Artists paint hope for spring
by Tyler Lehmann

NW alumni Zach Maxon and Mark Alsum are painting a mural on the side of Dove Christian Book Store in downtown Orange City.

In case Orange City’s Dutch heritage isn’t already abundantly clear, a new mural being painted downtown by two Northwestern graduates ought to do the trick.

Once completed, the 100-by-22-foot mural on the north wall of Dove Christian Book Store will feature large, brightly-colored tulips with a windmill in the background.

“If tulips were the size of people, and people were the size of tulips, this is what it would look like,” said Mark Alsum, who is painting the mural with Zach Maxon.

Alsum, husband of Steggy resident director, Rebecca Alsum, and Maxon both graduated from NW in 2009 with degrees in art. They were roommates their senior year.

Newly remodeled RSC four-court area to re-open
BY JOLEEN WILHELM

Northwestern students will soon be able to both practice and play indoors.

The newly refurbished four-court area in the RSC is scheduled to open Sept. 30.

The project, launched in May 2011, involved putting in new flooring, lighting, curtains, fresh paint and an improved heating system.

“It will be nice to have traffic flow through the building again,” said RSC Director Dale Thompson.

“More than likely there is going to be some outside work which will have to be done after Homecoming, but we have our fingers crossed that the four-court area will be completed by then.”

This is the first time the space is being refurbished since its original construction 30 years ago, and students are excited to see the improvements.

“The new track looks awesome,” said junior Tyler Vermeer.

“For the people who want to work out and for the people who want to use the space for running,” said senior Teresa Kerkvliet.

“The nets will prevent balls from flying everywhere so more activities can be going on at once without interference.”

Nick Bray, a senior, got a sneak peek at the new space and had the privilege of running on the track.

“The cushion on the new track was nicer running barefoot than running on the old track last year with shoes on,” said Bray.

“The curves are wider by cutting down the number of lanes from five to four, which is nice because you don’t feel like you’re running in a circle as much.”

The renovations were possible through donations.

“The courts were 30 years old and just needed to be redone,” Thompson said. “A donor stepped up and said make it happen.”

Sculptor displays show of connections
BY BRITTANY LEIKVOLL

How do you keep close to a moment that has passed? How do you capture something that is invisible?

Ann Chuchvara, a Michigan sculptor, asks these questions, along with others, through her creations. Her show, titled “what remains,” is an installation of mixed media that will be open in the Te Paske Gallery from Sept. 19 - Oct. 14.

“My work addresses the delicate connections that bind us to what is no longer tangible and the elements that exist in the periphery of our daily lives,” Chuchvara said during the opening reception of her show.

Her collection is full of delicate, subtle works suspended in time.
Fully in love with Wilco’s ‘The Whole Love’

BY KATI HENG
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

With 16 years of albums filled with everything from soft country spiked with bits of catchy pop flare, to heavily experimental guitar and synthesizer solo, there was little way of knowing what to expect from Wilco’s newest album.

Thanks to full-length previews released by the band, the suspense is over.

“The Whole Love” brings back the experimental rock sound, complete with long solos that sound almost like an impromptu jam session from a group of guys that know each other’s style well.

Yet, there’s a delightful variety in the album’s lineup—songs range from bright, poppy and summer-esque to slow reflective pieces that seem to carry so much of weight of the world on their shoulders.

The contrast, rather than being off-putting mix of ups-and-downs, seems to reflect the reality of life: not every day can be a catchy pop tune. There are mournful ballad days as well.

It was a wise choice— amid today’s trend of stripped-down folk and countless, indistinguishable indie-rock groups, their album stands out. It’s a refreshing breakaway from the typical refrain-oriented and sing-or-play-alongs we’ve been getting lately.

“The Whole Love” opens with the lengthy, yet captivating song “Art of Almost.” It works like an overture for the rest of the album, warning that they’re going to throw in some unexpected hooks, change it up just when you think you can start humming along, and keep you in eager anticipation of what’s coming next.

After their opening anthem, Wilco moves into one of the album’s many feel-good pop songs. If there is one thing “The Whole Love” does well, it’s these upbeat little ditties.

“I Might” features a guitar riff that you’ll be humming for days afterwards, while “Capitol City” brings to mind some good old Randy Newman (composer of Toy Story’s “You’ve Got a Friend in Me”).

The boys actually break into a whistle in the optimistic “Dawn on Me.” “Born Alone,” despite its dreamy lyrics (“I was born to die alone”), will have you tapping your toes and nodding your head like a fool.

The album has its share of stripped down, somber songs as well. “Sunloafer,” although featuring bustling piano and percussion patterns, leaves you with a haunting, saddened feel at the end.

“Rising Red Lung,” a slight and laidback number, works effectively to segue into the lovely voice of lead singer Jeff Tweedy and soft back-up music, and feels lighter and more raw than the rest of the album, as if Tweedy is taking a few minutes off away from the band to think to himself.

The title track, “Whole Love,” is a great mixture of all the album’s strengths: opening like a sweet country tune, switching quickly into catchy guitar and xylophones for a while and ending with a soft electronic fade out. It’s an up-beat answer to “Art of Almost,” but it’s close to the end of the album, by which time you’ll be ready to appreciate its complexities.

“One Sunday Morning (Song for Jamie Lee’s Boyfriend)” closes out the album with some of Wilco’s most mournful lyrics to date. Spanning more than 12 minutes, the song ends the upbeat album with a state of reflection on the past.

“The Whole Love,” although a beautiful and intricate album, may not please every Wilco fan.

Some fans will surely long for the band’s countrified sound found in 2000’s “Sky Blue Sky,” while others are sure to miss the strength their lyrics have carried in previous albums.

Nonetheless, “The Whole Love” proves Wilco’s strong musicianship and ability to adapt to the times. Small snapshots of Wilco’s previous sounds and phases are hidden within their newer, cheerier pop sound, but if listened to closely, will be easy and pleasing to pick out.

Whether you’re a fan of the classic Wilco sound, or a new listener, “The Whole Love” will leave you pleasantly surprised, if given the chance.

Jon McLaughlin brings the concert to the iPods

BY EMILY BROUWER

“Forever If Ever” is one of those albums you can put on repeat on your iPod for hours on end, without ever skipping a song.

