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Beacon Staff

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Students, professor remember Virginia Tech

BY KATE WALLIN
STAFF WRITER

This Saturday marks the fourth anniversary of the shootings at Virginia Tech, which ended in the violent deaths of 32 innocent students and professors before the gunman turned the gun on himself.

Logan Smith, a sophomore in Stegenga Hall, remembers April 16, 2007, “like it was yesterday.”

A recent transfer to Virginia at the time, Smith was wrapping up her freshman year of high school.

“It happened in the morning,” she recounts.

“We didn’t do anything that day. They told us we were free to leave if we had to. There were people in the office calling home. When I got home I remember just watching the news for days. I remember seeing bodies on TV, people crying. It was all really graphic. I was a little bit surprised by all they showed; it was really tough.”

Smith continues, “Everyone from my high school in Roanoke goes to Virginia Tech. Everyone knew someone there. Virginia Tech has a big campus, but it’s picture perfect, a place you would have never thought this would happen. It was the school to be at.”

Erin Doyle, now a senior nursing student, was a prospective student at the time of the shootings.

“I was visiting (Northwestern’s) campus that day. The girl I was staying with took me to breakfast, and we were sitting with a group of people I didn’t know. I was watching the TV; I couldn’t believe what was happening. They were talking, and I said something like, ‘Guys, do you know what’s going on?’ It was happening right there on the CFTV.”

The tragedy hits home in other ways as English professor Weston Cutter, then a graduate student and teaching assistant at Virginia Tech, was minutes away from the grisly unfoldings of that Monday morning.

“I had canceled a class teaching freshman English that Friday before. I wanted to conference with students on their first draft that week. I remember waking up at 9, 9:30. All these sirens kept coming by,” he recounts.

“That was the beginning and the end of the day.”

Cutter describes feeling “incredibly raw” as the reality of the tragedy set in:

“We were all trying to get a hold of our parents who couldn’t get a hold of us. My sister called crying. It’s really something when your kid sister calls in tears; it’s a hard thing.”

As classes resumed the next week, the whole campus felt “kind of like being at a rock concert that ends abruptly. Everyone was waiting for the encore that never came. Everyone was walking around like we had really bad sunburns. We were really scared.”

The memories hit harder now as Cutter reflects on the progression he’s made.

Day of Service: NW unites for annual servant weekend

BY EMILY GOWING
FEATURES EDITOR

“I sleep and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold: service is joy.”

This quote from the Bengali poet Tagore embodies the heart, mind and attitude of Erin Currier and her student service coordinators. As a part of the campus ministry service team, Currier is in charge of organizing this year’s Day of Service, which will be held on Saturday, April 16.

For the third annual Day of Service, there are slots for 250 volunteers to spend their Saturday volunteering their service to residents around Siouxland. Students, faculty and staff who have volunteered to serve will be divided up according to the number of workers needed at each site. Groups are usually around three to seven people, but some sites ask for up to 20 volunteers.

“People think it’s the whole day since it says ‘Day of Service,’ but for you it’s only two hours,” said student coordinator sophomore Charissa Thornton. Half of the volunteers will work the morning shift, arriving downtown at 9:30 for instructions and directions and setting off to work from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

A free lunch of Pizza Ranch pizza will be served at Windmill Park for the morning volunteers returning from service and the afternoon volunteers before their shift starts. Following lunch, the afternoon shift will be from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

“The Day of Service is an important reminder that there are needs in our own community, that we don’t have to plan a long trip to a far off place in order to serve other,” said senior Kathryn Miller

As an avid participant of Spring Service Projects (SSP), Miller understands the importance of service. “The community supports us by sending us off to other places on SSP’s, and the Day of Service tells them that we haven’t forgotten about this community or the people here.”

From small business in Orange City to NW partners like Justice for All in Rock Valley, Saturday’s volunteers will be serving in a wide variety of ways. “I realize how big service is even living in a small community,” Currier said. “We have a lot of churches sign up, but also some elderly couples who want their yard raked or their windows washed. It’s neat that we’re able to help both big organizations and single residents.”

Not only should Day of Service be a fun way to say “thank you” to the community, but “giving back [to the community] has never been so easy,” Thornton said. “We make all of the arrangements. All the students have to do is reply to an e-mail and show up.”

Although it’s just for one Saturday of the year, Day of Service isn’t intended to be a one-time thing, but rather to show the students where there might be needs so that they can become more involved in the community on a more consistent basis.

“I think this opportunity shows us that we can make service here in our own community a more consistent part of our lives, because giving up a couple of hours at a time is doable for most of us,” Miller said.
Do you need physics to disc?

BY KATI HENG
OPINION EDITOR

For anyone who has ever felt that they lacked sufficient knowledge or skill to be a good disc golfer, there is some good news.

Watching a group of seasoned disc golfers can be rather intimidating. They seem so deep in thought before hurling their discs, as if they are visualizing and planning exactly where their disc will land. They look as if they have theories or rules that dictate the angle at which they throw. They seem to understand the wind and its power more than any human should.

It may make you question whether one needs to be a mathematician or memorize advanced physics formulas in order to play with such finesse.

For those of you who are not majoring in areas involving math or science, NW junior math major Aaron Appel offers some encouragement.

Appel began playing disc golf during his freshman year at NW. Upperclassmen and other friends from West were already big into the game, so Appel decided to try it out. He reports that he is a much better player now than during his freshman year, but sincerely doubts it has anything to do with the math classes he has taken while studying at NW.

"Math hasn't affected how well I play," Appel said. "I don't decide, for example, the target is 231 feet away and then throw at a 33 degree angle."

Appel believes that practice, rather than physics, is the key to becoming a good disc golfer.

"It definitely takes at least a month of consistently playing disc golf to get to a decent level," Appel said. During the summer, Appel played almost every day, and believes this extra time really improved his game, even while on break from the math books.

As a player practices more, he or she will get better at judging how far or hard to throw the disc, as well as how to account for obstacles in the way or the wind, according to Appel.

Appel sees his love of the game as having both a positive and a negative effect on his math homework: "It does take time away from doing my homework, but at the same time, it gives me a break to refresh."

Despite all the hours you might see Appel outside playing disc golf with friends, he estimates that he still spends about 66 percent more of his time doing math homework than throwing discs.

Appel does not believe his math skills are helping him out-skill his friends in disc golf, or other games for that matter.

"Besides poker, in which you can count cards and things like that, most games you play don't generally involve a lot of math," Appel said.

So if intimidation has prevented you from hurling a disc—give it a try. According to Appel, a man who knows, you can only get better with practice.

Northwestern's Disc Golf Course

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Junior Aaron Appel aiming for the goal between the duct tape markings.

