Battle for the best brain
BY LINDEN FIGGIE
NEWS EDITOR
Northwestern continues to uphold academic prestige as NW seniors Alayna Carlson, a mathematics major; Ansley Griess, a computer science major; and Caleb Kester, a computer information systems major, represent the winning team at the NW site of the North American Central regional contest of Battle of the Brains on Nov. 6, placing 57th of the competition's 225 total.
Taking first, the trio is one of six NW teams to participate in the contest. Junior Aaron Appel, junior Joel Koster and senior Evan Lunell together placed second. Sophomores Toben Archer, Michael Gutsche and Seth Heming took fourth in the regional competition, which consisted of Augustana College, Dordt College, Morningside College, Northwestern College and the University of South Dakota.
"Because it is our major, it has become a passion," said Koster said when asked what his team's incentive is behind participating. "We do it because we love it."
Teams are given five hours to accomplish the grueling task of solving as many of nine real-life problems as quickly as possible. The students scrutinize, design and exhibit functioning software systems to be critiqued by expert judges. In describing one problem, which involved developing a texting system, Koster explained, "we translated tabs of keys into text."
Similar problems involved simulating a dice game such as Yahtzee.
After spending all five hours on a single problem, students tend to get anxious. "I keep thinking about how I can still make it work," Griess said of a problem still causing her angst.
The competition was definitely intense as teams ended up "throwing the keyboard around the last 30 minutes, yelling, 'I got it! I got it!'" Koster said.
The international programming contest consists of about 22,000 students competing for one of 100 spots at the world contest in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, Feb. 27-March 4. Though no NW teams will advance, they competed with the best.

Global Vision Week: Coffee, culture and choreography
BY JULIA LANTZ AND KATE WALLIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Prepare for a week of unique experiences and activities as Global Vision Week commences. This Saturday night, Nov. 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Hub, the International Club, with its collection of song, dance and story, kicks off the annual celebration of Global Vision Week, a time devoted to honoring and exploring the different cultures represented within Northwestern's campus community.
"I don't think anyone should miss the International Coffeehouse because it's going to be a really fun and relaxed time to enjoy some of the many talents of our student body," said I-Club vice president Glory Benson of the event, the beginning to the Intercultural Office's Global Vision Week.
Robi Bogdanffy agrees. "It's going to be a blast, as well as an educational experience."
Senior Yukia Ida will be sharing her cultural background by demonstrating taste. "Tate is a Japanese sword performance. It is similar to samurai and ninja fighting that is often seen in movies," Ida said. Similar to Ida, Yukia Ida will be demonstrating karate. Along with these two acts are Yukiko Higashino and Kai-Hao Chen who are sharing their musical talents with the piano and Kumi Sato who is demonstrating the Japanese tradition of the tea ceremony. A few others from the I-Club will be performing.
The I-Club has also invited international students from Dordt to come perform as well.
"Global Vision Week is an opportunity for everyone to cross over the boundaries of language, culture or country by learning and being aware," said I-Club president Bibe Karki. "I got involved because I feel like there are many students who don't talk about these issues. It is necessary for us to have a place to communicate so that we all can better learn together." Highlighting this idea of "learning together," Global Vision Week has dedicated the week of Nov. 13 through Nov. 19 to activities commemorating the cultural heritage of NW students while providing the student body with opportunities to connect with NW's global education programs.
Every day introduces a new entertainment or educational experience, including a screening of Spike Lee's "Do the Right Thing," a lunch presentation on Muslim-Christian relations by religion professor John Hubers, Wednesday's Global Vision Fair, a prayer concert by NW's Gospel Choir and Friday's I-Club chapel.
"Global Fair is my favorite," said Christine Roy. "It gives us an opportunity to learn fun facts and hear the stories of students from other countries on campus."
"The whole week is an opportunity to get connected to the outside world, not just community," said Bogdanffy. "And students should know that I-Club is open to everyone!"
Benson adds, "If you want to get more involved with I-Club, the first thing to do is just make an effort to stop by the Intercultural Office in the RSC. We want students to feel comfortable going in there to hang out no matter where you are from."
"There are many other year-long, multiculti opportunities at NW. You can join I-Club, apply for the position of multicultural intern, join La Mosaic or Gospel Choir," Karki said. "Or you could always take your initiative and start something new!"