Fusing his songs about love and heartbreak, including upbeat tracks like “What I Want” and “Without You Now,” and emotional ballads such as “Till I Follow You” and “Maybe It’s Over,” (featuring Xenia from “The Voice”), Jon McLaughlin is back.

With a wide variety of tracks, McLaughlin shows off his exceptional songwriting skills once again.

“Forever If Ever” is McLaughlin’s third record, but his other two albums don’t even begin to compare to this latest release in terms of musicianship. McLaughlin himself even has said that this record is the one of which he is the most proud.

After over two years of writing songs for his new record and struggling to find a label, McLaughlin decided to do it all himself. He used his own band, recorded the songs he wanted and played them how he wanted them to be played. The album was all Jon.

The end result is absolutely fantastic—his style and soulful voice shine through undeniably.

One of Jon’s main goals in the album was to bridge the gap between what McLaughlin’s fans heard on his CDs compared to what they heard at his concerts. By imagining the effect of a certain song on the concert mood, and how the audience would react, he accomplished this goal.

The album sounds more authentic than past albums, lacking the feel of an overproduced record.

It can easily and honestly be said that this recording demonstrates a true vocalism at his finest.

Fans of vocalists such as Kris Allen, Gavin DeGraw, Elliot Yamin, Brandon Heath, Lee DeWyze or David Archuleta, the pop, indie, or piano-rock style music should make sure to check out McLaughlin “Forever If Ever.”

“Discotheque by U2”

The first time I heard it, I thought of Augustine’s Confessions, and the first several songs capture this text.

“Mysterious Ways by U2”

Every song on this album is great. In my opinion, it’s a tie for U2’s best album with “Achtung Baby,” and the first several songs capture this text.


After their opening “Sunday Bloody Sunday by U2” and sing-along songs that many find questionable, stemming from a crazed state of mind.

“The Who’s Greatest Hits Vol. II” opens with the lengthy, yet captivating song “Art of Almost.” It works like an overture for the rest of the album, warning that they’re going to throw in some unexpected hooks, change it up just when you think you can start humming along, and keep you in eager anticipation of what’s coming next.

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Whether you’re a fan of the classic Wilco sound, or a new listener, “The Whole Love” will leave you pleasantly surprised, if given the chance.
**Top 5**

**Reality shows of the season**

1. **The X-Factor**
   - Submitted by Emily Brouwer
   - Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul star as judges, but we promise it's not "American Idol."

2. **The Sing-Off**
   - Submitted by Amber McNeill
   - It's like a concert in your living room every week.

3. **The Biggest Loser**
   - Submitted by Emily Brouwer
   - "American Idol." Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul star as judges, as well as its positive moral outlook.

4. **My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic**
   - Submitted by Kerzie Lantis
   - Anna Kournikova is the new host of "The X-Factor," which turns into 16, then 64 and then 256.

5. **Dancing with the Stars**
   - Submitted by Amber McNeill
   - Ricki Lake and David Bosch agreed with Tiahrt.

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**BY KAMERON TOEWS**

We've all heard the saying that looks can kill, but what about a handshake? A newly mutated disease runs rampant across the globe, killing millions, in director Steven Soderbergh's newest thriller, "Contagion."

Once the disease infects its first human host, it takes only a few days for the disease to spread internationally. The government, private organizations and even a freelance journalist are busy hunting for a cure. The government, private organizations and even a freelance journalist are busy hunting for a cure.

Beth (Gwyneth Paltrow), while Dr. Cheever (Laurence Fishburne) leads the government's investigation, Dr. Mears (Kate Winslet) struggles to gather data on the disease, and Dr. Orantes (Marion Cotillard) straps on the lab coat to relentlessly hunt for a cure—all in the same 106 minute film.

Perhaps that was the filmmakers' goal—there is never one central character, one hero, as in most real-world stories. Yet, movie-going audiences will miss having a central protagonist.

"Contagion" brings little new to the bag. The same story of a rapidly spreading and deadly disease has already been told. Halfway through the flick, I got bored.

If there is one thing "Contagion" did well, it clearly portrayed the idea that people touch a lot of things. I became overly conscious of what I touched.

Winslet's character, Dr. Mears, warns, "The average person touches their face three to five times every waking minute. In between that, we're touching door knobs, water fountains and each other."

During the movie, I realized I touched my face. I touched my popcorn. I touched the door handle on my way out.

If offering nothing else, the movie should open up the realization that humanity is so closely connected. It can weave through every continent in days.

Physical distance no longer separates humanity.

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**My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic**

**BY MICHAEL GUTSCHE**

"My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic" is the latest iteration of the many-times rebooted and reinvented "My Little Pony" television series and toy lines. An American-made cartoon that premiered in 2010, the show has received praise from critics for its impressive writing and humor, as well as its positive moral outlook.

The show follows a young unicorn named Twilight Sparkle. Twilight is bookish and rational, valuing the pursuit of knowledge and spending more time studying than making friends.

After being instructed by her mentor, Princess Celestia, to study friendship in a small town called Ponyville, Twilight eventually becomes part of a small group that is the world's only chance to stop a magical curse of endless night.

Something that very few people saw coming, however, was the show's popularity with people outside its target demographic of young girls. Of all the shows available to the college audience, young adults are watching ponies learning lessons about friendship—for what reason?

The "My Little Pony" series' previous television iterations have always been soaked with a saccharine happy-laughter-color aesthetic. While appealing to its target demographic, it rarely had much in the way of character development or strong storytelling.

This reincarnation of "My Little Pony" is deeper. "It's more than just clever—it's well-written," said junior Skylar Tiatht.

"It's not the sort of humor you'd find in 'Family Guy' or something. It's a more brilliant, subtle absurdity."

Freshman Corinne Vanden Bosch agreed with Tiatht.

"Friendship is Magic" is kind of refreshing—it's a niche kids' show," she said. "There's a little bit of sarcasm in the writing."

"The show is a great example of a children's show that doesn't just have to be for children," said junior Toben Archer. "There's a lot in there that an 8-year-old wouldn't pick up on."

However, not everyone who is exposed to the show likes it. "It's like Nazi propaganda," said senior Justin Karmann. "It's full of promises and colors, but it's all lies."