Amazon Cloud Drive, your music hard drive in the clouds

BY CALEB KESTER
WEB EDITOR

As our world is constantly becoming more and more digitalized, many people are starting to look at ways to store data online.

Recently, Amazon released their online storage drive, Amazon Cloud Drive, and their online music player, Amazon Cloud Player. Amazon's Cloud Drive allows you to store your music, videos, photos, documents and any other files worth storing on the Internet.

Amazon Cloud Drive is the company's attempt at providing secure online file storage. They hope to entice users with five gigabyte (about 1000 songs) of free online storage. If more storage space is desired, Amazon offers tiered data plans, which average one dollar per GB per year.

Amazon is also offering a free year of 20 GB storage plan to customers who buy an MP3 album from Amazon.com, and are giving free cloud storage space for each MP3 purchased from Amazon.com. Once you have set up your Amazon Cloud Drive, Amazon will help guide you through uploading your files. From here, you can access and download any of your online files any time and any place where you have access to the Internet.

The biggest draw to Amazon Cloud is their Cloud Player. Amazon Cloud Player will find all compatible audio files and add them to your cloud music library. Imagine Apple's iTunes or Windows Media Player, but accessible from the Internet. With its simple interface, Cloud Player is an easy-to-use, easy-to-manage, portable music player.

Some of the drawbacks to Amazon Cloud are due to its simplicity. Probably the biggest drawback is that only music files can be streamed. It would be beneficial if Amazon had an online video player or a document editor so that files wouldn't have to be downloaded in order to view or edit them.

Another smaller drawback is that all songs and files are uploaded to the drive as they appear on your hard drive. This means that any changes to the songs have to be done on your computer first, and then re-uploaded.

With an easy-to-use music player, Amazon Cloud Drive does a good job of storing your files. It will be interesting to see what Amazon has in store for their Cloud Drive—like whether it will decide to add a video player or a document editor.
The brief tutorial—entitled Fight School—points you in the proper direction before tipping its hat and sauntering off. You manage the movements of the Toris from joint to joint, each of which can extend, contract, relax and hold rigid. What effects these have are displayed via a ghost that enacts what will happen as you make changes. With a basic grasp of how to make your bulbous little man flail about in some semblance of action, creative ways of doing so start creeping into your head.

The depth of control presented with such simplicity prevents the learning curve from being too insurmountable, even though the underage controls may still remain a barrier for the less resolute. The damage and scoring systems are physics-based, so if you land a solid hit, it’s not uncommon to damage yourself as well, sometimes even breaking off a limb in the impact. Plus, points! The more force you put on more important parts of the opponent’s body, the more points you get. And everyone knows points are good. You want lots of them. A solid kick in the head will launch your score into the tens of thousands immediately. Decapitations and disembemembrations are worth even more. It’s uncommon that the scoring system ever actually comes into play. But hey, points.

The single-player is a limited endeavor, simply pitting you against an inanimate enemy for practice or experimentation. Despite the fact that you can control the movements of both Toris, it’s often more enjoyable to simply see what sorts of atrocities you can commit upon the undirected player. In a rather humorous twist on disembemembration, you retain full control over the limbs which have been removed. With the jaw-dropping amount of modifications included, one can find an almost unending source of violent shenanigans. Everything from Jousting to Buster Sword fights on top of buildings is included, and it’s not hard to make your own. There’s an automatic replay-saving function that gives you the option of saving a record of the fight afterward, which is quite handy. The highly stylized visuals make the “blood,” whatever color it may be, stand out on the unending hospital-white floor and sky.

However, the true beauty of Toribash lies in its multiplayer. Upon peeking into the multiplayer server lists, one is greeted by a few dozen servers with initially incomprehensible descriptions and room names, varied rules and mods. Traditional martial arts are the most common, such as Aikido, Judo, and Sambo servers. The servers are organized so that only two of the players are engaging at once, with the rest spectating. When you join the server, you’re placed at the bottom of the queue to wait while the combatants above you are pitted against each other. Winner stays, loser goes to the end of the line. The tension thickens as you observe the movements of the two current fighters, waiting and watching as you rise in the queue, trying to glean what you can about the different fighters’ tricks, techniques and opening moves. Then you’re finally thrust out into the ring. You extend and contract your joints as quickly as possible, setting up your initial attack. The timer ticks until the moves are executed, your ghost enacting your future movements. The other fighter stands stoically. Staring at you blankly in a vague simulacrum of life, arms outstretched from the shoulders. It waits for its puppeteer to deliver it to victory or defeat.

Suddenly, the two marionettes spring to life, flailing toward one another with terrible intent—arms grasping to rend the opponent before they can do the same. Then, with equal abruptness, everything is frozen once more. The grim timer reappears. Tick, tick, tick. It smirks at you, knowing you’ll never

See “absurd” on pg. 5

**STAFF WRITER**

**BY MICHAEL GUTSCHE**

Toribash is a very silly game. It is also an abstraction of the fighting genre, and somewhat satirical in its high-brow violence and presentation. It can be a bit unsettling when you realize just how comfortably aggressive the game is, but it only takes one match to realize that this somewhat-disturbing level of physical harm is not only abstracted quite beautifully, but it’s also completely ridiculous. It is also one of those games that you never know if you’ve gotten good at, because every time you think you’re getting there, someone else does something cooler-looking and more effective.

The theme within the game is the typical cliché, “I write poetry for myself.” Or, “I write poetry for myself.”
Starting a finishable summer reading list

BY ALENA SCHUESSLER

The birds are chirping, the Frisbees are spinning, and the longboards are gliding across campus. Spring is finally here, and let’s face it: all you want to do is be done already. No more reading, papers or tests. I’m sure the last thing you want to hear about is a summer reading list.

But if you’re an English major or a reader by hobby, you’re probably already thinking about what you’re going to dig into this summer when you finally have time to read for pleasure. Think of the fiction you could get through! Last summer I put together a very long list of classics to read. I’m going to get through the good ones, I thought. Title upon title of American and British classics filled the page, and once I was finished with the list I was quite proud of myself. It was the first summer I considered myself a “reader.” How exciting: me, a reader. Getting through Hemingway and Steinbeck and Dickens.

Since the list was so long (way too long, I’ll admit now; what was I thinking?), I didn’t feel up to even starting it. I came up with so many other things to do, much more important things. I’d look at that list and decide I needed to get a chai tea in the city. Just because I didn’t want to read.

By the end of the summer, I had read William Faulkner’s “The Sound and the Fury” and that’s it. I really liked Faulkner, but after finishing that title it was August. And summer was over, for all intents and purposes.

I brought the list to school and tacked it on my bulletin board. Now it was much easier to avoid my list like the plague—I had real work to do. The list got no shorter; no rules and structure. That’s what summer’s all about, anyway.

