The Act of DREAMing

By Anna Henke

Imagine this: You are three years old. You probably won’t remember this moment, but it will define the rest of your life. Your parents, without your input, decide to cross the border into the United States. And with that, you become one of the estimated 12 to 20 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S.

The above scenario, while created, is all too real for a growing population of college-aged students, including our peers at academic institutions like Northwestern. They are students with good grades and character, but for whom the dream of college is hindered by a lack of legal paper trails.

The recent bi-partisan bill, the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, or DREAM Act, seeks to address these needs by providing a path to citizenship through a choice of opportunities.

In the current bill, a six to eight year period would be offered to students having entered the U.S. prior to the age of 16 who have maintained at least five years of continual residency. Under the bill’s provisions, two options would be given: A chance to earn a degree or to serve in the military. At the conclusion of the period, students who have fulfilled the requirements would be granted permanent legal residency, the first step towards citizenship.

Senior Greta Floding said, “There isn’t a difference between our ancestors and the people coming in now. We’re all immigrants. As Christians, we’re called to love our neighbors. This is loving our neighbor. The people who would benefit from this are our peers.”

Others suggest that more comprehensive immigration reform needs to be passed hand-in-hand with the DREAM Act. Still others disagree with the act’s attachment to the National Defense Authorization Act, the bill that dispenses defense spending for the 2010 fiscal year.

In any case, how can students connect to this issue? Get informed. Research and understand the different opinions. Call or write your senator and make your voice heard as the November elections approach.

Budget breakdown: A look at NW funds

By Kate Wallin

“IT is so hard to be knowledgeable critical or knowledgeable enthusiastic with so little information to go on,” said art professor Rein Vanderhill on the issue of funding at Northwestern. There is a lot of conversation on campus about the distribution of funding. Particularly given the budget cuts of recent years, how is the money distributed and who decides these proportions?

According to Doug Beukelman, Vice President of Financial Affairs, the budget as a whole is determined by the administrative council and the budget committee, which includes all the vice presidents. Academic departments prepare a budget proposal at the beginning of each school year, and that proposal must be approved by the budget committee. The department chair determines how this money is spent—supplies, trips, events, etc. There is proportional variation in department budgets according to supply needs and the nature of study. Music, theater and art departments naturally have a larger budget because of the necessary equipment and maintenance.

Budget is a broad and complex matter. Beukelman defined two facets of budget: capital and operational. The capital budget pays for items that last for a duration of years—computers, for example. Things that keep the college working and active, like faculty salaries and programs (academic and athletic), come out of the operational budget. Distribution among these areas can be viewed in a broad sense from these percentages. From the operating budget, the instruction budget is 31.5%, academic support makes up 9.7% and athletics 5.3%. These programs are broad budget concerns. More individual items, like the new sand volleyball courts, are funded by student development, which is a many-faceted portion of the budget including SGA, Residence Life and Student Activities Council.

Art professor Arnold Carlson feels that the art department “needs more than what is allotted” in the budget. He feels a trip to the closest significant art museum in Minneapolis, Minn., is vital to the education of his art students.

Unfortunately, the art budget “isn’t adequate to run the trip as would most benefit the students.” He says, like Vanderhill, that access to information on the budget might help to improve the situation by improving understanding.

Beukelman feels that funding and recent budget cuts have been “fair and equitable; it hasn’t been the same, but it has been proportionate.” He thinks that President Greg Christy has been open with the staff about budget. He has made the information available to staff and been very frank about this issue.

“There are always going to be perceived inequities. I would encourage people to get as many facts as they can,” Beukelman said. He encourages knowledge and communication. There is an established procedure for questioning. For questions about academic funding, the head of the department is the first place to go. Next on the list is Dr. Adrienne Forgette, the Dean of Faculty, and the Provost, Dr. Jasper Lesage. For athletics, he suggests approaching the coach with questions, and proceeding to Athletic Director Barry Brandt.

BreakEFX and crews to pump up beats

By Kathi Heng

Northwestern’s version of the hit MTV show “America’s Best Dance Crew” is back with some new and exciting changes. Students will have the opportunity to watch or perform in Northwestern’s Best Dance Crew Friday at 9 p.m. in the chapel.

Denver-based dance troupe BreakEFX will be a large focus at the event, serving both as judges and performers. BreakEFX, established in 2006, won Colorado’s Best Dance Crew in 2008 and 2009, more achieving national fame when they appeared on “America’s Best Dance Crew” last season.

BreakEFX will set the stage Friday with an opening performance and then serve as judges for the competing crews. BreakEFX will return at the end of the show to give the audience the final dance of the evening.

Four groups made of NW students, including last year’s winning group, West Slide Story, will be performing two songs each. After watching their first dances, BreakEFX will select two groups to compete for the championship. All four crews will get to perform their second dance, but only the two groups selected by the judges will be eligible to win.

The winners of the night will be chosen differently this year. Audience members are asked to bring quarters to use as votes and will be able to vote as many times as they wish. The group that collects the most weight in quarters will be the winner.