Actor to entertain and evangelize
BY KATI HENG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
If you're looking for something intellectual yet exciting entertainment, Northwestern is the place to be this upcoming weekend. Two highly esteemed men—one a Christian actor and storyteller, the other a poet, professor and literary editor—will be coming to campus.
Curt Cloninger will be performing some of his finest monologues and examples of solo theatre. A respected actor who has performed for audiences with as many as 40,000 people, Cloninger is remarkably humble and down-to-earth.
During an early morning conversation with him and his dogs, he enlightened me on a little taste of his life:
Heng: How did you get started doing this type of theatre and entertainment?
Cloninger: I was doing both ministry and acting, and the two sort of melted into one. It was very fortunate that they got to combine.
H: How do you feel God has used you in your work?
C: Wow. How has God used me...? Hopefully I've gotten to introduce people from all over the world to a deeper view of Jesus, stirred them up to thinking about him, because it really is about him. I've also heard from folks who were inspired to get into writing or theatre after seeing one of my shows.
H: What is your favorite part about visiting college campuses?
C: I love college audiences.
You're such a demanding audience. You've been exposed to so much media; you keep me on my toes, keep me young!
H: Can you tell me about one of your favorite characters that you play?
C: A couple of my favorite monologues involve a theologian character. At NW, I will be playing Jesus, and I love to play him, love to bring simplicity to it.
Cloninger is excited to return to NW after 15 years and see the changes around the campus and the community. He will perform during chapel on both Monday, Nov. 15, and Tuesday, Nov. 16.

From left: Sophomore Kate Wallin, junior Rachel Peterson, junior Jennifer Carlson, junior Jenna Van Oort, junior Tamara Smith, junior Glory Benson, junior Christine Roy and junior Karla Houk practice for their featured dance routine at the International Coffeehouse.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB LATEW

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMIE CALIBER
Actor Curt Cloninger will perform a collection of monologues and theatrical pieces.
Poet’s live reading a ‘communal’ experience

BY KATI HENG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Wayne Miller, author of two collections of poetry—"The Book of Props" (2009) and "Only the Senses Sleep" (2006)—will come to campus on Tuesday, Nov. 16.

The poet is also a professor at the University of Central Missouri and an editor of "Pleiades: A Journal of New Writing." Miller was incredibly welcoming to my earnest questions:

H: What do you enjoy most about doing live readings?

Miller: I love doing readings. It’s a different relationship to the work not only for the audience members (who hear the poems rather than read them), but also for me. The audience is, in some ways, getting less; they can’t see the shape of the poem, they can’t go back and revisit moments earlier in a poem that might affect their understanding.

But they can hear the rhythms and sounds of the language, which gives each poem a shared, communal, “real-time” experience that just isn’t possible otherwise.

H: How would you describe your style of poetry?

Miller believes that live readings of poetry help create communal, “real-time” experiences. Miller will be on campus on Tuesday, Nov. 16.

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Symphonic band goes on ‘epic’ musical journey

BY TYLER LEHMANN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If living on a small campus like Northwestern’s has left you with cabin fever, your luck is about to change. This Friday, NW’s Symphonic Band invites you to join them on a journey. The band will be performing a concert featuring music from countries around the world, including England, Ireland, Peru and Ecuador.

"The variety of music...takes the listener on an incredible musical journey that is exciting and interesting," said band director, Timothy McGarvey.

"[Audience members] will experience everything from an Irish fanfare to music [honoring] regions of France that were liberated at the end of World War II."

Fittingly, McGarvey has named the concert “Journeys.” He did not originally intend this theme, but he said that as he selected musical literature, he realized that even seemingly dissimilar music is united by a “common thread.” McGarvey said from that point he “reworked the programming to reflect the [new] theme.”

"Every concert is important. Every concert is vital," Schouweiler said.

However, the past weeks of rehearsal have brought equally exciting and moving, "I can’t predict right now. The audience is, in some ways, getting less; they can’t see the shape of the poem, they can’t go back and revisit moments earlier in a poem that might affect their understanding.

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But they can hear the rhythms and sounds of the language, which gives each poem a shared, communal, “real-time” experience that just isn’t possible otherwise.
Keep the October Rule, keep the community

BY NIC LEITHER

There was once a time when freshmen walked around scared to date, to speak, or even to look at someone of the opposite sex in the months of mid-August through the first of October.

This glorious era was filled with freshmen who stayed in their dorms for fear of being accused of breaking the "October Rule" and punished by the ruling upperclassmen. This was a magnificent time for all involved, including the upperclassmen who enforced the punishment, the jering crowd of observers and even the freshmen getting tapped to light poles had a great story to tell.

That is what the October Rule has always been right? Wrong. The October Rule had a more humble beginning with better intentions.

The October Rule was started by Trygve Johnson, a chaplain and former student of Northwestern. Johnson introduced the rule at the first chapel by urging all freshmen to not enter any romantic relationships with each other, and encouraged upperclassmen to hold the freshmen accountable in order to help instill good community within the dorms.

This was taken to heart by the upperclassmen, who lovingly encouraged the freshmen on their wing to spend time with them in order to foster the traditions and communities held in the dorms.

The October rule continues to be utilized at Hope College in Michigan where Trygve Johnson is now the chaplain.