Whether you like it or not, with the impressively varied and broad fanbase, as well as the commercial success of the show, dents in the perception of "My Little Pony" have been made.

"Maybe these brightly colored little ponies, rainbows and lessons on friendship are not only for 5-year-old girls, after all."

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**Fall television premiere wrap-up**

**THE OFFICE**

Season 8 has begun, and despite the departure of a favorite boss, the first episode was impressive. It's true; Michael Scott's awkward moments will be missed. However, it's great to see Andy get a win considering his troubles with Erin last year.

Pam's pregnancy leads to some great character opportunities for her. Her emotional reactions throughout the episode were hilarious.

A new energy has returned to the show and it's already off to a good start. —By Ashlee Eiseland

**GLEE**

In case you couldn't make it to the "Glee" viewing party in the Fern lounge or missed watching it with other "Glee" fanatics, here's a quick rundown.

The music, the drama, as well as the humor was still there, although many fans missed their favorite characters from previous seasons. Despite a season premiere that didn't live up to many fans' expectations, you can be sure "Glee" will continue to tune in to see what's happening at McKinley High. —By Amber McNell

**NEW GIRL**

In "New Girl," FOX's latest comedy, Zooey Deschanel plays yet another quirky and confident girl, this time named Jess Day. Jess finds herself rooming with three guys after a horrible breakup.

After exchanging some superficial dating advice and the guys spend some time checking out Jess's best friend, the model, their relationships mature, and they end up becoming a central part of another's lives, as with any sitcom's characters. —By Brittany Leikvoll

**UP ALL NIGHT**

"Up All Night" has some good things going—it stars Christina Applegate ("Anchorman") as Reagan, a new mother returning to work, Will Arnett ("Arrested Development") as Chris, her stay-at-home husband and Maya Rudolph ("Saturday Night Live") as Ava, her boss.

The problem is, although fans have grown to love these stars in other shows, they're not likeable in their roles on this sitcom. Reagan and Chris regret having to make sacrifices to things they used to love, such as drinking and swearing, and Ava acts like a cheap and sleazy Oprah wanna-be. —By Kati Heng

**2 BROKE GIRLS**

While hard-hearted Brooklyn waitress, Max, trains new co-worker, a former millionaire's daughter, Caroline, the two form an unlikely friendship in CBS's "2 Broke Girls."

While the sitcom sets itself up as a shallow, light-hearted and, at times, crude piece of entertainment, the dynamic relationship between an inner-city skeptic and a mansion-dwelling elite may have the potential to keep audiences coming back for another order. —By Kameron Toews

**HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER**

The upcoming season of "How I Met Your Mother" is going to be a Legend, and like the show's star, Barney Stinson, might say, with a side of dary.

The seventh season of "How I Met Your Mother" kicked off Monday, Sept. 19. The premiere followed suit with the past six hilarious and brilliantly written seasons as a great source for laughs and puns like the one above.

—By Lisa Walters
Chuchvara's piece “Float” (pictured above) is taken apart and reassembled in a different shape at every gallery it is shown in, including the Te Paske Gallery.

New books is a 1,400 pound love story

BY AMBER MCNEILL

Malcolm Ede had always been strange, according to his younger brother.

“Bed,” by David Whitehouse, is the story of Mal, his family and their incredible love for him.

As a kid, Mal didn’t like to conform to society. For example, he refused to wear clothes—even in public places. Mal took up all of his parents’ attention. Even when he grows up, gets a job and has a girlfriend who loves him unconditionally, he doesn’t like the idea of living a normal, or what he sees as mediocre, life.

At the age of 25, Mal gets into bed and decides that he isn’t going to get out. He abandons his girlfriend and, in essence, traps his family inside their house.

The novel’s chapters flashes between the time before Mal made his decision to confine himself to his bed, and how his family’s lives have been affected his decision.

As the story continues, Mal’s mother waits on him hand and foot, almost finding her self-worth through caring for her son. Because of her constant cooking, Mal becomes the fattest man on earth, weighing in at 1,400 pounds. Mal’s giant form becomes the media’s spotlight.

The story lacked enough content to be a novel. Perhaps it would work as a short story, but it took too long to fully develop. The theme was an interesting idea, but it could have been developed it better so that it held the reader’s attention.

Ultimately, if you are looking for a book that you will want to read over and over again, I would suggest trying a different novel.

"I don't want to try to tell a story with my work. I want my work to be more like a poem – people take away what they feel.” - Ann Chuchvara

"Campus Quotes"

"We share 76 percent of our DNA with bananas. That’s why we like them so much—we’re cousins!”
Professor Laird Edman on evolution.

"No shirt, no shoes, no salvation.”
Sophomore Gillian Anderson on the dress code.

"Honestly, he’s probably really good with kids. He’s good with juvenile delinquents.”
Senior Jill Bird on whether or not Brian Brandau would make a good nanny.

Send your original quotes, with context, to beacon@nwciowa.edu
h* Radio tradition continues to serenade

BY GRAHAM KINSINGER

Each Friday after chapel, campus is filled from the apartments to the art building by music blasting from the third floor of Colenbrander Hall.

Although Heemstra Hall was torn down over a year ago, the community it housed lives on in the two Heemstra wings, 3rd West and 3rd North, on the third floor of Colenbrander Hall.

These wings have carried over many of the traditions from their predecessor across the Green.

Every Friday after chapel through most of the morning and afternoon, a large stereo blasts an eclectic mix of songs across campus.

Northwestern students can enjoy a wide array of styles and genres, ranging from Disney musical numbers to hip-hop to the latest pop songs.

Freshman Rachelle Cole spoke for many students when she said, “I think it’s fun and enjoyable. It adds more excitement to Fridays.”

The legend of this particular Heemstra tradition is shrouded in mystery. Cloudy details make it difficult to tell a flawless tale about the origins of h* Radio.

Although the identities of the men involved are unknown, one rendition of the radio’s genesis starts one winter, when a few former Heemstrites blasted beach music from their dorm room. In the midst of the boppy songs, they announced the current weather in Hawaii.

Another legend is that a group of guys in Heemstra merely played music out of their window to drown out the Christmas music which students can expect every Yuletide season from Zwemer Hall.

“This could have happened as many as 12 years ago,” said Tyler “Meerkat” McKenney. “All I know is that the h* Radio has been around as long as I’ve been at Northwestern.”