Student Activities will also be testing a text vote system that may be used in the future for voting. Students have an even greater incentive to vote: All those quarters will go towards sponsoring a Compassion Child through World Vision.

Friday morning, BreakEFX will be giving a performance in chapel. That afternoon, they will be offering hip-hop and break dance clinics for the competing crews as well as students chosen from a drawing earlier this week.

Sarah Bartz and Lindsey Hoops, members of the student crew EnMotion, are excited to dazzle audiences with their dances, which Bartz describes as “lyrical hip-hop with a bit of jazz spice, and even some ballet…basically a mish-mash of everything!” Bartz and Hoops both say they are in it for the fun of the event and are thrilled to get tips from BreakEFX at their clinic Friday afternoon.

“We really just want to make it a great event!” said Bartz.
SGA discusses solar panels
BY JEB RACH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Food service discussion and a possible solar panel initiative topped SGA’s agenda this past Tuesday.

Representatives from Sodexo attended the first part of the meeting, looking for feedback from SGA on behalf of the students on what they think about the changes both in the caf and the Hub. Many of the representatives noted that there needs to be more hands behind the deli counter in the caf. Chef Todd noted that he will look into getting more staff as his next project. Sodexo also mentioned that they are looking at offering some more options in the Hub for students. SGA thanked Sodexo for coming in and listening to their concerns.

Last week, the executive committee met with people from the solar initiative on campus to discuss using some of the ConServe money for solar panels on campus. A company called New Vision offers equipment for solar panels for people to build on-site. Instead of selling them pre-assembled (or assembling them themselves), they sell the parts and train people within the community to build and service them. Questions raised included where the savings would go, and how much outside money would be raised by the solar initiative group.

In other business, SGA will be serving pancakes with toppings at Morning on the Green for a nominal cost. The AAC representative position is still vacant; however, SGA does have a few more candidates up for consideration.

New restaurant offers authentic, ‘addictive’ cuisine
BY TYLER LEHMANN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With signs shaped like wooden shoes and streets lined with tulips, Orange City’s Dutch heritage is unmistakable. However, the town’s hottest new place to eat is adding a little spice to the community.

Cinco de Mayo, Orange City’s first authentic Mexican restaurant, opened its doors last Thursday. Its owner, Israel Lezama, has a passion for sharing genuine Mexican cuisine.

“Heel [opening this restaurant] is a way of introducing real Mexican food to our children. It’s important that they have a taste of real Mexican food,” Lezama said.

Lezama, who immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 25, has crafted his recipes from years of experience working in Mexican restaurants.

“My favorite dish is the Monterrey Salad. It comes in a shell and has steak, grilled chicken, lettuce, tomatoes and mushrooms, and it’s covered in melted cheese,” Lezama said.

Breaking the bubble: News from around the globe
BY KATI HENG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Kim Legacy?
It appears that North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has chosen a successor: his youngest son, Kim Jong Un.

Kim Jong Un was promoted to the position of four-star general by his father earlier this week, leading to speculation the elder Kim may be preparing him to take over the nation. Kim Jong Il was also named vice chairman to the party’s Central Military Commission and its Central Committee.

Kim Jong Il has been the nation’s leader since his father, Kim Il Sung, died of a heart attack in 1994. Kim, who asks to be called “Dear Leader” by his nation, reportedly suffered a stroke two years ago, and is said to suffer from diabetes and kidney trouble, according to msnbc.com.

Although the recent promotions have brought the younger Kim into the Korean media spotlight this week, little else is known about the twenty-some apparent heir. Before the promotion, North Korean media did not mention him. However, recent foreign visitors to North Korea said that ordinary citizens know his name and school children are being taught a song called “Footsteps,” praising Kim Jong Un, according to cnn.com.

Obama Declares his Stance on Faith and Abortion
While at an event planned to be a discussion of the economy last Thursday, President Obama was questioned on his stance as a Christian and his views on abortion.

“I came to my Christian faith later in life,” he was asked to me in terms of the kind of life that I would want to lead,” Obama said. The President also shared his belief that religious freedom is one of the America’s greatest qualities.

Regarding the country’s citizens of other faiths, Obama said, “Their own path to grace is one we have to revere and respect as much as our own, and that is part of what makes this country great.”

The same woman who questioned Obama on his faith also asked him about his views on abortion. Obama said he believes abortions should be “safe, legal and available.”

ConSort offers equipment for solar panels on campus. A company called New Vision offers equipment for solar panels for people to build on-site. Instead of selling them pre-assembled (or assembling them themselves), they sell the parts and train people within the community to build and service them.
Students take issue: Digital Readers

Paper books: Hold onto our roots

BY ALENA SCHUESSLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A case for books: holding on to our roots. Call me a purist; call me old-fashioned. Call me a hopeless romantic, but there is something about sitting in front of a fireplace on a chilly fall evening with a book in your lap. Maybe it’s the way real books smell or the way the pages feel between your fingers as you turn to the next chapter. Maybe it’s the comforting heat in your hands that shifts slowly and gradually as you coax the weight from one hand to another. For these and for many other reasons I am convinced that reading physical books is a remarkable experience that should not be replaced by electronic devices.