The reason the October Rule is no longer in use is unknown. The likely reason is that there were a few incidents where the school administration had to step in to stop some of the punishments of The October Rule and rightly called these incidents hazing. They told the residence life staff that these actions needed to stop. The RAs passed the message to the RAs, who passed it to the upperclassmen who didn’t see the point of enforcing a rule. The RA’s didn’t get to embarrass anyone with that.

However, the administration has never said that we cannot have the October Rule. They simply said that we cannot have students in order to enforce the rule. We just need to revert back to its original practices.

I remember how difficult it was for me to go and talk to some of the seniors in Heinstra Hall at the beginning of the year. They were all new, they smoked, they had beards! It was intimidating. As upperclassmen, we are more experienced and different than the freshmen we came in as, and we know how important it was to us to have someone we looked up to want to be our friends. These seniors had to seek us out because otherwise, we wouldn’t have known that it was an option to go to them with them. Without our example, the freshmen will have no role models as to what being an upperclassman is supposed to be about. Our ideals like love for one another and traditions like "Mean Week," "The Great Sit" and "Gourd Tag" will be lost because there will no longer be a connection to where people live.

So I urge you students, reinstate The October Rule. It is needed to keep the community that is so important to this campus. Take responsibility as upperclassmen to practice The October Rule as it is meant to be practiced: with love and service to those who will soon look up to try to be friends.

The October Rule will not just happen; it takes effort and dedication, but it is worth the time. Without it, traditions, feelings of belonging and potential friendships will be lost, and the dorms will lose the community that we have all grown to love.

Many reasons to be thankful the Rule is gone

BY SARAH BARTZ

I was October Ruled on September 25, 2008. My wing mates descended upon me holding four rolls of toilet paper and one roll of duct tape. As they began wrapping me, I mentally tried to reassure myself, "It’s ok, you’ll be fine. Be brave." I could feel the sweat on my forehead; everyone’s laughing faces were blurring before my eyes.

I felt myself being thrown toward the mirror. I tried to fight the baseball in my throat and the hammer pounding against my chest. I tried to battle my overflowing tears ducts.

Not only did I resemble a bridal version of Edward Cullen, but I was completely betrayed. The people I thought actually cared about me were in the process of humiliating me, and they were enjoying it.

After walking down the aisle composed of my wing mates, wrapped in toilet paper now soggy from my tears, I said the vows that made me officially married to my wing. I was then made to hold a large alarm clock with "It’s NOT time to date b/c I’m a Freshman!!" written on the front.

I forced a laugh, admitting to my inability to hide my first relationship. I put on a smile for the flashes of light going off in my face. I wished that my then-boyfriend would save me. He never did.

My experience with the October Rule was physically harmless but emotionally abusive. I was one of the lucky ones. Many rulings are 10 times more physically cruel and emotionally degrading.

And yet many Northwestern students support the October Rule.

Most students support it because it (apparently) "builds community." In my experience, the rule does build community—among everyone except for the individual being ruled. This type of "tradition" serves only to foster mistrust between new and current students. Among those people that were in on my ruling, I count none as my close friends.

Some might argue that I’m bitter. I’m not. I am simply realistic. If those people betrayed my trust and humiliated me, then shouldn’t I trust them or want to build a relationship now?

Upperclassmen are very intent on the Rule because they don’t want freshmen to date (it apparently "doesn’t build community"). In my experience, the prospect of the October Rule was not enough to stop me from dating. Not only that, but after being ruled, I forced myself to stay in the relationship. It was healthy, and I wasn’t humiliated for nothing.

One male upperclassman offered me this valuable insight: the guys like the October Rule because it means they get first pick of the freshmen girls. Ladies, if this isn’t enough reason to despise the practice, I don’t know what is.

The October Rule was not harmless. It did not build community and it was a disdastically humiliating tradition. Thank you to Northwestern for banning it.

Rumanian Ruminations

Mixings by Mari Langley

Apartment Lucy is home to Kelly Larsen, Julie Adams and myself for the post-homestay portion of our semester. From our new location five stories above the street, we have the delightful opportunity to enjoy some fantastic people-watching. The balcony presents a great view across the street to the century church and the river. Although the view from the balcony is spectacular, our living room window recently provided one of the most entertaining spectacles yet. Take yesterday for instance...

I could not concentrate due to a chainsaw buzzing away outside. So I layed into the living room, peered out the window and found the source of the commotion. "There’s a man in that tree," I announced to Kelly, who was happy enough to abandon her research and join me at the window. You see, there was a man in big galoshes with an orange chainsaw on a string in the tree directly outside our window. A red car parked beneath the tree had a large dent in the roof—perhaps this explains why the tree was undergoing demolition. More likely, the dent was a result of the demolition.

The man clambered around in the tree in the most precarious manner, exactly the sort of situation that a chainsaw never improves. He cut down one huge branch after another huge branch, using the old "cut toward yourself instead of away" method, stabilizing himself by wedging high branches between his knees against his elbows.