Whether the radio originated during that frigid day at the beach or over frustration at Christmas carols, h* Radio has continued to evolve.

“Back in Heemstra Hall, room 315 was held responsible for h* Radio,” said Justin “Gooch” Karmann. “It was a three-man room.”

In the old Heemstra building, a large whiteboard hung outside of room 315 where people could write requests for that week. The members of 315 would then compile a playlist to leave on throughout the day.

“We tend to play good music that we enjoy,” said Bryant “Scrappy” Slagter with a smile, “but in all honesty, we love it when people make requests.”

In order to make it onto the playlist, you will need to go to the new custodians of h* Radio.

Michael “RipVanWinkle” Gutsche, and brothers, Bob “Rajah” and Matthew “Gadget” Latchaw live in 3rd West Coly, room 301. These three have inherited the task of managing h* Radio.

“We’ve been alternating between the three of us, so usually one guy is in charge of the playlist per week,” Rajah said. “It would be a lot harder to come up with a list of songs without requests.”

Rajah wants students to know that they can submit nearly any song they like.

“We aren’t restricted to themes,” he said, “but last week I made it easier on myself by putting together a 60-song Disney playlist.”

The three expressed that they also act as gatekeepers of a sort. They filter out any swearing, vulgar themes or Rebecca Black.

Ever since the YouTube video of Black’s song “Friday” went viral last year, pranksters have tried to get the anthem played on h* Radio.

Although the saboteurs have been successful from time to time, it has never been included in the original playlist.

Most other songs are fair game. Students who are interested in getting their favorite songs played all over campus can help Gutsche and the Latchaw brothers compile the weekly playlist by visiting their Facebook page at facebook.com/hstarradio and posting their request.

This unplanned tradition has continued to broadcast, even as its prime central location was demolished last year. Students can expect h* Radio broadcasts for some time to come.

“h* Radio is just like a hot dog,” said cafe worker Ethan “Cockpit” Kleinwollenkirk. “You’re not really sure what’s inside, but you just know it’s going to be good.”
Going the distance

BY BEKAH WICKS

Three o’clock on a Sunday morning is an unusual hour for nine Northwestern men to be seated around a table at a White Castle restaurant location in Minnesota.

Even stranger than the unearthly time is the fact that just four and a half hours before, the same West Hall residents left NW after spending several hours sitting in the grandstands cheering on the Red Raiders.

These West men departed Orange City with the singular goal of obtaining a tower of those grease-covered pieces of mystery meat placed delicately between two buns.

Brandon Ogren, Bradley Smith, Tyler Gleason, Jeffrey Hubers, Aaron Galloway, Philip Hillia, Zachary Hankel, Scott Van Ravenswaay and Jordan Starkenburg traveled over 230 miles to the burger joint in Minneapolis, Minn.

While in Minneapolis, the men consumed over fifty of White Castle’s signature sliders, a feat they considered worth the mileage.

“No offense to White Castle, but it’s pretty disgusting,” said Hubers. “It was all about the journey. We traveled for eight hours and were there for probably 15 minutes.”

Originally, they had planned to make the trip last year but were delayed due to a raging blizzard the week earlier that night.

The group got back to West Hall at 7:30 on Sunday morning, crashing from the caffeine pills and energy drinks they had bought earlier that night.

“At the time, you think, ‘This is pretty stupid,’” Hubers said of the experience. “But you look back on it and say, ‘That was brilliant!’ We’ll go just about anywhere as long as we’re together and fueled by caffeine and a love for God, life and each other.”

However, gas tanks have been stretched and energy drink consumption increased even further in the search for venues even farther away to stimulate the taste buds.

In the past, trips have been made to Stroud’s Chicken Place in Wichita, Kan., Hard Rock Café in Chicago, Ill., and the food courts of the Mall of America in Minneapolis.

Senior Nathan Kuik remembers going all the way to Gus’s World Famous Fried Chicken in Memphis, Tenn., his freshman year. Kuik went along with then-freshman Aaron Appel, as well as several West Hall seniors.

He recalled reaching Memphis at 9 in the morning and wandering around the city until the restaurant opened at 11 a.m.

“It was great spending so much quality time with upperclassmen,” said Kuik.

“We ate there twice in one day, which was bad for the body but good for the soul.”

Significantly closer to home, Sioux City is one of the most frequented road trip destinations by students on campus who want a taste of the world outside the area.

Popular eateries include HuHot, Olive Garden and Famous Dave’s Barbecue.

Perkins is one of the most popular late-night destinations for NW students. Most weeks, at least one group of students makes a pilgrimage to one of two locations in Sioux City.

Senior Hannah Olson is one student who has enjoyed these long-distance outings with her wing.

“It’s something crazy you can do when you’re young and able,” said Olson. “It’s a good chance to get out of town, free from school and free from distractions.”

 Olson fondly remembers a recent “Perkins run” where the waiter gave her and each of her friends a straw color-coordinated to the drink they had ordered.

“Our waiter was a hoot. They’re way more funny at night,” Olson said.

La Juanita is another favorite destination of senior Matthew Bodensteiner and junior Ryan Rydberg.

“You don’t go to La Juanita’s for the food; you go for the atmosphere, but the atmosphere’s not that great anyway,” said Rydberg. “Orange City gets a little dry and where are you supposed to go eat? What aren’t you going to see in a Mexican restaurant in Sioux City at 2 a.m.?”

A feather in the cap: New fashion trend comes to Northwestern

BY LISA WALTERS

Would you ever think that Steven Tyler could start a fashion trend?

Believe it or not, Tyler, the rock star of Aerosmith notoriety, is credited as one of the founders of the new hair feather craze. It is unknown what caused Tyler to place the first feather in his hair, but since then, the fashion fad has been spreading like wildfire.

The feather craze has roots in the fly-fishing industry, which is where most of the feathers come from. Stylists have been flocking to bait and fly shops to stock up on all of their feather supplies, causing lots of tension among serious fishermen.

A Colorado rooster farm recently told the Seattle Times that they kill “more than 1,500 roosters each week and still can’t keep up with salon demand.”

Popular entertainers Selena Gomez, Kesha, Hilary Duff and Miley Cyrus have all been seen sporting the feathers in their hair.