In July 2010, Amazon reported that its sales for e-books outnumbered its sales for hardcover books for the first time in history. It was selling 143 e-books on Kindle for every 100 hardcover books on the site.

Take a look—you’ll be hooked

BY NATALIA MUELLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I’m sure many of you are wondering, “How can anyone want to read a book off of a computer screen?” I can definitely relate; I was once biased about not liking e-book readers until I saw my first Kindle. Hear me out and just listen to some of my opinions and how I personally enjoy my Kindle.

First off, many of you like the idea of saving paper. So do I! With my Kindle, I can hold 3,500 books in an 8.7-ounce electronic reader. Now, that beats 3,500 paperback books anytime in my opinion. Many people argue that they will miss the feel of turning pages and holding the books in their hands. Personally, I don’t miss licking my finger every time I have to flip a page or the frustration of thinking that I’ve made a dent in the book. Only with printed books do I hold the books sideways and notice I’m not even one-fourth of the way through. With my Kindle, I feel like I fly through the pages, and all I do is push a little arrow on either side of the Kindle and it will flip the page.

People that have seen me read my Kindle often ask me, “Doesn’t that hurt your eyes?” I usually then hand it over and let them take a look. I love seeing how most people are shocked to see that it actually looks like real paper. I, too, was in awe of this fact the first time I saw a Kindle.

Usually the next thing people do is touch the screen to try to open a book. It’s happened so often that I warn people ahead of time that it is not a touch screen, which leads to why it doesn’t hurt my eyes. The Amazon Kindle was especially made to not look like a computer screen; hence, there isn’t a backlight on the screen for me to have the ability to read at night. A clip-on light is needed to attach to the Kindle. I would argue that if the Kindle had all those high-tech abilities it probably wouldn’t have the appearance of real books. Which is why I love it.

The last thing I want to mention is cost. Personally, I haven’t yet bought a single e-book. Yes, that’s right. There is a free section in the Kindle online bookstore where you can download free books in less than 60 seconds. Of course, they have bestseller lists, magazines and newspapers that can be automatically sent to your Kindle through a wireless network if you do decide to purchase them. Over 350,000 books are $9.99 or less, including 73 current New York Times Best Sellers. What can I say? Electronic books are cheaper, and I can carry a lot more of them in just an 8.7-ounce electronic book.

I hope that my opinions on my first-hand Kindle experience will encourage some of you to at least take a look at e-books. By all means, contact me if you’re interested in seeing one. I definitely think that e-books are here to stay. I mean, who can say they’ve carried 3,500 books with them? Check an e-book reader out. Who knows? Maybe you’ll change your mind just like I did.
FEATURES

From your veins to theirs: How donating blood saves lives

BY SHELBY VANDER MOLEN

STAFF WRITER

Over 110 pounds, healthy, hydrated and 17 years or older. These are parameters most students find easy to meet, and thankfully so. This is what it takes to save a life to be a blood donor.

As Collection supervisor, Melissa Goss and a rotating team of approximately 10 people hit the road nearly every day to work at high school and college blood drives as well as “open to public” drives. Her job as supervisor consists of assigning daily schedules and being the “go-to person” that assures that things run smoothly.

Goss says that high schools and colleges can generally make good donations and that the typical age range of the donor varies on the type and location of the drive. Students can begin donating as early as 16 and there is no upper age limit.

“From your veins to theirs: How donating blood saves lives”

 Dean of Students John Brogan donated double red blood cells at Northwestern’s blood drive September 27 and 28.

Freshman Amanda Kirsch is one student that began as soon as possible. “This will be my fourth year in high school.”

And why not? The process is rather simple but the effect is profound. Goss explains that during registration you answer a questionnaire and go through the screening process to ensure that your medication usage will not prohibit being a donor. “Once we determine that everything complies with the guidelines, we check your temperature, blood pressure, pulse and iron level.”

The donor then has an option of giving whole blood or double red cells. Goss encourages giving double because it is better for both parties involved. The transfusion causes less of a reaction for the recipient and the giver is re-hydrated immediately by a saline solution. This method can save one life instead of three and it doesn’t require pooling with other donors. Red cell donations are commonly used for cancer patients because their red cells die off as they fight the cancer and can’t regenerate like a healthy individual can.

Blood is placed in different bags according to blood type and donor age. As a first time donor, you will be notified of your blood type after testing occurs at the lab. However, all blood types are always necessary, and demand changes weekly based on users and shelf life. O- is especially desirable as it is the universal donor.

After the blood is drawn and bags are labeled they are placed in a cooler and transported to the lab at Sioux City. At the lab, the blood is centrifuged or spun down into cells, platelets and plasma, and must be placed in the refrigerator within just eight hours. Red cells are usable for 42 days.