But if you English majors are feeling ambitious and want a challenge, try something like this. You don’t have to pick the most “difficult” ones, but you can choose the ones you know will be challenging for you. For you, this summer can be one of those “stretching-changing-growing” summers.

What are my plans for this summer? I’m determined to go about things differently from how I’ve gone about them in the past. I’m going for a more spur-of-the-moment, on-the-seat-of-my-pants kind of approach, without all the rules and structure. That’s what summer’s all about, anyway. Doing whatever you want because you can. Right?

Even if you’re not a reader, I encourage you this summer to grab a hold of a title or two that interest you. It’s your summer, so make this about you. If you’re browsing a bookstore and you see something that interests you, pick it up. Did you read something that you liked in your Intro to Lit class this year? See if the author has written other works.

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A blogger I know from Minneapolis takes a different approach. Instead of throwing away all the rules, he follows them to a T. He has created this blog called “The Year of Difficult Reading,” an accomplishment that, when followed to a T. He has created this blog called “The Year of Difficult Reading,” an accomplishment that, when followed to a

Bottom line: Read what you like. It’s summer, so you don’t have to live within the confines of “required reading.” Make it your own this summer; you won’t regret it.

Adele’s got a lot of soul for being ‘21’

BY AARON BAUER

Adele’s “21” is, on the whole, at least two-years grown from her debut, “19.” And its brand of blues and its deep feeling of contemporary roots music has caught the public attention—having sold over 200,000 copies in its first week, it was the biggest-selling January release in five years.

Adele’s latest opens with the definition of a powerhouse track in “Rolling In The Deep.” The song skyrocketed into the top 10 on the Billboard charts, no doubt because of the way she layers you in with smooth, convincing verses, then transitions into potent choruses.

Although the opening track is probably my favorite on the album, the rest of the lineup does not disappoint. Every song emphasizes the immense leap into more confident vocals, not to mention a range of emotions that she can approach without sounding like a sell-out pop artist. The song that feels most like a radio hit to me is “Set Fire To The Rain,” but the formidable voice of Adele is far too developed to be lumped into a group with the women on top 40 radio today. Also, if you remember that 1989 hit “Lovesong” by The Cure, you’re in for a treat because Adele offers a smooth, somber cover on her new album.

The instrumentation on “21” works remarkably well, even if it’s a little boring in places (such as “He Won’t Go”). What makes it work most other times is the tremendous amount of layering they have done to some of the up-tempo tracks (“I’ll Be Waiting”). Each and every sound produced for this album is wonderfully marked with a hint of blues, country, and a whole lot of soul.

As of Wednesday, “21” was back on top of the U.S. Billboard charts after a two-week hiatus. Having sold 88,000 copies last week, Adele reclaimed the top spot from Britney Spears, and is the first artist this year to reach the 1 million mark in sales. In her home country, Adele’s latest album has been at the top of the charts for 11 straight weeks and rightfully so.

This album has also gained a lot of attention from fellow artists. In March, John Legend released an a cappella version of “Rolling In The Deep,” which is available for free from his SoundCloud account. Mike Posner has also covered the album’s opening track. And for you all Glee lovers out there, watch for Gwyneth Paltrow’s cover of “Turning Tables” on next week’s episode.

When it comes to female singers, I’m very critical, so “21” was a truly astonishing release to get a hold of. Take a listen, and expect to hear more from Adele, a very young Brit with a whole lot more to show us in the future. Whether her next album is “23” or “45,” the growth and presence she will bring to the table in the future is bound to surpass what we have heard from her thus far.
A glimpse into men’s fashion

GRET A FLO O DING
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I have been accused of writing a gender-biased column, which I have to admit, is completely true. My knowledge on men’s fashion is semi-limited. I used to think that they didn’t have as many options as women. It appeared to me that males were confined to shirts and pants in varying degrees of dressy-ness. I always found this to be a little sad, since there wasn’t as much room for exploration except in accessories, until recently when I noticed a few variations to these staples. Ergo, here is a column aimed at the other half of the population—specifically those with Y chromosomes.

It would seem that a whole new world is opening up for men. For instance, latex on suit coats are changing color. I don’t know why people haven’t thought about this before, but it looks fantastic. A gray suit coat with black lapels is anything but fresh and unassuming, and who doesn’t love clothing that assumes nothing? Another example: the “club” collar is making a comeback (“club” meaning rounded edges). This is a vintage throwback worthy of taking another look at. Even more profound: men’s necklines are changing.

Necklines don’t get enough credit. People don’t realize what showing some collarbone can do for them. I don’t mean that all men should get into the Fabio romance cover look, and I’m not advocating for pirate shirts—since I’ve only seen a pirate shirt done well once in my lifetime. A V-neck lengthens you, which is the same thing for women. A V-neck lengthens you. Plus I know a lot of women who think V-necks on men are sexy.

The last thing I would like to address is the odd phenomenon of men wearing clothes that don’t fit their bodies. It appears to me that some males think that baggier looks are sexy. Not always true. If you are a hardcore rapper you could let this slide, but since the average male is not, we should maybe look into this. Wearing clothes that are way too large for you make you look larger. Unless you really want to look abnormally disproportionate, don’t do this. The other thing is the length of T-shirts. A lot of you have really long legs, so if your T-shirt is showing off the top of your jeans, this can make you look like your legs are taking over the rest of your body.

Men, you should not discredit yourself from the fashion world. You are important, too. So to sum up this article for those of you who don’t get tickled pink by reading clothing advice, vintage looks are nice, pirate shirts are usually bad, wear clothes that fit your body, and to be honest, this is all just opinion anyway.

Getting better sound out of old favorite tunes

BY JORDAN LANGER

With music, I’ve got an upsetting, near-serive craze for new music—a blog-like up-to-the-minute twitch. But I’ll admit it: sometimes “this year’s model” isn’t all that great, and we’re left parched and in want for some fluid sound to swim around in our bodies. Or, I guess we can be another way, too: the kind that’ll stream the same tunes over and over until there’s little to lap up anymore—assumedly high palette-whetting audio formats either. While the ubiquitous acronym “MP3” sounds as if it’d be just as chemically sound and well rounded as, say, H20, it’s actually a format designed to abbreviate what you hear in order to take off a little data weight from those outdated hard drives. Luckily, it’s a post-terabyte world—by analogy, an upgrade from canteens to CamelBaksa— and you don’t have to lose the fuller, deeper variation of your songs.

So, for those looking for a little more flavor from their tunes, look for the more palette-whetting audio formats like FLAC, WAV, and Apple Lossless. Also, if you’re importing from CD, you can tell iTunes to switch to these from MP3 (visit Preferences -> Import Settings). Even though your iPod’s technically marketed as an MP3 player, that’s kind of a misnomer: it’ll play the other kinds just fine. Sure, they’ll take up about three times as much space, but just think, then, about how much sound gets sifted out of the other.