Now that the trend has hit northwest Iowa, it has left some students wondering what is going on with all the feathers.

“I got my feathers when I came back from India this summer,” said Jenni Kahanic, a junior at Northwestern, who currently sports a hair feather. “I didn’t really realize it was a fashion thing until I came here and everyone and their five-year-old had one.”

Heather Craven, a senior at NW, is another student who wears one, but was a bit ahead of the trend—Craven got her feather hair at the end of last year.

“I don’t really care that it is a fad. I saw it, and I liked it,” said Craven.

Even NW’s student body president, Ross Fernstrom, had something to say about hair feathers.

“As a male, with male patterned baldness,” Fernstrom said. “I think feathers in hair are good because it detracts from the receding hairline.”
Finding a place: Life after the ‘Bubble’

BY STEVE MAHR

From 2005-2008, Northwestern’s graduates were placed in jobs or graduate school at rates between 95 and 98 percent. These days the figure looks more like 90 percent.

Despite dropping placement numbers, Bill Minnick, director of career development at NW said, “Things are progressively getting better.”

However, he stressed that the students who have an easier time finding jobs are the ones who are preparing all through college.

“Freshmen and sophomores should come in and meet with Kirsten (Brue),” Minnick said. “Talk about your major and see what you can do with these jobs that are available.”

Students can look to the experiences of those who have graduated before them as they attempt to navigate a slow job market and often uncertain personal circumstances.

Jared White graduated in December of 2010. While completing his degree, he learned the craft of brewing beer off campus. On a trip to Duluth, Minn., White had the opportunity to sit down with Dale, the brewmaster of Lake Superior Brewing Company.

Dale encouraged White to send in a resume. After getting married to Breeann Rosenboom (’11) this past summer, the two moved up to Duluth to pursue White’s dream of becoming a full-time brewer.

White said that it’s stressful trying to pay the bills but he finds contentment in brewing and spending his time with his wife, whom he considers his best friend.

No social life?” is how Matt Leither (’09) described the difference between NW and his new endeavor—medical school. Before becoming a full-fledged doctor, Leither has four years of school and three to four years of residency after that.

Although quitting is a constant temptation, Leither finds motivation to continue in unlikely places.

“Riding the bus every day, I am reminded (why I do this),” Leither said.

However, it isn’t just the prospect of his own mode of transportation or the big bucks that compels Leither to become a doctor.

“Every day I see the people that need help and can’t afford it,” Leither said. “In order for me to help anyone, I need to finish.”

Likewise, 2009 graduate Amy Borchers was inspired to help. After a stressful time trying to have a career in video production, Borchers joined the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) program.

At YWAM, Borchers had the opportunity to do focused evangelism in either China, India or Cambodia. She ended up in Cambodia, her third choice, and specifically in the village of Bakong.

“Our base is surrounded by lots of sex-trafficking and prostitution,” Borchers said. “I learned compassion to the max.”

Her three-month experience there motivated her to stay longer and pursue long-term mission work in Southeast Asia. After Thanksgiving and Christmas at home, Borchers will be going back again in January.

In the meantime, she is experimenting with hydroponics—a method of growing plants in mineral-rich nutrient solutions without soil—in hopes of bringing back some sustainable ideas for development in the village that she fell in love with.

Senior Wincy Ho is hoping to take a few years off before she jumps into having a full-time career.

Ho feels she needs more maturity and more education before attempting a career. She is from Hong Kong but said that she likes the American lifestyle.

“It’s more laid back,” Ho said. “Hong Kong is 7.5 million people and it gets very competitive.”

In the meantime, she hopes to do some musical composition and perhaps work as in intern in clinics doing music therapy.

“In a city of 7.5 million people there are only 35 music therapists,” Ho said, confident that her specialty will be in high demand.

Like Ho, senior Jennifer Carlson is hoping to gain some valuable life experiences before settling down into adult life.

Last summer, Carlson worked in Denver, Colo., at Dry Bones, a mission organization which works with homeless teens and young adults on the streets. She plans to work with the organization again this summer but this time by raising her own support.

“I might work at a coffee shop, live in van and get a membership to 24-Hour Fitness,” Carlson said.

Carlson eventually hopes that living simply will allow her to save up enough money to travel.

Senior Bobby James is a Christian education major with a focus on youth ministry. The experiences he has had at NW and in internship opportunities have helped shape his goals for post-graduation. Right now he’s unsure if he’ll go somewhere else after NW or stay in Orange City.

“I feel too young for church politics. I need some maturity, some life knowledge,” James said about his choice to wait before finding a job specific to his major.

However, James said his dream job would be “teaching youth about leadership by using the wilderness as a classroom.”

Even though James and his fiancée Natalia Mueller have not made solid plans for post-graduation, he isn’t worried about the future.

“We know lots of people we can talk to,” James said.

This is how Minnick sees students succeeding after college.

According to Minnick, “Networking is very important.”

This past summer, Senior Jennifer Carlson worked with a ministry in Denver called Dry Bones. Dry Bones is committed to serving homeless youth and young adults in the Denver area. Here she is standing with Cheeto, a homeless young adult she worked with this summer.
Football drops second GPAC contest

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

The Raider football team’s tough loss to Morningside last weekend was difficult to swallow, and it wasn’t made any easier after Northwestern clashed with upset-minded Doane, who defeated the Raiders 20-8 in Saturday’s game on the road.

The Raider offense went stagnant, especially on third down, where they only converted 3 of 14 chances.

NW gained 96 yards of total offense throughout. Sophomore Theo Bartman led the running attack with 28 yards on six carries, while junior Brandon Smith managed just 26 yards on 13 carries. It was an expected theme that NW will continue to see all season.

“Teams are smart; they are going to do everything to take [Brandon] out of the game early,” said coach Kyle Achterhoff. “If you don’t have a counter move that will free things up for him, they are going to keep doing the same thing. Obviously, that’s something we are going to be looking at.”

Doane kept a stranglehold on the ball, as the Raiders only had possession for 23 minutes throughout the entire game.

“We have to give Doane credit. They are a passing team, but when they jumped out to an early lead and saw our offense struggling, they took the air out of the ball completely,” Achterhoff said.