The blood also undergoes thorough testing to check blood type and screen for diseases like HIV, Hepatitis B and West Nile. Nancy Hittle, Director of Laboratory for Siouxland Blood Bank, says, “Anytime there is blood that tests positive or outside normal limits, we discard those products because we want to have the safest blood supply.”

The products are then given directly to be stored at immediate disposal in various hospitals “so that they’re always prepared to treat emergencies,” said Hittle.

Whether that means newborn babies needing a blood exchange, an elderly person who’s fallen and broken her hip, a patient that needs stabilization in an emergency or a victim of trauma with massive bleeding or internal damage, Hittle assures that from donor to technician “we help a variety of people in many different areas.”

NW student to serve in Afghanistan

BY EMILY GOWING

FEATURE EDITOR

From a school of 1200 to a troop of 3000, Northwestern student Mark Haselhoff will have a different senior year than he might have expected.

When he was younger, Haselhoff remembers being captivated by what he’d see on television commercials that advertised for the armed forces. He would always ask his parents to stop and allow him time to look over the Army displays at the county or state fairs. If enlisting in the army meant he could ride in helicopters and shoot guns, then you could count him in.

When he was old enough to weigh the costs and responsibilities of enlisting with many other aspirations he had for his life, he thought things through and felt confident in his decision to join the Army. Money for college may have been one of the primary concrete reasons he chose to enlist, but knowing he’d be given the opportunity to serve his country was what it takes to save a life.

It was last year, right after Haselhoff had started dating his girlfriend Carrie Muilenburg, that he found out he and his troop would be sent to Afghanistan. “He was told a year in advance,” Muilenburg said, “so we could have as much time as possible to say goodbye.”

When asked how she was handling the situation, Muilenburg looked up with glinting eyes and said, “It’s frustrating, I miss him.”

From a computer in California, Haselhoff sends an email that echoes his girlfriend’s words. “The hardest thing was knowing that I would have to say goodbye to all my family and friends for a year.”

“My mom was really concerned about the possibility of a deployment when I enlisted but she took it a lot better than I thought she would,” Haselhoff said.

Haselhoff and nearly 3000 other soldiers will travel through nine time zones to reach Kabul, Afghanistan, where he’ll be stationed until August 2011.

“We will be doing a police mission there,” Haselhoff said. “That will involve training the police force so they will be able to take over and run the police stations themselves.”

He went on to mention the corrupt police force and how he hopes he will be able to meet many locals in Kabul.

Muilenburg asks for prayers that will strengthen Haselhoff to be a light within his troop. Of the people he has connected with, he’s met four or five Christian men. “I’m trying to look at this like a long mission trip since we will be helping the people a lot. It definitely isn’t the type of mission that most people would think of when they hear that a person is being deployed,” Haselhoff said. He knows many of the men in his troop will be sitting at a base all day. “That might be safer,” he said, “but we have a much better chance of making a difference. I really do feel like there is a reason that God has me going on this mission.”
Pleasantville, Iowa welcomes international students

BY HOLLY STEWART
STAFF WRITER

Northwestern is home to students from 34 states and 17 countries. Its growing diversity is something that NW takes pride in and continues to help it grow and cultivate.

This year, 12 new international students joined the campus. These international students come from countries all over the world, including Japan, India and England.

The first year of college can be unnerving for many students. These students have showed their bravery and flown to a foreign country to begin their years of study but seem to be handling it rather well.

“They are some of the most warm, kind and friendly people I’ve ever met. I felt so welcome when I first arrived,” stated Vanlal Hruaia from India.

Though some of the international students have been to America before, most of them have not, so Orange City provides a unique experience.

“We should be about complete freedom, with great people has really helped me realize some important things in my life,” said Esther Dutta, who was born in the U.S. but lived in Oman. “Walking around campus at two in the morning is the best thing! I know it’s something you can only do in a small town, so I am enjoying it while I can.”

Just because many of the international students enjoy being around people, love to sing and be about complete freedom, with great people has really helped me realize some important things in my life,” said Esther Dutta, who was born in the U.S. but lived in Oman. “Walking around campus at two in the morning is the best thing! I know it’s something you can only do in a small town, so I am enjoying it while I can.”

As she describes it, the Gospel Choir eagerly welcomes everyone – from staff to students alike. The best part is, there is no need to try out. If you love to be around people, love to sing and love to have fun, then this choir is probably exactly what you need.

“A Choir Choir eagerly welcomes everyone – from staff to students alike. The best part is, there is no need to try out. If you love to be around people, love to sing and love to have fun, then this choir is probably exactly what you need. It was exactly what sophomore Katie Raab needed.

“As I describe it, the Gospel Choir takes a very open approach to anyone and everyone who has a passion for singing. “Not having to worry about looking stupid or weird while getting to sing great songs with great people has really helped me realize some important things about life,” Raab said. “Life should be about complete freedom, with nobody judging you. We should be able to live it up, and that’s what Gospel Choir is all about.”