Second, it’s time to be done with those white Apple earbuds. While most settle for the thin, shrill, and bass-less sound of these freebies, there’s much better options out there, even for penny pinchers. In fact, where a decent stereo setup will easily suck you dry of $500, an impressive pair of headphones can be had for about a tenth of the price.

Okay, so what’s some of the important things to keep in mind when seeking out headphones? First, don’t mistake the mirage of over-sized bass for a natural, equal sound. Yes, you do want crisp thump, but it ought to complement the high-end sounds. Also, you don’t have to go Bose to get ones that are comfy and noise-isolating. I wholly recommend Klipsch’s S4 earphones, whose oval shape better matches the contour of your ear, and which has clean quality that’ll have you hearing things you hadn’t in your five years with such-and-such record. The retail price on these is $70, but there’s plenty to go around on the eBay marketplace for closer to the $45 mark.

Lastly, worn-out listeners, make a trip here and there to go see your favorite bands. It’ll quench, and invigorate later listens in the in-between times.

‘It looks absurd’

Cont. from pg. 3

get everything perfect in time. You inspect the scene, doing your best to prevent your fighter from hitting the mat, trying to keep all his limbs intact. Then the timer hits zero again. The fighters contend and twist, dodging and attacking at once. From among the grunts and inexplicable whooshes comes a terrible ripping sound. One of the bodies goes limp, all of the joints relaxing—including the one that has just been torn off. Either by impact or by simply being wrenched off by your opponent, you’re down one arm.

Your Tori triumphantly finishes the segment, your opponent’s leg firmly in his grasp. Now you are presented with a choice. Since even dismembered joints hitting the mat counts as a loss, you could simply hurl the leg at the ground, or out of the ring, and take the victory. Or, you could hit him in the face with his own bloody leg. This sort of thing goes on until one of you loses or a certain number of turns have gone by. If neither of you have lost by rules, it’s a measure of score.

After the match, theentire thing is replayed at full speed, and it looks absurd. The low levels of gravity and oft-indistinguishable fighters make for a horrible wrinkling mass of blood and headbutting. It looks ridiculous. After a couple replays, the next match starts.

In the end, Toribash is a game that takes a good bit of getting used to. However, when you accidentally win a match by throwing your own arm at somebody, then you realize that it doesn’t matter how hard it is to learn, because creativity and quick thinking is more important than skill and experience, and that panic and desperation can cause hilarity, and sometimes even victory.
“One of the great uses of Twitter and Facebook will be to prove at the Last Day that prayerlessness was not from lack of time.”

With 250 million Facebook status updates posted daily, it seems that Minnesota pastor John Piper may be a little too optimistic for our generation. Status updates cover anything from attitudes about class assignments to quoting music lyrics and movie lines to a simple statement about one’s love of food. And although they take no more than 15 seconds to update, could that 15 seconds be put to better use?

Although many do, not all of Northwestern’s students use the allotted 420-character limit this way.

On its homepage, Facebook asks its users, “What’s on your mind?” Although many Northwestern students do write exactly what’s on their mind, there have been recent status updates that have lead to further discussion – maybe even discussion that’s deeper than what’s had in Kinsinger’s theology class.

Sophomore Gabe Harder posted a quote that he hoped would “get people talking about some deeper issues.” Starting with “the truth about Jesus,” Harder’s status was filled with what seemed like biblical truth. “Believe this and you will be in heaven, no matter what.”

Although Harder later stated that his status didn’t directly line up with his personal theology, he left the status open-ended. “I suppose my goal in posting [the quote] was to hear what people at school and back home thought about an issue, and to see if some cross-talk could happen between the two.”

He got what he’d hoped for.

Throughout the remainder of the day, comments and other posts were added – some that agreed with Harder’s post and others that challenged it. NW students and Harder’s hometown friends dialogued about repentance, atonement, the fear of God and our need for salvation. “Some genuine thought took place,” Harder said, “and some of the participants really did take the time to verbalize and think what they thought.

The theological discussion on the world’s largest social network was momentarily put on hold as many NW students sat silently in their classes, watching their professors yearn for dialogue as engaging as what was taking place on Facebook.

When classes and homework had ceased for the day, freshmen Josh Hollinger and sophomores Jesse Baldwin and Kate Wallin met up on Facebook to pick up where they’d left off.

As the discussion got heated – as far as one can tell while reading words on a screen – the posts got more frequent, nearly minute by minute. Fifteen minutes in to the second night of discussion, Wallin wrote, “I hate Facebook for becoming a foreign form of communication to many students of people face to face and looking people in the eye has become a beautiful thing, but I think this conversation is far more valuable when it happens face to face as opposed to two people hiding behind their keyboards,” Hendricks said. “The beauty of a face-to-face conversation is that this conversation lends itself to lasting legitimate growth. One cannot simply walk away from a conversation of this magnitude whereas in a comment list, or something similar, someone can make one comment, be confronted about that comment and never have to respond to the conversation.”

Student after student – even those not originally involved with the discussion – stated their agreement with Wallin, that the conversation should not be held over Facebook.

Hollinger, whose original intent was for conversation like this to take place, then wrote, “Why do people blame Facebook – an intimate mode of communication – and try to call off discussion as soon as a conversation gets heated and some genuinely good thoughts have been expressed?”

Isn’t Facebook dialogue better than no dialogue at all? Hollinger would certainly say so. “Can’t we embrace the importance of face-to-face conversations without totally condemning Facebook discussions?” Hollinger asked. “I think it would be best if we took advantage of technology like Facebook, while recognizing the shortcomings of it and the importance of communicating with each other in person.”

Are those just empty words or are you intentional about continuing the conversation in a personal setting? And if not, then what’s the deal when it comes to your beloved social networks drastically altering your ability to communicate in person?

Are you more comfortable with a keypad at your fingertips than you are with a person sitting across from you? Harder, who initially posted the quote in order to facilitate discussion, said, “I was surprised when people said, ‘We shouldn’t talk about this on Facebook,’ as if the mode of communication stripped the conversation of meaning.”

The news sources and studies seem to have it right. Social media isn’t a fad. It’s a fundamental shift in the way we communicate. It’s not a question of whether or not you’ll use social media, it’s how well you’ll use it. Let’s prove the pastor’s quote to be true. May our use of Facebook prove that prayerlessness was not from lack of time.
Features

Former at-risk student makes at-risk art

BY SHELBY VANDER MOLEN

Rein Vanderhill, creator of countless beautifully painted white-petaled blossoms, is an artist we encounter daily. This talented artist began his stint at Northwestern all the way back in '74, and now he's ready to move onto to bigger and brighter flowers, perhaps. But Vanderhill has seen many things over the past 37 years prior to retirement.