The chainsaw’s string didn’t appear to be particularly helpful in making the process streamlined. At one point, to our consternation and peals of laughter, man-in-tree even passed the chainsaw between his legs to untangle the string. We were tempted to assume it superfluous until he began to lower the chainsaw down and up, to and from his friend on the ground who was anxiously sitting on the patio bench and in charge of brilliant ideas to boost (who, in turn, nearly cut off his leg while messing around with the saw). At one point, the chainsaw was replaced by a cigarette, and the man proceeded to smoke in the tree.

He continued smoking through the next several branches.

Kelly and I soon took to yelling, "Timber!" out our open window as the branches fell. A crowd gathered in the courtyard and bellowed enthusiastically at this wonderful spectacle. Everyone seemed to be enjoying the entertainment, but no one more than a little old man in a brown jacket who runs a small store just outside the apartment building and whom we have become friends with. He wandered in and out of the work zone, smoking, chatting with idea-man and generally enjoying the proceedings.

At one point, Man-in-tree got his chainsaw stuck halfway through a limb, where it stuck out horizontally. Idea-man on the ground came up with a great plan and got the attention of the chap in the tree by throwing a stick at him. Idea-man coiled up a rope, threw it up and on the second try Man-in-tree caught it. He then shuffled up the half-cut limbs from which the chainsaw was sticking out very slowly and tied the rope some eight feet above the saw. When he had slid his way back down to sawing-position, Idea-man and our friend in the brown jacket strung the rope out across the yard (effectively tangling man-in-tree) and pulled, lifting the branch slightly. Success! Man-in-tree was able to wiggle the saw loose and finish the final branches.

Sadly, the tree now stands forlorn and branchless—a stark, ugly trunk in our yard. I am glad we had the good fortune to witness the more humorous play-by-play of its demise, instead of simply returning home to the sad remains. We shall see what delights Apartment Lucy’s windows afford in the future.

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You have 'em...
WE WANT 'EM

No Homecoming court

Energy Drinks

Legalizing medical marijuana

In Vitro Fertilization

If you have opinions on these upcoming topics and are willing to write about them, or if you have other ideas for this page, please contact us at beacon@ncwichoowa.edu.
The good and the bad of the small and the big

TINA McCOYRIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

From a town of 2,000 people to a university city of 98,000, the transition to college can come as quite a shock. The same is true for students raised in cities of 40,000 people who come to Orange City.

Private colleges are scattered all throughout Iowa as they are in other states around the nation. However, its booming universities and busy state schools have many people dreaming of going so they can get the "real college experience." So what's the deal when it comes to private and public schools? Are there more opportunities at one or the other, both socially and career related?

Jennifer Saunders moved from the humble Rosemount, Minn., to Eau Claire, Wis., to attend the University of Eau Claire. UWEC is a public university with 10,000 students in attendance. Jennifer is involved in intramural volleyball, has a job and attends group workout classes every night. When she's not doing any of those activities, she's in the library. On weekends, she takes the bus to the mall during the day and goes to clubs and house parties at night. When asked what she thinks about private schools, she said, "After attending such a diverse liberal arts school, I don't think I could readapt to a selective private school. Since Eau Claire has so many people, I think it would be hard for me to adapt to a smaller environment. Even though I think I may have more opportunities to be deeply involved in activities at a private school, I really do like the large amount of diversity here. I see something new every day."

Like Northwestern, I know I would be more immersed in my studies there. Mostly anyone can come to Eau Claire; it's not that hard to get into. I sit in class with people who don't really care whether they ever succeed in life; they're honestly just in college for the parties. But I think that diversity in thinking is what makes Eau Claire interesting for me."

Freshman Carly Farrington hails from Littleton, Colo., which certainly is no little town. Her decision to come to and her time spent at Northwestern offers us another view. "I decided to go to a private school because I wanted to be surrounded by a Christian environment, and because my parents wanted me to as well. I think that people who go to private schools like Northwestern actually have more and more career opportunities; we work harder and have much more coursework than someone who goes to a public school. I do think we are a little sheltered though in the social aspect. We certainly don't meet as many people, but I believe we form closer relationships with the people that we do meet."

Others may think that by choosing to attend Northwestern, students are trading in their social life for a good career. But maybe attending NW has allowed these students to form deep, meaningful relationships while they've also studied in their future. Maybe attending NW has truly brought students the best of both worlds.

Movie tickets, chapel credits and ID cards: Darla Hettinga is your go-to gal

ANNA HENKE
STAFF WRITER

Darla Hettinga, Administrative Assistant in the Student Development office, is a familiar face to most students. She monitors chapel attendance and sends out those handy emails every Friday telling you how far behind (or ahead) you are with chapel credits. But that's only part of what she does here at Northwestern.