“The choir sings all kinds of music, not just what one would think of as a ‘typical’ gospel style. Group members can request any piece of music they want and the whole group will vote to pick which ones they want to sing. Currently, they are working on two pieces. A typical day in the choir starts with warm-ups, such as scales and other activities to get the singers ready to go. They usually sing one song as a ‘warm up’ song, before diving in and rehearsing other pieces. “Being in the choir is so much fun,” one member says.

“Singing has always helped me feel closer to God—I’m not sure why but singing is like my form of praying. Going to Gospel Choir each week just feels like a giant prayer to me, and a way to talk out every Thursday feeling motivated and relaxed for the rest of the week.”

The Gospel Choir members acknowledge that you don’t need to be an amazing singer to praise God with your voice. All you need to do is show up; you don’t even need to try out. “We don’t want people to feel like it’s a chore to come to choir; we want them to love it! That’s why we emphasize that there is no pressure. We just sing for God and have a good time,” says Raab.

The Gospel Choir meets every Thursday in the choir room from 7 to 8 p.m. The numbers of people at each meeting vary, so don’t feel obliged to show up every time; it’s a very flexible choir. If the Gospel Choir needed a mission statement, Northwestern’s would probably be that their singing is a way to praise God and all He does.

The Complexity of Coffee with Cream

FEATURE EDITOR

“I want a double ristretto vinti nonfat organic chocolate brownie frappuccino with extra hot foam and whipped cream—double blended.”

As outrageous as this drink may sound, orders like this aren’t as uncommon as one would think in places like Starbucks and Caribou Coffee. While Northwestern’s Hub might not have quite the range in options, coffee drinkers across campus know what they like when it comes to coffee beans. Or is it that we just like what we ‘know’?

We all know the basics of what makes up a cup of coffee—hot water streamed through ground coffee beans. But say you want to drink something more. What do you get?

Senior Andrea Schweitzer said, “I can make coffee in my apartment, but I can’t make these fun drinks. I never get just ‘straight coffee’ whenever I come to the Hub.” She admits that she doesn’t know what’s in her cup of joe but gladly sips away at it anyway.

Pick up a menu at the Hub, and you’ll see that a cappuccino is made of steamed and frothed milk, espresso and a shot of flavor. Lattes are similar but can be made into a mocha, turtle, or white by adding a shot of dark chocolate, caramel or white chocolate sauce respectively. Order a Breve, and you’ll get another similar variation but have steamed half and half in your drink rather than steamed milk. An Americano is rich espresso in hot water and is recommended for those who like a strong coffee flavor.

Director of Missions, Tommy Moon, is a no-nonsense type of guy. Cream and sugar isn’t where he’s at, and no weak or watered down coffee is acceptable for him.

“You just as well drink tea,” he said. After living in Mexico for 18, you might think his need for strong flavor is cultural. Instead of culture, Moon offered up this answer, “When I walk into a coffee shop, I can already know what I’m getting. It’s the one thing in life I don’t have to make a decision about.”

“I drink my coffee black because like it bitter,” said senior Mel Ness when asked how her choice of coffee describes her. She then recalled, “Does that mean I’m bitter?”

“I used to drink something around one—third coffee and two—thirds creamer,” said junior Megan Herlyn. “These days I’m able to add just a little bit of creamer—it’s like I had to wean myself off of it.”

Maybe you don’t want the caffeine high of a cup of coffee or you’re really feeling a cup of tea but would prefer something with more substance. Senior Ashley Buse can relate.

“I ordered a Chai Latte,” Buse said while waiting for her drink one evening in the Hub. “I don’t even know what’s in a Chai Latte,” Buse admitted with a smile. “But it’s creamy tea and that’s what I like because sometimes caffeine just dominates me.”

A Chai Latte, just to clarify, is steamed milk and spiced Chai tea. If you’re needing a jolt of energy but are really in the mood for tea instead of coffee, try a Dirty Chai, which is made of steamed milk, spiced Chai tea and a shot of King Midas espresso.

Drink what you wish, order what you’d like or don’t even drink it at all. Just know that with every passing day, we are all one step closer to a world of ristretto tall non-fat extra-hot no-whip half-sweet sugar-free gingerbread lattes. Enjoy the easy ordering while it lasts!
Stone makes a funky collage of genres

BY REBEKAH WICKS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Janelle Monae’s signature pompadour is not the only thing about her that is larger than life. In her debut album “The ArchAndroid,” Janelle’s incredible voice powers through varied pop sounds, explosive lyrics, and intense lyrical visuals. Move over teen pop sensations; the real Queen of a sample-heavy, erratic era has finally arrived!

Monae’s music simply cannot be pooled into a single word or category, even if she is drawing from an expansive, familiar palette of sounds. You’ll find her seamlessly combining classic jazz, soul, funk, pop, African vibes, and alternative sounds; yet somehow she keeps all of these parts in their right place. For someone so new to the music scene, she is not at all intimidated to experiment.