Amidst personal growth as an artist, Vanderhill also saw the move from the old creamery building to the new Korver Visual Arts Center. He says the move from the art building made NW's art department "more legitimate" and the art department was concentrating on painting and the art department was so isolated and neglected. I didn't see much opportunity to grow in relation to the college." So Vanderhill said to himself, "Well, if the art department can't grow well, then I need to grow as an artist. If I can't get progress in one area, then I'll get it in another." That, and a sabbatical in '82, prompted the beginnings of the flowers. Vanderhill's journey as a painter and artist began much before that, though. He recalls a recurring situation in second grade. Expecting no more than a simple stick figure, his teachers asked the students to draw their families. Vanderhill was the kid whose pictures were marveled at because they looked so much like his actual family. It makes sense, then, that Vanderhill was connected and active in galleries already in high school. Though he's spent the past 37 years as an art professor, academicians didn't appeal to Vanderhill for quite some time.

In fact, he graduated high school as an "at-risk student" with very low grades and only he could make art and still get a paycheck. Vanderhill realized, "I guess I better get my degree." Because he finally had a source of motivation. Vanderhill started paying attention.

As a college professor for more than three decades, Vanderhill has seen education change not only for himself but also here at NW. When Vanderhill arrived in '74 and was hired by the late president Lars Granberg, he was told that he wasn't doing his job to challenge students unless the president had gotten "an irate call from a parent saying my students are being led astray." Whether it's for better or worse, Vanderhill now sees the department leaning toward a more cautionary approach, though he admits "that's just my opinion."

Regardless, Vanderhill's life as a teacher has served him well – especially since it saved him from fighting in the Vietnam War. After completing only one year of his MFA at Cranbrook Academy of Arts near Detroit, Vanderhill was hired as a professor at a junior college in Michigan. This job as a teacher not only fulfilled a position for a desperate school but also allowed a draft classification, protecting him from leaving the country or going to jail if unable to fight.

Though he's no longer avoiding a draft or struggling to stay in school, Vanderhill continues to mirror his "depressive pessimist" attitude in most of his artwork. Whether or not he always understands it completely as an artist, he has truly examined what motivates his imagery-making. Nevertheless, he said, "My paintings are hopeful. I am not. I've never really understood that." and someone decided to take a chance. His first two years in an undergrad program at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, were a struggle, failing many of the classes required to stay and graduate.

Vanderhill said, "Finally sophomore year, it hit me. I like making art. What do I have to do to keep making it?" Observing the life of his college art teacher, how he could make art and still get a paycheck, Vanderhill realized, "I guess I better get my degree." Because he finally had a source of motivation. Vanderhill started paying attention.

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Excitements and fears are one in the same for the new RAs

Cont. from page 7

BY ALYSSA CURRIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It was a typical day at the home of Tommy and Sue Moon. A few students came by just to talk, while a couple of others dropped in to snack on Sue’s famous tea and scones. This scene became increasingly bittersweet as the end of the academic year approached, and the couple prepared to leave Northwestern to pursue God’s next calling in their lives.

Years before their time at Northwestern, both Tommy and Sue did short-term missions in Haiti. “That experience opened our eyes to the needs around the world,” Tommy said. After seven years of pastoral ministry, the two decided to become full-time missionaries in Latin America.

The mission agency appointed them to Puebla, a state in Mexico where they spent the last nine years in theological education and teaching the Bible. The couple is also looking forward to fitting in as a full-time missionary in Latin America.

They also spent the last nine years in theological education at the Puebla Bible Seminary training Latin American church planters and pastors.

Tommy and Sue’s final message for NW: “We have loved the Moons to The Office. They would come over every Thursday to watch it, and soon it became an event,” Tommy said. “Students that we had never met were showing up at our door asking, ‘Is this the place where we’re supposed to come to watch The Office?”’

The highlight of Tommy’s year is always the SOS debriefing retreat. “It’s a relaxing time, and I get to listen to all the stories of the students who just returned from the field. I never get tired of hearing what God is doing around the world,” Tommy said. It is easy to see how deeply Tommy and Sue care for the NW students with whom they’ve worked. They still consider the team who went on their very first SSP to Oklahoma as some of their closest friends.

Now Tommy and Sue are getting ready for a new adventure in Clanado, a city that is 50 percent Hispanic. They are in love with God and they love the students. We also have some of the most amazing students in the country. They’re bright, articulate and incredibly spiritually sensitive,” Tommy said.

Beyond that, the Moons will miss the comfort and safety of Orange City. They’ve been blessed to get to know students who are so mobilized and motivated to look beyond themselves to the needs of others. This gives me great hope for the Church in the U.S. And thank you to all of our friends and students here at Northwestern who were so kind and supportive when Sue lost her parents. We will always appreciate your love to us.”
Dear Iowa—give me freedom; let me smoke

Iowa, give me back my rights. If I feel the need to fill my lungs with carcinogenic toxins, let me do so. Who are you to tell me what I can or cannot do? If my school sees the value in letting my brothers and me sit on the Stoop in 20°-below weather at 3:30 in the morning, smoking a cigarette, why stop us? I chose to go to a private school to get away from state polluting, Iowa. I’m not even one of your full citizens.

I had the same hesitations about smoking as everyone else. Heck, when I was young, my brothers and I loved to yell out the car windows at people, informing them of the dangers of smoking. So when Steve Mahr walked to my window four years ago and asked if I wanted to have a Black (an old brand of clove cigarette that was the most popular brand on campus), I repeated, like the dutiful publically-educated boy I was, all of the evils and dangers of smoking.

Not a week later, I was out on the Stoop with my brothers talking about life for hours and drawing people in as they stopped for a quick smoke. It didn’t matter if you were at Heemstra, West or Coly—you could stop and hang out with the smokers, knowing you would always be welcome.

But now, Iowa, you had to go and relegate us to hiding behind Casey’s or huddling under the awnings of Jaycee Park, just to get a good lungful of smoke. We’ve become the outcasts of NW’s community instead of being its community builders.

In favor of the fresh and smoke-free air

Since the beginning of elementary school, many of us have had the health hazards of smoking seared into our brains. There are people, like myself, who took that information to heart and have been scarred to touch anything tobacco-related.

While the health risks of smoking have prevented me from taking up smoking, I can honestly say that it is not the primary reason I have abstained from it. Out of respect for my friends and family who do smoke, I’m not going to try to convince anyone to quit smoking, nor am I going to lecture on the health risks of smoking; I merely want to articulate why Northwestern should remain a smoke-free campus.

Likely the main reason I have made the decision not to smoke is because I have never been able to stand the smell of tobacco. Therefore, the first reason why I think NW should remain a non-smoking campus is because there are many people in our community who appreciate the fresh air. The smell of tobacco permeates everything: clothing, hair, breath, carpet, furniture, etc.