A few key mistakes hurt the Raiders. In the first half, trailing 13-8, NW botched a punt and recovered it in the endzone, only to be tackled for their second safety of the afternoon. The Raiders final drive ended with an interception in the endzone.

While the loss to Morningside may have been a bit of an issue, there were bigger mental issues at work. “We have to give Doane credit. They are a passing team, but when they jumped out to an early lead and saw our offense struggling, they took the air out of the ball completely,” Achterhoff said.

Junior quarterback Jayme Rozeboom stands in the pocket against Morningside on Sept. 10. Junior Tyler Kny and sophomore Theo Bartman provide protection. The Raiders failed to get any offensive rhythm going last Saturday against Doane.

Rozeboom went 13-25 with two interceptions in last week’s game.

“I think there’s been overconfidence. This team hasn’t earned anything yet,” Achterhoff said. “They can’t rely on what happened a year ago, on preseason press clippings. It needs to be this team doing their thing, not relying on the past.”

Despite all this, both Achterhoff and junior linebacker Aaron Jansen, who led the defense with 11.5 tackles, saw some good things to take away from the defensive end.

“Doane came in averaging 300 passing yards per game. [NW held them to 94]. We had a good game plan about how we were going to cover their talented receivers and get into good coverage,” Jansen said.

Both players and coaches strongly emphasized the importance of moving past the losses.

“While we get back to the basics—better job of blocking, catching the football. It really is going back to what we are all about: playing fast, physical football, just playing the game the way it’s meant to be played,” Achterhoff said.

And while it might be tempting for a team with playoff aspirations to look ahead at the implications of the early season losses, Jansen says the team can’t get caught looking at the conference standings.

“We need to focus on ourselves each and every week from this point forward,” Jansen said. “We can only control what we can control.”

The Raiders look to bounce back against Dakota State this Saturday.

Volleyball gets back on track with home win

BY ALEX HERRINGTON

The Northwestern volleyball team pleased a vibrant and packed student section by defeating Briar Cliff Wednesday night in four sets.

After falling in the first set 22-25, NW turned it around and won three straight (25-21, 25-10, 26-24).

“The crowd tonight [Wednesday] helped a ton,” said freshman Kaitlin Floerchinger. “The energy they brought to the gym made the energy on the court skyrocket.”

NW hit .253 and was led by junior Jennie Jansen, who tallied 13 kills hitting .303. That tied her career high for a match. Senior Rylee Hulstein added 12 kills and 23 digs. Senior Kate Boersma added 10 kills of her own.

Kaitlin Floerchinger had 43 assists, 12 digs and six kills from the setter position.

“The passion to win was evident,” Kaitlin Floerchinger said.

Last weekend the team traveled to Olathe, Kan., to compete at the MidAmerica Nazarene Invite.

“This past weekend gave our team the opportunity to improve in many areas,” said junior libero Jaci Moret.

“We’re coming together better. It’s a process, and we are making good progress for sure,” Kaitlin Floerchinger said.

The Raiders will have a chance to push their conference record over .500 against Hastings tomorrow in the Bultman Center at 3 p.m.

NFL Pick ‘Em

Week 3

E-mail your picks to beacon@nwciowa.edu

 Houston @ New Orleans
 NY Giants @ Philadelphia
 Jacksonville @ Carolina
 New England @ Buffalo
 Miami @ Cleveland
 San Fran @ Cincinnati
 Denver @ Tennessee
 Detroit @ Minnesota
 Baltimore @ St. Louis
 NY Jets @ Oakland
 Kansas City @ San Diego
 Arizona @ Seattle
 Atlanta @ Tampa Bay
 Green Bay @ Chicago
 Pittsburgh @ Indianapolis
 Washington @ Dallas

 Tiebreaker: Washington @ Dallas - Score

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Senior Rylee Hulstein slams down a kill Wednesday night against Briar Cliff. Hulstein totaled 12 kills on the night and added 23 digs.

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW
Men pick up win in GPAC opener

BY ALEX HERRINGTON

With candy canes in their hands and hot cocoa in their cups, the Christmas-themed Northwestern fans watched their team come away with a 1-0 victory over Nebraska Wesleyan.

The win advanced NW’s record to 5-2-1, tying last season’s win total. The victory also put the Raiders at 1-0 in the GPAC.

In the 90th minute, sophomore defender Justin Lehman connected on a free kick from nearly 60 yards out for the lone goal of the match. 

“It was a gift from Santa Claus,” said junior defender Bryan Duffy.

The contest became noticeably more physical as the game continued. Both squads were the recipients of hard tackles as the game progressed, in typical GPAC fashion, there were cards shown to both sides.

NW managed to play above the chippy nature of the game and hold off the Prairie Wolves’ late scoring attacks.

Despite the victory, NW wasn’t content with their level of play. They were out-shot 7-5 in the match and were out-possessed by Nebraska Wesleyan.

“We’ve played much better soccer this season, and we’re not satisfied with how we played,” Lehman said, “but we came away with the win.”

Last Saturday, the squad traveled to Simpson and brought home an impressive 3-0 victory over the Storm.

NW dominated all aspects of the game. They out-shot the Storm 24-10 and maintained possession for the majority of the match. All three Raider goals were in the second half.

In the 59th minute junior Taylor Biggs one-timed junior Mario Garcia’s cross into the backside of the net for the first goal of the match.

In the 78th minute, sophomore Leo Sanchez scored into an empty net off a goalie deflection.

With three minutes remaining, junior Brandon Hammack blasted a shot that ricocheted off the left post into the net. Hammack was assisted by Garcia.

“It was a model of execution that the team can look to build off of going into conference play,” said sophomore midfielder Jason Tessiman.

NW will travel to Sioux Center next Tuesday to face rival Dordt, who has put together an impressive 7-0 record to this point.

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Women golfers in strong position after first round at qualifier

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

The Northwestern women’s golf team is currently sitting four shots behind GPAC leader Morningside. The Lady Raiders will travel to Nebraska Wesleyan next Saturday to open their GPAC schedule, and are feeling confident starting the meaningful part of the year.

“We feel good as a team going into conference play,” Sutherland said, “We’re excited to start the [conference] season.”

Senior Wendy Hofmeyer got the start in goal, and Watts played the second half. Both keepers recorded three saves and a goal against.

“It was a model of execution that the team can look to build off of going into conference play,” said sophomore midfielder Jason Tessiman.