Hettinga has worked here full-time since 2003. She also worked part-time at NW from 1992-93. In addition to monitoring chapel credits, she oversees the work study students who collect cards. Apart from chapel, her administrative position has a variety of duties. She works alongside Residence Life, specifically in recording the Quality of Life surveys. She performs administrative tasks for housing, tracks discipline contracts and is involved in putting together the handbook and the event calendar. She also makes the ID cards and is the one to see if you need to get a new one.

Hettinga's favorite part of working at NW is "contact with the students and building the family photo albums." Darla and her husband Marvin have four children and eight grandchildren—and another one on the way. Hettinga shared a hobby that she thinks "may surprise students." Her favorite thing to do, apart from spending time with her children and grandchildren, is travel on motorcycle with her husband. They enjoy sightseeing—"riding in the open and viewing nature."

Last year, Darla and Marvin took their longest trip yet—3,900 miles in 10 days. They traveled to Glacier National Park, on the border of Montana and Canada. "We took the scenic route through the Black Hills and Yellowstone. It was beautiful. I've been to those places before by car, but you see different things when you're on a motorcycle. Everything seems closer when you're riding in the open." It is Marvin's goal to travel to Alaska by motorcycle someday. To that, Hettinga said, "We'll see."

In her spare time, Hettinga enjoys being outside as much as she can. She loves to garden and landscape with her husband. Now that they live in town, she keeps a flower garden. When she and her family lived in the country, she kept a large vegetable garden and made all her own sauces.

Darla Hettinga's desk is in the Student Development Office in the RSC. Next time you're in there, or you have a question, stop by. She is always there with a smile and a full candy bowl, ready to help.

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FEATURES

Cause supporters and conversation starters: What does your bracelet say about you?

EMILY GOWING
FEATURES EDITOR

Has there ever been a greater oxymoron than "Christian rap"? When freshman Jeriah Dunk tells people he's a Christian rapper, he's usually met with weird glances or blank stares. Although the genre of rap may be given a bad rap here in small-town Iowa and the surrounding areas, three NWC freshmen are taking a stand against stereotypes and joining the movement of what some may know as "holy hip-hop."

Dunk, a student from California, was first exposed to Christian rap in middle school when he was given Lecrae's first CD, Real Talk. Dunk first started writing lyrics and rapping on his own when he was in high school.

"I was at my friend's house, and he got out his Mac, and we wrote a song about Kool-Aid. I liked it more than just a clique. It's more than just a beat with some lyrics that are sick," Dunk said. "A lot of times I write about my struggles and coming out of them and trying to acknowledge them so people can identify with them. It's just so I can make something that other people can relate to but they can still see that God's the reason for what we're doing."

Dunk enjoys writing lyrics about "the attributes of God. His love. His above all." Dunk chooses to write about humility, "taking the light from me and shining it on God."

As for their inspiration? "Well, first off I'd have to say God," Dunk comments. Besides the One they strive to glorify, the members of UNIQUE get much of their inspiration from the 116 Clique, a group of individual rappers who join together to promote the Gospel by declaring Romans 1:16. It says, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes."

Dunk and Nash both admit their favorite song to be "Don't Waste Your Life" by 116 Clique member Lecrae.

UNIQUE already has seven completed songs and are working on five more before producing their mixtape for people to download. All of their music can be found on their Facebook page; search "UNIQUE."

Quiz in the corner

The first hip-hop radio show, WHBI FM, aired in 1979. Who was the DJ when it first started?

A) Grand Wizard Theodore
B) Mr. Magic
C) DJ Official
D) Frankie Knuckles

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By Alena Schuessler
Contributing Writer

After his successful, satirical debut novel "Then We Came to the End" (among NY Times' favorites of 2007), Joshua Ferris once again takes up the timely topic of social criticism in his latest, "The Unnamed."

The novel narrates the life of Tim Farnsworth, a successful lawyer at a Manhattan firm. Tim lives a comfortable life with his wife of 20 years and his teenage daughter. The family is never in want but has ample luxuries including a nice house, worldwide travels and any new gadget available.

Life has been fairly easy for the family until a strange obstacle appears in Tim's life: a disease that no doctor can diagnose, a malady no patient has ever experienced and an ailment of which no person has ever heard. Tim has a frequent compulsion to walk without cease. While he's in the middle of working on a case or walking to the subway after work, his legs take over, forcing him to walk miles upon miles until he finally falls into a deep sleep at the conclusion of the ordeal.

Tim and his wife, Jane have been to every prominent doctor in the country, but not a single one has been able to put a name to this unknown disease of Tim's -- nor can anyone find a cure for it. It affects everyone who has been taken, as time goes on, and soon he is unable to perform at work. Cases are taken from him and given to other lawyers as he fails to accomplish tasks, and soon he feels like just that: a failure.