Can you imagine the smell of tobacco mixed into the combination of smells that already wait through the air here on campus? Imagine tobacco’s odor on top of the manure on the surrounding fields, or on top of the meat-packing trucks that pass through Orange City, or on top of the odors that come from Vogel Paint Center. It seems that fresh air is already hard enough to enjoy here on campus; why make the notion evermore fleeting?

The majority of NW’s student body does not smoke. We all know the health risks of smoking, and we have heard the hazards of secondhand smoke. If NW prides itself on being a safe and friendly environment, then the designated smoking areas should remain off campus. Students should not have to find themselves in uncomfortable and compromising situations.

Smoking has held a negative connotation for decades now. If NW wants to maintain its image as a positive learning atmosphere, it should remain a smoke-free environment. We would not want our “red folder” students and their parents to get the wrong idea about our community. The goal of NW for the past few years has been to increase student enrollment, and I believe remaining a non-smoking campus is a part of achieving that goal.

When smoking was allowed on campus in the past, it was done in communal settings. However, I believe that there are different ways we can encourage community that do not have to include smoking. For example, a few months ago a student initiated a campus-wide midnight snowball fight, which also turned into a large game of “king of the hill.” All it takes is some leadership to find those ways to engage students from all over campus.

So Northwestern, let us find healthier, more creative ways to foster community here on our campus. Our experience is what we make it, so make it a clean, healthy and a good one.

BY KEVIN WALLACE

Opinion

Letter to the Editor: The ‘couple vibe’

Have been with Brandon (more affectionately known as Og) for over a year and a half. Since we started dating in the fall of 2009, a lot of things have changed, but one thing, unfortunately, still persists—the infamous couple vibe.

Let me start by saying that I hate the couple vibe. When we first started dating, I always felt like Brandon’s friends didn’t like me or want to hang out with me. Whenever we were in West, the other guys would rarely ever stick around. It hurt my feelings quite a bit; I struggled for long time wondering, “What can I do to get the guys to accept me?”

I came to realize that the guys weren’t avoiding me because I was Keely, but because I was Og’s girlfriend. People seem to have the impression that whenever a couple is hanging out, whether it’s at a public place like the Hub or at a more private area like the dorm, they want to be completely alone all the time.

While it is important for couples to have their alone time, you can see how a couple might begin to feel like they have some sort of contagious disease by the way people constantly avoid them. I know there are different types of couples on campus. You have the lobby dwellers, the couples who tend to say excessively long goodbyes, the nighttime walkers, the couples who sit in the corner tables in Vermeer Dining Hall with their backs to the rest of the cafeteria, and the hanger-barely-keeping-the-door-open couples. However, there are also plenty of couples who just want to hang with everybody and feel like they have friends.

Brandon and I are one of the latter couples. Sometimes I just want to hang in a group. I don’t see why I can’t see my boyfriend and all of my other friends at the same time. In fact, I bet many of the couples you know would tell you that they would love it if you sat at their table or joined them in playing an intense round of Super Smash Bros. Please don’t give up on your friend just because she’s gotten and herself a boyfriend. Many couples on campus are surprisingly not nausea-inducing. And chances are, she misses seeing you as much as you miss seeing her. I bet that 9 times out of 10, that “couple vibe” is just in your head.

BY KEELY WRIGHT

Letter to the Editor

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**Sports | 10**

**Baseball team goes 5-1, survives close games**

*BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK*

The Northwestern baseball team had a successful week on the diamond, going 5-1 in GPAC play. The run included sweeps of both Midland and Mount Marty, and a split with Concordia.

Coach Brian Wee noticed a steady effort in the field from his team, saying “Our defense this season has been great. We are in the top 10 in the country in defense, and that has really helped us maintain consistency.”

On Tuesday night the Raiders visited Concordia. They picked up an 8-5 win. Sophomore Taylor Morris picked up the pitching win after completing five innings and giving up two runs. Junior Matt Negard did well in the leadoff spot, going 3-4 with two RBI. Junior Mike Zoellner went 2-4, including a solo bomb to right field.

The bats couldn’t stay warm for the next game, as Concordia sent NW home with a 6-3 defeat. Freshman Ryan Brasser struggled with his command, and was credited with the loss. Morris was the lone bright spot at the dish for the Raiders, going 2-3 with two RBI.

On Saturday, the Raiders hosted Mount Marty. The home team picked up two more wins to the tunes of 13-10 and 6-5, with the late game involving some last-inning heroics.

The first game had two big offensive innings for both squads. The Raiders bunched in nine runs in the fourth, but also gave up seven runs in the sixth inning. Zoellner got knocked around a bit on the mound, giving up seven earned runs, but still picked up the victory to push his record to 6-0 on the year.

Sophomore Corey Van Gorp and Noah Bohlmann both went 2-3 with two RBI each. Junior Mike Shields had five RBI in the contest, four of which came off a grand slam.

The end of the doubleheader saw the Raiders dig themselves an early hole that led them to be behind 4-1 going into the bottom half of the sixth inning. Senior Clint Gingerich’s three-run homer in that inning brought NW within one.

Down by one in their last time up, freshman Cody Groskreutz and Shields reached second and third base on errors. Zoellner was intentionally walked to load up the bags. Morris, who went 3-4 in the game, came up to bat and singled into left field to bring home a run. A Lancer fielding error on the base knock brought the winning run across the plate. Junior Jesus Santoyo picked up his first win of the season.

Last Friday night, the men won two hard-fought games by the scores of 2-1 and 6-4. Morris was on the mound for the first contest, in which he threw all seven innings, allowing only four hits and striking out five. Gingerich and Bohlmann both went 2-3 at the plate, and Bohlmann knocked in the only two Raider runs.

The second game had more offense for both teams, but three big runs in the top of the seventh inning gave the Raiders the victory. Junior pitcher Eddie Plantz laid up his first victory of the season. Negard went 3-3 with an RBI. Zoellner was in the outfield for this game, and he went 2-3 and also knocked in a run. Shields went 1-3 but brought two runs across the plate.

Weed said about the recent surge of offensive output: “I think our guys are really starting to buy into what Coach Bovee is teaching them offensively, and we are starting to see the product come to light. We’ve played enough games now for our guys to get comfortable in the box, and recently we’ve started to see the results of that.”

NW will play Morningside at home Friday night. First pitch is at 5 p.m.

**Women’s golf battles, earns fourth-place finish**

*BY NATASHA FERNANDO*

On Tuesday the Northwestern women’s golf team traveled to the Southern Hills Golf Course for the Hastings Invite, where they managed to secure a fourth-place finish out of the 11 teams competing in the invite. All of the Raider golfers shot better on the back nine than the front.