One of the most compelling features of “The ArchAndroid” is the story it tells. Janelle shares a tale of her futuristic alter ego Cindi Mayweather who is out for the head of the alleged murderer of her family. But a strong cast of Oscar-nominated performers also surrounds and endorses her role. Olive’s witty quips seem inherited from her father, Dill, played by Stanley Tucci (“The Lovely Bones”). Olive’s lexical mother is handled well by Rosemary Patricia Clarkson. Together, they make one of film’s most enduring and supportive familial duos. Thomas Haden Church (“Sideways,” “Spider-man 3”), Olive’s favorite teacher, is another notable Oscar nominee who joins the cast.

I’ll quickly note that the film may offend some conservative viewers because the screenplay does have a way of making the antagonist such an “evil” Christian.

The protagonist often mocks these beliefs, and Marianne is referred to as a “Jesus Freak.” Despite these very minor turnoffs, “Easy A” shouldn’t be overlooked in any aspect (though it’s only done okay at the box office).

Mona uses scandalous persona for good

BY ADAM DONOHUE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“Easy A” combines Hawthorne’s “Scarlet Letter” with a witty comedy about how seeming “bad” can bring a lot of good. The irresistibly charming Emma Stone (“Superbad,” “Zombieland”) plays the lead role of Olive Penderghast, a quirky, invisible-to-guys type. Of course, that reputation changes when, after one particularly dull weekend, she improvises a story about losing her virginity to a college boy to keep herself from embarrassment. She doesn’t want to be the “nerdy” id. Even though this story of hers is entirely fabricated, and is told as if it was an isolated incident, the grapevine adds a little juice to her story. It doesn’t take long before she’s recreated as a floozy. But, ironically, she finds her new identity empowering.

She uses it as more than just a popularity stunt. For instance, she pretends to have sex with her gay friend, Brandon, who has been bullied by homophobic peers. When his classmates hear that she has supposedly had sex with the attractive Olive, it gives him a new, enviable standing with the people that ridiculed him before.

Brandon is the first of several misfits that claim to have “got lucky” with Olive. Thus, Olive’s supposed promiscuity becomes something of an agency for social change. Like Hester Prynne of “The Scarlet Letter,” she becomes an admirable anti-hero.

Olive is also connected to the novel through the film’s uber-Christian antagonist, Marianne (Amanda Bynes), who is out for the head of the alleged adulteress. Chastised, Olive wears a scarf “A” on her clothing (akin to Hawthorne’s Hester). Olive also embraces her new identifier, acting the part of a sultry harlot by wearing brassieres with an embroidered scarf “A” to school.

“Easy A” is incredibly likeable, oozing humor without ever being distasteful. And, despite its feeling of familiarity, the plot and script are anything but cliché and are instead surprisingly unpredictable.

In fact, Emma Stone may have found the script that will propel her among the young and elite, whereas other roles have only hinted at her potential. Her lead is reason enough to see the film.

But a strong cast of Oscar-nominated performers also surrounds and endorses her role. Olive’s witty quips seem inherited from her father, Dill, played by Stanley Tucci (“The Lovely Bones”). Olive’s lexical mother is handled well by Rosemary Patricia Clarkson. Together, they make one of film’s most endearing and supportive familial duos. Thomas Haden Church (“Sideways,” “Spider-man 3”), Olive’s favorite teacher, is another notable Oscar nominee who joins the cast.

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Mona uses scandalous persona for good
Pizza place brings fresh tastes and toppings

BY GREG WHITE
STAFF WRITER

Did you grow up in the Pizza Ranch and Pizza Hut claustrophobia of Orange City? Are you tired of wiping your pizza with a paper towel before eating it? Had enough taco pizza to put you off of tacos and pizza for a lifetime? There may be a better option awaiting you in Sioux Center.

Pizza Fresco, located on the west side of Main Street in Sioux Center, topped the Hut and Ranch in a recent taste test hosted at The Fruited Plain. Pizza Fresco serves take ‘n’ bake or pre-baked pizzas with a variety of ingredients and interesting topping combinations. 

Pizza Fresco is what it claims to be: fresh pizza. The crust is 100% chemical free, the sauce is homemade and their fresh vegetables and meats top off their fine pizza pie. The cheese comes from Wisconsin’s Grande Cheese Company in blocks, allowing Pizza Fresco to shred its perfect combination of provolone and mozzarella. The crust is homemade with 100% extra virgin olive oil. Its website claims that there are absolutely no preservatives in any of their pizza ingredients.

The restaurant offers two sauce options: red or white. A few of their red specialties include: Pepperoni Deluxe (pepperoni w/ cream cheese), Garlic Lover’s (a NY-style with basil, peppers and garlic) and Chicken Fajita (sample toppings: grilled chicken, jalapeños and cilantro). If you ask for NY-Style on any of the reds, they will spread olive oil over the crust and add oregano to the sauce.