NW will travel to Sioux Center next Tuesday to face rival Dordt, who has put together an impressive 7-0 record to this point.

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Sports | 9

Lady Raiders fall late

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK

The Lady Raiders (2-3-2) fell to Central College in regulation on Tuesday night by a tally of 2-1.

Northwestern came out firing to start the game, and sophomore Alyssa Duren and sophomore Ann Calsbeek put two shots off the post in the first five minutes.

The Raiders luck changed when Duren knocked in her third goal of the season with 14:58 remaining in the 14th minute.

“It was obvious NW’s attack a lot,” said dunkelberger. “They looked for their target player to start their attack a lot.”

The Raiders ran into adversity in the 37th minute when a NW own goal after a NW shot appeared to cross the end line for a goal, but the call did not favor the away side.

“We were trying to possess the ball and control the game from the start,” Dunkelberger said.

Central came out with an aggressive and physical style that the Lady Raiders responded well to throughout the contest.

That tenacious didn’t let them stay down for long, and the Dutch came back with a score of their own in the 17th minute to knot the game up 1-1.

“They liked to play the ball in the air, and were pretty direct,” Dunkelberger said. “They looked for their target player to start their attack a lot.”

The Raiders played into adversity in the 37th minute when a NW own goal after a NW shot appeared to cross the end line for a goal, but the call did not favor the away side.

Coming out of the locker room, the Raiders cleaned up meaningless fouls and began to attack more consistently.

The contest remained deadlocked until Central created a one-on-one situation with sophomore goalkeeper Ariel Watts, found the back of the net with two minutes left in regulation to match up the late win.

As a team, NW knows there are things to be improved on.

“For the most part we played a good possession game,” said sophomore Gretchen Sutherland, “and we had some opportunities to finish and it would have been great if they had gone in. We also had some miscommunication issues on defense.”

Dunkelberger led the team with six shots, and Duren was close behind with four of her own. Sophomore Jessica Vanderbaan fired off three shots from the midfield.

Senior Johannah Jensen chases down a loose ball against Buena Vista on Sept 14.

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

Sophomore Johannah Jensen chases down a loose ball against Buena Vista on Sept 14.

Sophomore Alyssa Duren looks on. Duren scored the goal for Northwestern in their contest with Central on Tuesday, but it wasn’t enough as the Raiders fell, 2-1.
Ann Chuchvara
“what remains”
Northwestern TePaske Art Gallery Presents
On campus until Friday, Oct. 14

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Visit www.nwciowa.edu/calendar/homecoming for details on the weekend’s events.

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Upcoming: Mae Verde

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Afrizo sings in English, Swahili and African tribal languages.

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We’d also love to have you as a volunteer.
Let's be real with the first amendment

BY TAYLOR HOEKSTRA

This past summer, Soulja Boy, a rapper who is most famous for his song titled "Crank That," came out with a song that blatantly offended many people, none more than the United States Army.

In the song he labeled "Let's Be Real," he says "F*** the FBI and F*** all the army troops." This raises the question, does the First Amendment give him the right to say that without any legal or social repercussions?

Freedom of speech is extremely fundamental to democracy and everything the United States stands for. I am a huge advocate for this crucial amendment.

I write for the opinion section of a newspaper—that is freedom of the press to its core. While in support of this very freedom, I was upset with the lyrics that Soulja Boy decided to include in this song.

Soulja Boy is a public figure. He has established himself as a rapper, and he has cast himself into the much-coveted spotlight. Because he is in this spotlight, he should have to hold himself to a higher standard.

If those who are in the spotlight cannot effectively serve this higher standard, then they do not deserve to be in the public eye either.

There is room for mistakes and room for everyone to speak their mind and opinion, but there is no room for anyone, let alone a public figure, to greatly offend and deliberately hurt others, especially those who are saving our lives every day.

When that spotlight is cast on someone, they must realize what damage they can do and that everything they say can, and will, be used against them in the court of other people's public opinion.

Soulja Boy's words were legal. However, his words were not right, ethical or appropriate. Soulja Boy could have sung this song about a lot of other things and probably would not have been faulted for it, but the fact of the matter is that he sang about a respected group of people.

This is why there was uproar from the people, the Army and the media. What he did was legal, but it was wrong and needed a public apology.

We need to hold ourselves to a higher standard by not letting that kind of garbage get into our society.

Let's be real.

The United States Army is out there to protect the very essence of Soulja Boy's words, along with every other freedom we enjoy from day to day. They risk their lives so that we can enjoy ours.

The least we can do is to use this freedom to show them the respect that they greatly deserve.

The dating game

BY ISAAC HENDRICKS

I walked away from Wednesday's Campus Conversation feeling that there were three strong points made. The campus needs to:

1. Get real.
2. Lighten up.
3. Stop talking about other people's love lives.

Get real. You don't have to get married right out of college. If you get married, it will not be easy. You're a person, you have flaws, and thinking that another person can complete you is a Jerry McGuire kind of way is foolish. Dating is a relationship—between two persons who have flaws; there will be challenges.

Lighten up means that you can go on a date with someone and not get married to them. It means that a girl can talk to a guy without having to worry about what their wing mates are going to say when they get back.

Stop talking about other people's relationships. That's it. That will help everyone out a lot.

I don't hate dating. Really. It's necessary and important. But it doesn't have to be thought of as a pedestal, and it doesn't have to be thought of the way it has been.

Dating culture on Northwestern's campus does not have to be scary.

Avoiding the need for a ring by spring

BY SHANNON GIER

One of the most well-known concepts on Northwestern's campus is "Ring By Spring." This is what I expected to hear when I attended Campus Conversation on Sept. 21. I contemplated skipping this particular event, but I was pleasantly surprised when all my expectations were dashed.

Laird and Sally Edman, Andrea Donahoe and Corey Kundert presented a few solid points about the dating scene.

Laird and Sally Edman pointed out that while many people try to follow the guidelines of "Christian dating," this does not specify how we should go about it.

Dating is, in fact, a newer concept. They also emphasized the idea that although many people wait for "The one," the truth is, there are probably numerous people in the world that one certain person could have a successful marriage with.

The panel also answered a few questions about God's will for dating, offered their opinions on getting out of the "friend zone," and gave some advice on getting up the nerve to talk to that special someone.