“We were excited about the opportunity we had to see the course in an invite before we play it again on Monday,” said junior Andria Hinz. “We definitely feel like we have a better idea of how to approach the course, and we can utilize the experience we gained from Tuesday as we strive for better results next week.”

The Raiders shot a 372 on the day, twelve strokes behind Dakota Wesleyan, who shot 360 and won the meet. NW’s top golfer, senior Maggie Rozenboom, led the Raiders with a fifth-place finish with a score of 88. She overcame an uncharacteristic 47 on the front nine with a solid 41 on the back. Senior Sara Horn carded an 89 and finished seventh out of 61 golfers for one of her best rounds of the year. Other top finishes for the team were freshman Taylor Kline, who who walked into the clubhouse with a 95, and Hinz, who shot a 100.

Sophomore Leigh Van Hove salvaged a 109 after a 60 on the first nine.

Rozenboom was also awarded GPAC Player of the Week honors, which were announced on April 7. She was awarded the honor after winning the Sioux City Invite, which was her third win of the season. This is also the second time this season that the senior has been honored with the award.

The Raiders will make another appearance at Hastings for the third GPAC Qualifier on Monday. NW currently sits 11 strokes behind leader Dakota Wesleyan going into Monday’s match. The Raiders will have one more qualifier following the match.

**Tennis recovers with big non-conference win**

*BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK*

The Northwestern women’s tennis team recovered from a rough weekend to pick up a 6-3 win at Buena Vista Wednesday night.

Sophomore Kellie Korver picked up a 6-2, 6-2 win in No. 2 singles action. Senior Nessa Summers dominated 6-0, 6-4, and freshman Rachel Nysetvold provided an impressive 6-0, 6-3 victory.

Junior Julie Mineart was knocked off 6-3, 6-3 in the top spot. Senior Laura Starr dropped her sets 6-4, 6-1, and her partner, senior Kate Mannenbach, also fell by the score of 6-3, 6-2.

The doubles action was close throughout, but the Raiders prevailed in all three matches. Korver and Mineart won 9-7 to start things off. Starr and Mannenbach also out-battled their opponents to win 8-6. Summers and freshman Max Yarchak improved to a striking 7-2 on the year after their 8-3 victory.
Northwestern's softball team recovered from two losses at Morningside to earn two big GPAC wins at Sioux Falls.

On Tuesday, the Raiders rallied to sweep the Cougars on their home field. Senior Jessica Hooper hit a two-run, two-out double to cap a three-run seventh inning to help the Raiders defeat USF, 7-2, and improve to 4-6 in the GPAC.

The Lady Raiders will make their way to Seward, Neb., to play GPAC leading Concordia in a doubleheader Friday night.

Men's team falls to fifth

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
SPORTS EDITOR

The men's golf team placed fifth at Northwestern's Red Raider Open on Saturday, April 9.

Unfortunately, lightning caused the meet to be cancelled early. Both the men's and women's 4x400-meter relays were not run, as well as the second heat of the men's 5000-meter. Luckily, the meet lasted long enough for two Raiders to meet the NAIA qualifying standard.

For the women, freshman Dawn Gildersleeve and senior Charity Miles led the 1500-meter with first- and second-place finishes, respectively. The two women finished with times of 4:41.8 and 4:44.4. Miles's strong showing in the event came right on the heels of being named GPAC Runner of the Week.

Junior Stacey Dietrich and senior Andrea Larson keptclose together in the 100-meter hurdles, finishing with times of 15.1 and 15.2 for a first- and second-place finish. Dietrich later placed third in the 400-meter hurdles.

In the 10,000-meter, senior Sara Hess pushed through to finish second with a time of 39:56.1, while junior Kylie Underwood placed eighth in the 5000-meter. Sophomores Leah Dykstra and Corrine Muyksens finished fourth and fifth, respectively, in the 3000-meter steeplechase.

In the women's field events, junior Elizabeth Stevens joined in first on the javelin with a throw of 127-03 while teammate junior Shannon Bowar, threw 103-05 for a fourth-place finish. Stevens also racked up 3,967 points for third place in the heptathlon.

At the pole vault, sophomore Jana Olson took sixth with a season-high vault of 10-10, breaking the school record. Also, junior Jackie Brooks vaulted 9-10 to a ninth place finish. In the long jump, freshman Kenzie Small made finals and placed eighth with a jump of 16-05.

Sophomore Brandon Hammack took the lead in the men's running events with a first-place finish in the 200-meter with a time of 22.05 seconds. Freshmen Jeriah Dunk and Jesse Selgeby placed second and seventh respectively in the 100-meter with times of 10.88 and 11.47 seconds.

Junior Parker Moore later joined Dunk, Hammack and Selgeby to win the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 42.73.

In the 400-meter hurdles, freshman Kyle Heidebrink finished with a time of 57.58, earning a fifth-place finish.

In the field, sophomore Matt Huseman and senior Logan Ogden won their respective events and met the NAIA qualifying standard. In the high jump, Huseman leaped an impressive 6-09, resulting in a three-way tie for first and a new stadium record. Ogden placed first in the discuss with a throw of 158-02, securing him a spot at the national meet. He also took fourth in the shot put (47-04) behind juniors Kiley Murra and Paul Sunden who threw 48-06 and 47-04, respectively.

In the long jump pit, sophomore Mark Johnson placed fourth in the long jump with a leap of 21-10.25 while sophomore Tyler Walker jumped to a seventh place finish at 21-09.25.

For years, teams like Chicago Bulls and the Oklahoma City Thunder have been labeled as "teams of the future," a slightly backhanded compliment.

The implication is that, while the teams have some nice playoff caliber talent that might eventually morph into a something bigger, they can't hang with the big boys (L.A., Boston, San Antonio). The notion is that of is about to change.

We are about to witness one of the most fascinating playoffs in history, a changing-of-the-guard of sorts. The young pups have been gradually creeping up the ladder, while the old dogs slowly decline. This season has been the tipping point, where they meet in the middle. And I, for one, am immediately excited to watch how it ends.

Will it be one last hurrah and rubber match for the Lakers and Celtics? Will the end of the cupboard be empty? Either way, the Celtics and Lakers will be looking to make it a memorable end to their respective eras.

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The Lady Raiders were swept by Morningside on Friday night’s GPAC matchups in Sioux City. NW lost game one 1-0 and 8-1 in game two.

Johnson was the next to walk, quickly followed by a single by freshman Lesty Maassen. With the bases loaded, Hooper then hit a two-run double to centerfield bringing in Price and Johnson scored, giving the Raiders a lead. Freshman Keely Bracelin struck out the side in the bottom of the seventh.

The Lady Raiders were swept by Morningside on Friday night’s GPAC matchups in Sioux City. NW lost game one 1-0 and 8-1 in game two.