The whites taste interesting as well. I can certainly recommend the Mediterranean, which is topped with spinach, sun-dried tomatoes, garlic and feta cheese. Their Breakfast Pizza breaks the barriers between meals with scrambled eggs, ham, bacon and sharp cheddar cheese. For Pizza Ranch die-hards, they offer a Spicy Buffalo Chicken pizza with the (12”), large (14”) or family (16”). The family size is enough to feed about two or three college men. Take ‘n’ bakes are $2 less than baked. And pricing varies with your topping options.

Along with its variety of pizzas, the restaurant also offers La Nova’s Spicy Buffalo wings, which have been voted the “Best Wing in Buffalo.” It also offers a house salad with shredded parmesan and fresh tomatoes, and a Greek salad with feta, artichokes, black olives and the option of chicken. There are three penne pasta choices too: All Meat, Supreme and Chicken. You can side your pizza or pasta with garlic bread sticks, Three Cheese Cheesy Sticks or a gyro. And you can top off your meal with a fresh chocolate chip cookie, Cinnamon Delight dessert pizza, creamy gelato or sorbet.

All of their hot foods are offered as traditionally pre-baked or as take ‘n’ bake. The take ‘n’ bakes are the economical option, though it can be hard to find a clean oven on campus to cook the food. You might just ask your RD if you can borrow theirs. But then you might have to share with them, which could be difficult because of the delicious nature of Pizza Fresco.

When you go, you shouldn’t expect to find room at the restaurant. They don’t have chairs or tables because they are more concerned with getting quality pizza in your hands than pampering you with experiential dining.

Pizza Fresco encourages people to order ahead by phone. Its number is 712-722-1888. You should also check out their website for a menu and coupons.

If you’re headed to Sioux Center for the night, don’t forget to bring back the pizza.

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4 wives + 28 kids = 1 lonely polygamist

BY JOSH DOORENBOS
STAFF WRITER

Sure, the Richards family, featured in Brady Udall’s “The Lonely Polygamist,” is a bit bigger than most families. And for a man to be shared between four wives, 28 children and three houses does not seem normal to us.

But Udall is more interested in using this extraordinary family as a literary device for the question, “How can a family stay together and be happy?”

And really, this Mormon family values many of the same things that we hold dear: God, family and hard work. Golden Richards, the ironically lonely man to whom the book’s title refers, has dedicated much of his adult life to such things since moving to Utah to connect with his absentee father.

However, as is common experience, his life becomes more than a handful as his family grows. His construction business is failing and his wives are constantly jockeying for power in the house and for his attention. One misstep on his part could cause the whole family to fall apart.

The anxiety created by all of this creates a number of devastating and darkly humorous consequences.

He must limit the attention he gives his kids individually, as its impossible to shower lavish attention on each one and showing more attention to one would result in the rest expecting the same. (In one scene, two of the children go into the house with lollipops, and a small riot is incited.)

The same goes for his wives, who draw up an elaborate schedule for what nights he’ll spend with which wife. The system prefers the women with more children, since they are allowed more time with Golden. He rarely says “I love you” to his wives in fear that he might unintentionally play favorites.

As one might expect, Golden’s balancing act of affection wears him to the point of driving him away from his family. He begins to lie to his family about the “hard work” involved with his latest construction project in Nevada: a brothel that they all think will be a retirement home (he has to take the work he gets). He ends up staying at the construction site in his small trailer to avoid the civil wars over which he is fought.

This is where he meets Huila, with whom he has a non-sexual relationship. All the same, this “affair” has quite the effect on the more dependent members of his family. His son, Rusty, whose birthday is all but forgotten, acts out in strange and somewhat perverse ways in order to get attention.

Also Trish, his latest wife, is noticeably lonely; having had only one child (despite a series of stillbirths), she gets the short end of his programmed affection. To get the intimacy she needs, she seeks out magazine sex tips and even drives to Golden’s construction site to see him breaking the first rule of the wives’ code. Still unfulfilled, it takes some creativity on her part to get pregnant with another child.

This being a story that involves polygamy, I was afraid it could get awkwardly surreal, disturbingly erotic or bitingly sardonic. Yet Udall avoids all of that, presenting this world with empathy and honesty. He doesn’t expect you to agree with the abnormal and illegal practice of the polygamist. Instead, this is a story in which even average readers can project their own story.

“The Lonely Polygamist” is full of interesting, exhausting, and (eventually) heartwarming family moments. Readers will find themselves rooting for this fragmented family to make it through.

Pizza Fresco offers a new set of tastes for students and locals.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CDONNISE.COM

“BRADY UDALL - AUTHOR OF THE MARVELOUS LIFE OF CALEDON MORMON - THE LONELY POLYGAMIST” is Brady Udall’s third novel. Brady was born into a Mormon family.

QUOTES

“You’re the Naked group.”
- Adjunct Professor Christi Vander Voort, referring to the juice and trends in students’ generation.

“This is Tarzan stuff for Christians.”
- Professor of History Mike Kugler, referring to the story of John Paton.

“It’s like reading a press release written by a press release.”
- Professor of English Weston Cutter on boring writing.

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

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Men’s cross country places fourth

The Red Raider men’s cross country team traveled to Crete, Neb., for the Dean White Invitational hosted by Doane College on Saturday, Sept. 25. Northwestern placed fourth with 84 points.