As co-workers, friends and even family members turn their backs on Tim, he is left to face his problems alone. With this, Ferris raises the issue of what to do when no one can validate one's trials.

However, Ferris doesn't simply raise sympathy for Tim; he nudges readers to ask themselves how they respond to people in need.

Tim is the victim of this cruel fate, and yet an instance at work shows that he is flawed in the same way as everyone else around him. He passes a homeless man in the stairwell of his workplace and tries to have him thrown out.

Ironically, it is not long after that, while in the middle of a walk, he is left to face his problems alone.

The novel about an unnamed disease and an unnameable disease, Ferris gives a nod to hope through the possibility that, despite the messes we encounter in ourselves and in others, we can still relish in the love we feel for one another.

Follow-up to comedic hit feels more like a 'hangover'

By Adam Donohue
Contributing Writer

The idea of Zach Galifianakis being in another movie with the same director, Todd Phillips (who devised "The Hangover"), would get almost any guy to buy a ticket. "Due Date," though, falls short of being in another movie with the same director.

Expectations were high for director Todd Phillips, who is coming off of the success of last year's "The Hangover." Unfortunately, his latest is not on the edge of bedroom humor.

"Due Date" leaves you feeling fulfilled -- unlike the laughs to be found in "The Hangover." Galifianakis' slapstick laugh-out-loud characteristics seems like "bomb" or "terrorist." At this point, the flight attendants ask him to step to the front of the plane.

As he tries to explain, an over-the-edge sky marshal shoos him with a rubber bullet, knocking him out. Peter wakes up in a questioning room. The security agent here knows he's not a terrorist and just asks for him to sign some papers. At this point, Peter has dealt with so much that morning that he doesn't realize he has just signed a paper that put him on the "No-Fly" list for the next 48 hours.

His option now is to rent a car and drive cross-country to Los Angeles in time to see the birth of his child, but with his wallet (containing his I.D. and money) still on the plane, this isn't possible on his own. Ethan, who also is on the "No-Fly" list, rents a car and asks Peter if he would like to ride with him to California.

Combining the humor of Downey's clever one-liners and Galifianakis' slapstick laugh-out-loud characteristics seems like it would have appealed to two sides of the comedy spectrum. Instead, it really doesn't work for either.

Why? Todd Phillips forces the laughs to be too situational and only slightly inclusive of Galifianakis' humor. He also mismeasures the sweet spot between gross and ridiculous.

With great results from previous movies like "Old School," "Road Trip" and "The Hangover," and a premise similar to John Hughes' "Trains, Planes, and Automobiles," "Due Date" is still too bizarre and doesn't give his able characters a chance to blend well together.
AMC offers three of television's best dramas

BY JORDAN LANGER

At this point, you might only know AMC for the occasional few minutes with "The Three Stooges." But between heavy rotations of the slapstick trio, the channel's also been creating some of television's most critically acclaimed and, cinematically adept series—"Mad Men," Breaking Bad" and, most recently, "The Walking Dead."

The stylish "Mad Men" hinges on Don Draper (Jon Hamm), the creative director of an advertising agency in mid-1960s Manhattan. Between Lucky Strike cigarettes and the occasional glass of whiskey, he and his sharp, slick-haired creative team account for a golden age in ad ideas (ex. associating Marlboro with rugged individualism after the health risk is realized). Don Draper has the makings of a workaholic.

That, and he seems victim to a complex web of existential angst. Despite having what could essentially be considered the American dream family, Don is involved in a series of extramarital affairs with diverse but always strong-willed women. What counts for his behavior? Expectations. Every man is supposed to be Don Draper, who in every way appears to be a classy, hard-working gentleman.

The question isn't always easy. But it's always interesting, given he's a character whose career targets the subconscious emotions and decisions of almost everybody else.

The other male characters—many of whom are involved in the same misunderstandings as Draper—have a different appeal. They comprise a gender carried away by competition, in need of an outlet when they cannot measure up to their own expectations, let alone their partners'.

"Mad Men," though, is just as much about the women and their changing roles in the society of that time. For instance, the inexperienced, prudish-dressed secretary Peggy (Elisabeth Moss) sleeps with an associate after only a few days at the office. It's part of the season's device given to her by Joan (Christina Hendricks), the office manager, who knows exactly how to "get ahead" in this job: do what your superior tells you and don't interfere with their private affairs. While her advice proves useful, Peggy makes her way up to "creative" by taking the reins on a few female-specific products (a lipstick line and the Playtex bra).

Both Peggy and Joan begin to realize their liberation through the course of the series, but each by different direction. It's also interesting to note that, of the series' nine writers, seven are women.

The series also succeeds on a few technical levels. First, you won't find a show with more style than "Mad Men," everything, whether it be furnishings or makeup, looks perfectly in line with its reference era. Second, "Mad Men" achieves a meditative pace that I didn't think was possible for a television series. Everything is so tactfully subtle that you'll be surprised to recall how much has happened.