In game one, Vande Voort dueted in the circle in a true pitchers’ battle. She allowed 11 hits to be spread around, but managed to recover and only give up one earned run and struck out one.

In the back end of the doubleheader, senior Rachel Harris led at the plate with two hits in four at-bats while Vande Voort went 2-2 with a run scored. Freshman Alex Price and junior Kemi Kuhlmann also had the two other hits for the Raiders.

The lone run of the game was scored when Vande Voort advanced to home on an error by the catcher. The Raiders were outhit in game two 11-6 resulting in Morningside’s 8-1 win. Fielding was also a problem for NW, as they committed five errors in six innings of defensive play.

The Lady Raiders will make their way to Seward, Neb., to play GPAC leading Concordia in a doubleheader Friday night.

Softball bounces back with win road wins over Sioux Falls

BY NATASHA FERNANDO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Northwestern's softball team recovered from two losses at Morningside to earn two big GPAC wins at Sioux Falls.

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News

The votes have been counted

BUDGET BREAKTHROUGH

BY BRIAN BRANDAU & LINDEN FIGGIE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER & NEWS EDITOR

Americans waited anxiously last Friday afternoon for Congress’s budget verdict, and despite grim proceedings, a consensus was reached and budget plan agreed upon. The budget plan continues current funding levels for all government agencies through the end of the fiscal year on September 30, except for nearly $40 billion of cuts. The measure was passed in the House late on Thursday, averting a looming government shutdown.

Numbers and decisions, however. The Congressional Budget Office reported that the savings will likely fall short of the $38.5 billion goal—between 20 and 25 billion for the remainder of this year. The current budget also continues funding only through the 2011 fiscal year. Over the summer, lawmakers will have to tackle the as yet unresolved and far more contentious debate over the 2012 fiscal year budget and outlays in the next 10 years. Despite mounting funding amendments, Republicans question whether the current decision is enough for troublingly high deficits.

Some officials feel a lack of urgency coming from federal leaders. Florida Senator Marco Rubio (R) stated late Thursday afternoon, “I want to see this issue dealt with, with a seriousness and the intensity that it deserves,” MSNBC reported.

Much of the funding conflict revolved around federal funding of Planned Parenthood, seen by many as one of the battlegrounds for the persistent abortion controversy. Republicans refused to consent to continued support for Planned Parenthood, while Democrats insisted it was a non-issue.

Following the funding decision, Senator Patty Murray (D) attributed much of the sluggish pace of discussions to the Republicans’ agenda with political posturing in anticipation of the 2012 elections. Murray believed many of the conflicts would resume as lawmakers moved to debate on the budget for next year.

Coming into another election cycle, both parties were eager to position themselves as fiscally responsible as a wearying public becomes more and more dissatisfied with trillion dollar deficits. The two prevailing frameworks for next year’s budget come from Wisconsin Representative Paul Ryan (R) and President Obama. Both foresee cutting $4 trillion over the next ten years, but their strategies differ immensely.

Representative Ryan’s proposal came first and drew immediate ire from his democratic colleagues. Ryan proposed enormous slashes to the budget, though many of his cuts were unspecified. Perhaps the most controversial tenet of the plan is that it would slash Medicare and Medicaid budgets. Medicare would be transitioned to a voucher system by 2022 and Medicaid would be administrated by states, subsidized by federal block grants. His plan allows for defense spending to be reduced by $78 billion in the next decade, on track with reductions already proposed by President Obama and Defense Secretary Gates. The plan would reduce farm subsidies, an item of particular concern in a state with such an agricultural base as Iowa. Other non-defense discretionary spending cuts have been suggested amounting to 30 percent of non-mandatory spending, but Representative Ryan did not specify what these changes would entail. He insisted that the Bush tax cuts be extended past their current 2012 expiration as well as a reduction of the upper corporate and individual tax brackets.

President Obama echoed Ryan’s cry to cuts of $4 trillion over the next decade, but criticized Ryan’s plan, saying, “There’s nothing serious about a plan that claims to reduce the deficit by spending $1 trillion on tax cuts for millions and billionaires.” The president stated unequivocally that he would defend continued investments in education and infrastructure development. Obama made very few specific comments as to what he felt the budget could do without, but stated adamantly that deficits needed to be reined in. The president affirmed his belief that the Bush tax cuts needed to expire, though he said he would support the extension of those which pertain to those in middle-class tax brackets.

One budget appropriation which was addressed by neither plan, but which has been under fire, is the Federal Pell Grant program. The decision reached last Friday initially included $500 million in Pell Grant funding, though sources conflict as to whether or not this cut will remain in place. The Pell Grant program, which provides grants for students under great financial need, would affect many students at Northwestern. The end of the program would do great damage to small private colleges like Northwestern.

Pennsylvania Senator Pat Toomey (R) addresses the conflict in the proposition to increase the debt ceiling. He said in a report from NBC News, “the big divide here is between an administration that wants us to raise the debt ceiling with no conditions and no change in policy—and those of us, like myself, who think we should raise the debt ceiling, provided that we have some structural and process reforms.”

Although a budget decision was made in near closing time, it doesn’t conclude the financial breakdown for the future. As students, remain informed and aware that our own financial circumstances are equally vulnerable. Education, healthcare and government programs will be challenged by such compromises.

Shooting, tragedy not to be forgotten

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from student to graduate student to professor.

“As a student, I think I would have just figured it was one of those random anomalies in the universe. You guys have no idea how glorious and safe and healthy and young you are. I think the gravity of what happened will increase the longer I am a professor. There was a 77-year-old professor, a Romanian immigrant and Holocaust survivor who barricaded the doors so his students could jump out the windows. Then I thought, ‘I get it.’ But I didn’t. I think understand it more as... it’s picture perfect, a place you would have never thought this would happen.”

And as the years do pass, Smith and Cutter both stress the importance of remembrance.

“The motto was ‘VT: Never Forget,’” Smith said. “It was important then to remember and now to never forget.” “After the shooting was the first time I understood on an emotionally intuitive level the value of people coming together,” Cutter commented. “It sounds so cheesy, but it’s true. The tears are actually doing something here; we need to get this out. We need to remember.”

Thanks, NWC!

“Thank you” hardly seems sufficient to express our deep gratitude to the Northwestern Psychology Club, students, faculty, and staff who sponsored, participated in, and attended the fundraiser for Brittany’s assistance dog, Katie, on March 31. Brittany’s first words the next morning were, “It was fun at the college last night!” And then Sunday morning at breakfast she stated, “That was so cool…it was outstanding!” We are humbled that so many people, many of whom do not even know us, would care enough to help us raise the funds to pay for Katie and her training. We were blessed by the entire evening, and the singing of Amazing Grace brought tears to my eyes. You all have been “salt and light” and we are so grateful!

—Laurie & Brittany Bolluyt & “Katie”