Sophomore Tyler Drenkow led the Raiders with a 13th place finish and a time of 28:47. Sophomores Jesse Alfeld and senior Charity Miles won the meet at the Doane College at home at 5 p.m. Six other Raiders finished in the top 25 and in times of less than 20 minutes.

Women’s cross country dominates again

The Red Raiders won the meet at Doane by scoring only 25 points. Senior Charity Miles won the individual title in 19:40.

Senior Sara Hess came in second place after running a 19:54. Sixth and seventh place went to juniors Allison Weidler (20:35) and Teresa Scholten (20:40), respectively. Senior Jenna Sorenson finished in ninth place with 20:48. A time of 20:58 was good enough for sophomore Leslie Stover to finish in 11th place. Three other Raiders finished in the top 25 and in times of less than 22 minutes.

Men’s golf finds groove

Northwestern’s golf team won the Sioux Falls Invite last Saturday after all five Raiders finished in the top ten. Even more impressive, the team score of 289 was the fourth lowest score in the program’s history.

Medalist honors went to freshman Ryan Kiewiet, who shot a two-under 70. Freshman Neil Malenke finished second with 72. Freshman Kyle Stanek was fourth after carding a 73. Michael Dykema’s 74 and Michael Clark’s 77 put the two sophomores in fifth and eighth place, respectively.

The two-day Doane Invite on Monday and Tuesday saw the Raiders place second overall with a score of 628.

Malenke and Stanek tied for fifth place with a 153. After both shooting a 162, Dykema and Clark tied for 23rd. Kiewiet tied for 30th after turning in a 164.

Rozenboom leads women’s golf to runner-up finish

The women’s golf team resumed play with a second place finish at the Midland University Classic in Fremont, Neb., on Tuesday, Sept. 28. The team carded a 368, 12 shots behind Midland (356).

For the second straight meet, Maggie Rozenboom earned medalist honors by shooting an 83. Freshman Taylor Kline tied for fifth place with a 90. Junior Andria Hinz shot a 97 to place 14th, and senior Sara Horn finished right behind in 15th place with a 98. Sophomore Leigh Van Howe added an 18th place finish with 103.

Double overtime win for men’s soccer

The stats were clearly in favor of NW, as the Raiders outshot Mt. Marty 18-9. They also had an 11-3 corner kick advantage. Pall, senior Ben Karnish and freshman Jeriah Dunk led the charge with three shots each. Sophomore Jonathan Taves, Karnish and Pall each had two shots on goal.

Senior goalkeeper Jeff Lanser made three saves and allowed one goal.

The Raiders improved to a 3-0-1 overall record, 1-3 in the GPAC. They will host Doane College on Saturday, Oct. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

The Red Raiders moved up to 18th in this week’s NAIA poll after a 59-38 win over Briar Cliff last Saturday, September 25. Northwestern’s record improved to 3-1.

The Raiders gained 314 yards and scored the most points since 1994, when they scored 65 against Concordia.

Senior Taylor Malm and sophomore Brandon Smith led the NW rushing attack, which totaled 332 yards. Malm rushed for 123 yards on 13 carries and had a career-high four touchdowns.

Freshman Zach Wittenberg crossed the line in 29:12 and finished 18th. Sophomore Adam Verhoef rounded out the lineup for the Raiders and recorded a 23rd place finish in 29:40.

The Graves men’s soccer team celebrates after senior Aron Pall’s double overtime goal lifted the Raiders to victory over Mount Marty on Wednesday night.

Another victory for women’s soccer

The Red Raiders picked up their third straight win over Mount Marty on Wednesday, Sept. 29. The 2-0 score hardly reflects Northwestern’s dominance of the game. The Raiders had 28 shots in the game, 15 on goal, and held Mount Marty to two shots, both on goal.

Freshman Ali Dunkelberger scored her sixth goal of the season on an assist from fellow freshman Anna Calsbeek in the 33rd minute. Dunkelberger then found freshman Kate Fonte in the 46th minute, and Fonte’s last goal of the season brought the score to 2-0.

Freshman Ariel Watts had her third straight shut-out at goalkeeper and made two saves.

The offense was led by freshman Alyssa Duren, who had eight shots, four on goal. Dunkelberger added six shots with four on goal, while freshman Hannah Jensen added three shots, all on goal.

NW improves to a 3-1 GPAC record, 5-0 overall. On Saturday, Oct. 2, the women will take on Doane College at home at 5 p.m.

Saturday morning saw NW facing the host, 18th-ranked Doane College on Wednesday, Sept. 29.

The Raiders traveled into town and had six carries for 32 yards. Sophomore Brandon Smith led the Doane defense with seven tackles. Seniors Caleb Blauwet and T. J. Lensch each added six tackles. Seniors Haan had two for 18 yards.

Senior Annaleise Forrey juggling the ball against Mount Marty Wednesday night.

Offenses run wild as Raider football prevails

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