Honesty, "Mad Men," the most prized show at this year's Emmys, deserves every accolade it's received.

AMC's second original series, "Breaking Bad," begins with Walter White (Bryan Cranston) wearing a gas mask and swerving an RV along a dirt road in New Mexico before, in his panic, taking an unintentional turn into the ditch. As he exits the vehicle, littered with two dead bodies and an array of chemicals, he puts on his green collared shirt and tucks a gun into his white tights (he isn't wearing pants) as he hears sirens approach in the distance.

Although there are better scenes in the series, this early one demonstrates its dark drenness and bleak humor.

Walt is a chemistry teacher who, on his 50th birthday, finds out that he has lung cancer and approximately two years to live. More urgent to him than his own situation is that of his pregnant wife, handicapped son, and the financial hazard they would inherit after his death (he doesn't have life insurance).

When he learns that there is a lot of money to be made by cooking meth (which, being a chemist, he knows how to do better than anyone—an "artist").

"He seeks out an old student who is able to get him into the trade."

Of course, Walt's associate turns out to be just as much an amateur as he is. Before they can even realize they've gotten into, they're involved in the risks and violence of the drug trade, even if they didn't initiate it. As a result, the drama is always focused, since Walt is apt to always keep his humanistic aims in mind: he's not looking to get rich, but to meet the needs of his family.

The show is raw, gritty and deviously honest in its emotion. At times, Walt is empowered by his mortal disposition. Other times, he anxiously realizes that even though death is ever near, he is afraid of it and still has needs.

Bryan Cranston is the crux of this character study; he's won an Emmy for best lead actor for each of his three seasons in "Breaking Bad." As long as he keeps performing this subdued character so well, I can't imagine the series will go bad.

AMC's latest outing, "The Walking Dead," follows the basic character driven, post-apocalyptic premise of its comic book counterpart (hopefully you read about the zombie series in last week's Beacon article from Bob Latchaw).

Fans of that series will be happy to know that it retains much of the artistic spirit. Blood and gore, present in basic-cable-defying amounts, is stylized. Even its original scenes have a comic dimension to them: for instance, in a scene where two characters must cover themselves in zombie blood to divert the flesh-eaters' attention.

Even so, the creators have made a set that has a strikingly natural look to it. In the premiere episode, there are bits of the world that are transformed: cars lined up in the streets, houses vacant or with dead inhabitants. But this world doesn't have a dark, grainy haze over it. The set—at least the rural portions—looks very much like the world we know.

The zombies are, at least in part, frail forms of their former human selves. They make for some very tender scenes. For instance, one scene shows an undead with her legs chopped out, her innards dangling from the lower part of her torso as she drags herself along with her two arms.

As the sheriff approaches her, she moans pathetically, as if tired and desperate. At that moment, he says, "I'm sorry this happened to you."

En masse, though, these zombies are absolutely savage. In what might be the most affecting scene yet, the sheriff rides a horse into downtown Atlanta. When they encounter a swarm of the monsters, the horse is helplessly torn to bits. The scene is graphic to say the least. There is still much to be seen with the grim series, which has already been extended for a second season. But based on the first two episodes, there's a lot to look forward to.

"You're on a slippery slope to hell if you listen to NPR. But don't worry: you'll be in good company because I do too." - Professor of Religion Jackie Smallbones in one of her classes.

"I feel like I'm everybody's boyfriend or something." - Junior Carley De Jong upon being introduced to many parents on Parent Day.

"I'm just tasty." - Professor of Business Eric Elder after being eaten by ticks.
SPORTS

Women's cross country, Miles finish second in GPAC

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Northwestern Women's cross country team barely missed out on the opportunity to run at Nationals as a whole, but senior Charity Miles finished second in a time of 18:24 to qualify individually. The Lady Raiders were one place away from making it on a wildcard berth to the National meet. The system failed the Raiders as they were ranked higher than 12 teams who made it automatically because they won their conference. Morningside will be representing the GPAC after winning the meet.

Senior Sara Hess placed 18:52 to finish seventh at the meet.

Football picks up Senior Day win

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Northwestern sent Concordia home unhappy on Saturday with a 26-6 loss on Senior Day at DeVallos Stadium. Special teams provided 19 of the 26 points for the Raiders. Freshman Isaiah Twitty started the scoring by blocking a punt. Senior David Butler picked it up and took it home to put the Raiders up 7-0. Sophomore James Rodriguez then put his final field goal in from 31 yards with six minutes left. Senior Taylor Malin and Smith both eclipsed the 1,000 rushing yard mark in the game. Freshman Davis Bloemendahl made his second career start and added 66 yards on the ground and 69 through the air, completing nine of 19 passes.

