuff asked the woman what she was doing and the woman told her there was a fire in the basement.

“I had a mini panic attack looking for a fire,” Carhuff said.

After finding no fire, Carhuff realized what she saw was not smoke, but discharge from the fire extinguisher. The woman took the fire extinguisher and left the basement of the North plex. Carhuff sensed something was not right, so she followed the woman outside.

Carhuff asked the woman who she was. The woman said she worked for maintenance but when Carhuff asked her where the maintenance building was she did not know. Carhuff was able to get the name of the woman and take a picture of her as she walked away.

Carhuff did not call the police because the woman did not seem threatening. Carhuff, an exercise science major, did however contact Jen Rodgers, her kinesiology instructor. Rodgers told Carhuff to contact head of campus security, Peter Boerema. Boerema notified police who were able to apprehend the woman later that morning.

The police were able to use the name and photo that Carhuff provided to find the woman in question.

The woman had been in police custody prior to this incident and suffers from mental illness. The Sioux County Attorney’s office told Boerema it is more concerned with seeing the woman receive treatment than pressing charges.

Nothing except the fire extinguisher was stolen from either apartment, but maintenance did have to clean up residue from the fire extinguisher that drifted into both basement plexes. A new fire extinguisher was purchased to replace the stolen one. The original extinguisher was later recovered near the art building and was found completely discharged.

Carhuff said that residents in both plexes are very careful about locking their doors at night as well as during the day when no one is there.

“The situation could have been potentially bad, but everything worked out,” Carhuff said.

Boerema said this event was a good reminder that even in Orange City, we need to take the necessary safety precautions.

“The reason we are a safe community is because people are smart,” Boerema said.

“We need to continue to be smart in order to stay a safe community,” Boerema said.

Boerema sent two emails to students this week providing campus safety tips and a list of emergency and non-emergency phone numbers. His hope is to prevent similar situations from happening again.

Early in the morning on August 31, a woman entered the basement of the South plex and discharged a fire extinguisher.

Basic Safety Tips

- Lock your doors.

- Do not prop open entrance doors to residence halls that are intended to be closed and locked.

- Report suspicious persons or activity on campus to the police, and then to your RA, RD or campus security.

- Keep your vehicle locked and do not store valuables in your car.

- If you lose your key or campus ID card, immediately report it to your RA, RD or campus security.

Source: Campus Security

New athletic facility

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“One of the really positive things about the new athletic facility is that athletic teams will be able to practice at more ideal hours,” Woudstra said. “There will be a much better opportunity for athletes to be students and athletes.”

The facility will also create space for a new wrestling room. Currently, the wrestling room is used by both the wrestling team and the dance team. The athletic weight room in the RSC will be transformed into a wrestling room once the new athletic facility is in use.

Woudstra believes the facility will enhance opportunities for the athletic department.

“NW is fortunate to have a facility that not many schools our size have. It will be an exciting addition to campus,” Woudstra said. “The addition of the new facility will also create more opportunities in the RSC for the general student population, faculty and staff.”