I found the conversation interesting and fun, and it was enjoyed by all who attended.

Contribute to the Beacon

The Beacon is a newspaper for students by students. Here are just a few of the ways you can get involved:

- Visit us on Monday nights at 7 p.m. in the basement of Granberg
- Write in to comment on any articles or to voice your opinion on another topic
- Write us with suggestions for stories

For next week, write in and let us know what you'd like Northwestern to offer for students on Homecoming weekend.
Afrizo Concert

The Afrizo musical group from Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya, will be sharing traditional African music in a performance at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 23 in Christ Chapel. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

RUSH Presents

The preview of NW’s spring production, RUSH, will be held at 8 p.m. Sept. 23-24 in the Proscenium Theater. Admission is free on a first come, first serve basis. Come to watch and enjoy student-choreographed dance performances.

Submit Events

Submit your campus happenings and events to the Beacon for inclusion in this column. Submissions should be 50 words or less and be e-mailed to beacon@nwciowa.edu.

Medallion Hunt

Join the search for the Homecoming Medallion beginning Monday, Sept. 26. The winner will receive $250. Clues will be available on the SAC Facebook and Twitter pages, as well as in the cafe.

Chapel

Monday
• Titus Baraka, Uganda

Tuesday
• Chapel Music Team

Wednesday
• The Rev. Doug Van Aartsen, Ireton
• Spanish chapel

Friday
• Charlie Contreras, Class of ‘83

Tulips look larger than life

FROM PAGE 1

“That’s when we fell in love,” Maxson said with a playful smirk.

The two lanky artists with paint smears encrusted in their clothes occupy much of their time at the wall amusing each other.

“The question is, how many hours have we spent here versus how many have we actually worked?” Alsum said.

The mural is Alsum and Maxson’s first artistic collaboration, and the project has come with its fair share of challenges.

“Early on, before we started painting, it was all problem-solving,” Alsum said. “It’s not like a small painting where you can just go with the flow.”

“It’s so big, you can’t even see what you’re doing until you stop painting and back up 40 feet,” Maxson said.

Alsum estimated the mural is three to four times larger than any painting he has done before. To guide their paint strokes, Alsum and Maxson drew a grid on the wall that corresponds to a grid on their design.

“Right now, it’s kind of like a big paint-by-number,” Alsum said. “Once we get to the refinishing stage, then it will be more like real painting.”

Alsum estimated the mural is approximately 60 percent complete. He expects to finish it in mid-October.

So far, the mural has received almost completely positive feedback.

“All but one comment has been positive,” Alsum said, “and that one was from a guy driving by who said, ‘Not more tulips.’”

Orange City’s Community Betterment Board, the group overseeing of the project, required the mural’s subject to reflect Dutch heritage.

“I have to balance what the city wants with what I would like to do as an artist and find some way to meld the two,” Alsum said.

To express both Dutch heritage and his own artistic style, Alsum combined tulips with a bold-colored, high-contrast design. He submitted his proposal to the Betterment Board in early June.

“But I figured out it wasn’t everybody’s birthday,” said sophomore Mackenzie Larin. The first birthday event occurred at midnight when West residents went outside to yell “happy birthday!” However, most students paid little attention.

“I have stopped being surprised by the things I see on campus,” said junior Hannah Biernacki. “I just thought they were pulling a prank on someone by yelling really loud to wake them up,” Larin said.

Throughout the day, a 36-inch candle was passed between residents of West.

“They had to take it everywhere with them: To class, to chapel and even to the restroom,” Kundert said.

The petting zoo was a surprise that only the RD knew about,” said sophomore Aaron Liker. To top off the celebration, Kundert baked cakes for the first time in his life. West residents had their choice of bacon-chocolate cake or Fruit Roll-Up cake.

“I thought the bacon cake was awesome,” said junior Zachary Hankel.

Celebrating everyone’s birthday on the same day worked out well for West. According to junior Jacob VanDerLinden, “How can I not think it was great to celebrate with all my brothers?”

Westanza confuses campus

BY GILLIAN ANDERSON

Not every resident of West Hall was born on Sept. 19, but it certainly seemed like it on Tuesday.

A birthday party was held for everyone living in West in honor of the dorm’s 30th anniversary.

West resident director Cory Kundert, explained his reasoning behind “Westanza,” as the celebration came to be called.

“We decided to have a 24-hour party instead of celebrating birthdays every month,” Kundert said.

The event caused confusion among campus as residents of West were constantly wishing each other “Happy birthday.” Some even decided to change their birthdays on Facebook.

“RUSH is unique in that it is open to people at all levels of dancing. Beginners and veterans alike learn the same dances together.”

“I would recommend Rush and Rush Presents to anyone,” said sophomore Kippen Larson-Gulsvig, who is dancing in RUSH Presents. “It’s so much fun, even if you think you are a terrible dancer.”

RUSH Presents showcases student choreographers

BY MEGAN RUSTAD

Since school began, students have been anticipating and working to put together RUSH Presents, a preview version of Northwestern’s larger-scale spring dance production.

After weeks of preparation, RUSH Presents will take place at 8 p.m. Sept. 23-24 in the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center’s Proscenium Theater.

Admission is free on a first come, first serve basis. Seats are expected to fill up quickly.

More than 100 students have worked in the weeks since school began to showcase nine dances. There are 74 dancers and four choreographers, all of whom have put many long hours into this production.

The student-led production is headed by junior Morgan Stahl, sophomore Amalia Vasquez, sophomore Jackson Nickoley and senior Dan Sikkena. RUSH Presents gives new students a chance to see what RUSH is like.

Senior choreographers Christine Roy, Amber Maloney and Lynda and Heather Piatt have been given the opportunity to “exhibit more dance styles and ideas” through RUSH Presents.

Unlike RUSH, there were no auditions for RUSH Presents. Instead, dancers for this fall performance were specifically asked to dance by the choreographers.

“RUSH is unique in that it is open to people at all levels of dancing. Beginners and veterans alike learn the same dances together.”

“I would recommend RUSH and RUSH Presents to anyone,” said sophomore Kippen Larson-Gulsvig, who is dancing in RUSH Presents. “It’s so much fun, even if you think you are a terrible dancer.”

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

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