The defense held Concordia to 85 total yards and forced two turnovers. NW will travel to Nebraska to take on 20th-ranked Midland next Saturday in the season finale. Both teams need a win to stay in the hunt for a playoff spot.

Early tests for men's basketball

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Northwestern men could not find a win against 13th-ranked Briar Cliff in a non-conference game Tuesday night and lost 88-77. The Raiders’ record is 2-2 for the year. Sophomore Stu Goolings led the Raiders with 18 points and 10 rebounds for his first career double-double. Junior Walker Seim put in 12 points and sophomores Mores Varvold and Daniel Van Kalsbeek added 11. Senior Ryan Hoogevzen broke double digits with 10 points also.

Sophomore Ben Miller added four assists to lead the Raiders. NW shot 44 percent from the field and 19 percent from the three-point line.

In Saturday’s game against Valley City State, N.D., NW won 94-83. Seim led the charge with 17 points and nine boards. Van Kalsbeek put in 16. Junior Ryan Stock and senior Brent Dunkelberger both pitched in off the bench with 12 points. Hoogevzen added 10 points and nine boards. Sophomore Matt Huseman hauled in seven boards off the bench as well.

The Raiders dominated the glass, 47-24, and shot 50 percent on the afternoon.

In last Friday’s game against 22nd-ranked Jamestown, N.D., a stagnant second-half NW offense wasn’t able to keep up with the hot shooting of the Jimmies, and they lost 64-80.

The Raiders were only down by four at half, but Jamestown shot 61 percent from behind the arc and 48 percent from the field. NW shot 38 percent from the field and 13 percent from 3-point range on the game. Van Kalsbeek (19), Dunkelberger (12), Hoogevzen (10) and Miller (10) were the leading scorers for NW. Miller added 10 boards.

The Raiders will play at home in the Pizza Ranch Classic on Friday, Nov. 12, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 13, at 2 p.m.

Women's basketball starts strong

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT
SPORTS EDITOR

The Lady Raiders earned three wins in their first three games coming off of a National Championship season in 2009-10. They defeated Jamestown (98-65) on Friday, Nov. 5, Valley City (67-55) on Saturday, Nov. 6, and Grand View (73-53) on Wednesday, Nov. 10.

In the Jamestown game, Northwestern shot 59 percent and held the Jimmies to 33 percent. Senior Becca Hurley and sophomore Kendra De Jong each scored 22 points to lead the offense. Juniors Kami Kuhlman and Val Kleinjan added 16 and 15 points, respectively. Kleinjan also went five-for-six from behind the free throw line. Junior Midi Babcock had a team-high seven rebounds and also added eight points.

The Raiders began the game hot against Valley City State, immediately going on a 21-2 run. Hurley led the team in points with 25, and in rebounds with 12 to earn her first double-double of the season. De Jong was held scoreless in the first half, but netted 14 points in the second half. Kuhlman also contributed with 12 points. The Raiders had a 41-29 rebounding advantage and shot 43 percent, 42 percent behind the arc, compared to the Vikings’ 35 percent.

The Raiders knocked off eighth-ranked Grand View by 20 points on Wednesday.

Men's cross country finishes tenth at GPAC

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The men’s cross country team welcomed back freshman Zach Wittenberg from his September injury as he put up his personal best time of 28:31 to lead the Raiders with a 50th place finish. Northwestern finished 10th out of 12 teams at the meet.

Sophomore Jesse Baldwin was right behind Wittenberg and finished 51st with 28:32. Freshman Ben Bosch (19:04) finished 71st, and sophomore Ajaia Assfaw (29:14) crossed the line in 75th place. Senior Nick Bray (29:24), sophomore Tyler Drenkow (29:29) and sophomore Andrew Lichter (29:30), finished in 78th, 79th and 80th, respectively. Adam Verhove finished his junior year with a 29:54 for 90th place.

Volleyball kicks off GPAC with a win

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT
SPORTS EDITOR

Northwestern opened the GPAC tournament with a 3-0 victory over Midland on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Game scores of 25-12, 25-19 and 25-17 brought the Raiders’ overall record to 33-0. NW dominated the hitting with 280 while holding Midland to .100. Senior Bobbie Jean Rich hit .400 with eight kills out of 20 attempts. Sophomore Jennie Jansen and seniors Kaitlin Beaver and Hillary Hanno each added seven kills. Beaver also had three ace serves and lofted up 26 assists.

Junior Kate Buyert and sophomore Heather Goehringer each added two ace serves, and Hanno and Rich had 14 and 11 digs, respectively.

The top-seeded Raiders were set to host fourth-seeded Hastings on Thursday night. Nov. 11. Results were not available at press time.

The winner of that match will advance to the GPAC Championship match against either Dordt or Doane, and will play on Saturday, Nov. 13, at the site of the top seed.