What’s that smell?

BY JULIA LANTZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Opening a window is not always the best solution to get fresh air circulating through one’s dorm room at Northwestern. It is no challenge recognizing the various smells wafting through campus, but where they come from is a puzzling mystery for some.

According to senior Marij Mulder, there’s a collection of smells from different industries that create the unique aroma. Mulder has lived in Orange City her whole life and is no stranger to nose cringes. “It depends on the wind direction. It smells like paint if the wind is coming from the south.”

The headquarters for Diamond Vogel Paints is located just south of campus. “This is the most dominant factor contributing to the smell,” Mulder said.

Also in this direction of town is the Orange City industry, Advance Brands. Advance Brands is a meat-processing plant that produces primarily microwavable meats. NWC student Aaron Hoekstra worked at the plant for the previous two summers. “When I left work I would reek of the processed meat,” Hoekstra said. “The smell of the meat also circulates in the air and travels through town.”

During fall, the smell of harvest is added to Orange City’s aroma. According to Chad S. Miller, a biology professor at NWC, “A lot of dust, plant debris and diesel motor exhaust are released into the air during harvest.”

For some, this smell is quite familiar and is a reminder of the busy and often stressful season at present. Sophomore Kendra De Jong helps out with her family’s farm in nearby Hospers.

“My siblings and I started helping and tagging along with my dad pretty much as soon as we could walk,” said De Jong. “Besides taking care of the cattle, my family and I have to get all the harvest is added to Orange City’s agricultural life and is no stranger to nose cringes. “It depends on the wind direction. It smells like paint if the wind is coming from the south.”

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SGA discusses removal of Homecoming court, recent TV change

BY JEB RACH AND TYLER LEHMANN
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

New representatives and not having a homecoming court topped discussion at the SGA meeting on Oct. 12.

During introductions, President Justin Jansen introduced Robert Bogdanoff, the new AAC student representative. A long-standing member of SGA, he has served as a representative before.

Faculty brought two names to SGA for selection of the student position chosen by the Admissions, Honors and Retentions representative: Chelsea Bohr and Kate Wallin. The representative would not serve on SGA, but would serve on the AHR committee as another student voice.

In discussion, positive qualities of both candidates were brought out. Bohr has worked with admissions before, while Wallin has served in many positions on campus. Both are tutors on campus, will openly voice their opinions and are very personable. After much deliberation, as both were well-qualified candidates, Bohr was selected as the recommendation to the committee from SGA.

Homecoming court was another issue that circulated. SAC had removed it for a few reasons, including a lack of participation. A proposal brought up in discussion is to have a Mr. and Ms. Red Raider, much like “Mr. RedRaider” in years past. The concept is much like a pageant, with a focus on the speech and question side of the pageant. SGA will voice this to Lori Couch and SAC to get feedback, as it would also be a good fundraiser for the organization.

In other business, the TV in the cafeteria continues to be discussed. Originally, three TVs were purchased to display announcements on the cafeteria, one near the mailboxes, and one on the south side of the RSC. These were not SGA or SAC purchases, but rather part of the RSC building and concept. Currently, the TV in the cafeteria is the only one displaying announcements, while the other two are used for various purposes. The college hopes to have the other two set for announcements in the near future.

According to Lori Couch, Director of Student Activities, Northwestern originally installed the TV in the cafeteria to run advertisements for campus events, but when some students continually switched it to cable, the administration gave up until a new TV with channel-locking capabilities could be purchased. Couch says that personnel changes, equipment challenges and budget restraints hindered the purchase of a new TV over the past four years. This year, the approval of a capital request finally permitted the purchase of a new TV.

“We want to present information in a natural environment. We’re not forcing it on anyone…” [Students] can choose to engage or walk away,” Couch said.

To some students, the TV situation has been entirely inconsequential. Junior Steven Haarsma said, “I never really watched it in the first place. When I’m in the caf, I just eat.”

Senior Jacob Gastner has no qualms about only using the TV for announcements. “I don’t think [TV] is a necessary part of meal time… I think there’s been more interaction between people.”

SGA discussed the possibility of fundraising for a second TV in the cafeteria for students to watch other channels, including offering a dance or other activities on campus. This discussion was tabled for future meetings.

Military recruiters accept openly gay recruits; France buried in protests over pension

BY ANDREW LOVGREN AND LEANN JOHNSON
EDITORS

“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” ruled unconstitutional

Early Friday morning, the Pentagon instructed recruiters to accept openly gay individuals into the armed services. The announcement comes after months of discussion on the controversial “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, culminating in a ruling by a federal court that rejection based on sexual orientation is unconstitutional.

The recruiters are not allowed to ask individuals, but if all other requirements are met and candidates openly declare themselves gay, they must be accepted into service.

However, according to spokesperson Cynthia Smith, applicants must be reminded that the ruling may be overturned in the coming months.

In response, the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network submitted a statement.

“During this interim period of uncertainty, service members must not come out and recruits should use caution if choosing to sign up,” said SLDN Executive Director Aubrey Sarvis in the statement. “The bottom line: if you come out now, it can be used against you in the future by the Pentagon.”

Several former servicemen and women who were discharged under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” are taking the opportunity to rejoin.

“Once a Marine, always a Marine,” said Will Rodriguez-Kennedy, a corporal who was honorably discharged in February 2008.

The government is expected to go to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on the issue.

French protests

More than one million French workers have participated in recent nationwide demonstrations, cmt. com said, protesting government plans to raise the retirement age from 60 to 62 and full pension payments from 65 to 67.

The French Senate adopted new rules Thursday to speed up voting on the controversial pension reform bill that would bring about these changes. Their version could pass as soon as Friday, meaning a final version could be sent to the president as soon as next week.

The French government says the changes are necessary to save money, but many of France’s young citizens are concerned. They worry about their ability to get jobs if the older generation holds onto jobs for two more years.

The ongoing strike, which followed a series of one-day strikes this month and last month, has crippled transportation and affected schools and fuel supplies. So far, 428 people have been arrested in connection to the protests.

To some, smell is all too familiar

Lisa Barber, the residential director of Fern Smith Hall, feels the same way. “The smells of Orange City aren’t that noticeable to me except for the livestock.”

Autumn brings with it the onset of harvest, unpredictable weather and a number of overwhelming surprises. Soon enough though, winter will set in, and we will be more worried about what tickles our fingers and toes than our noses.

Pick up your FREE Chamber Value Card today!

Stop by the Chamber Office with your student ID and receive a chamber value card—normally sold for $20—for free. Office hours are from 9-noon and 1-4 p.m.

By The Numbers:

25% of electricity is used keeping lights on.

75% of this energy could be saved by switching to more efficient bulbs.

22 Hours per day a koala sleeps.

10 Average number of texts per hour for a normal teen.

27 Gallons of coffee consumed per capita in the U.S. each year.
**OPINION**

**Students take issue**

**Alcohol diminishes control over brain**

**BY ANNA BARTLETT**

A few days ago, my sister told me I am only half-feminine. Part of the reason this might seem true is because I’ve never put much stock in my emotions. Therefore I was surprised how my view of alcohol came about.

Once I came to college, I realized people actually expected me to have a reason why I didn’t like the idea of drinking alcohol. Last year, one of my friends asked me about my aversion to alcohol and, realizing that I had nothing but a funny story, I began to spout out weak arguments on the spot.

I realized how empty those words sounded. Something didn’t seem right. I, a supposed rational person, had never bothered to sit down and hash out an argument.

My high school friends and I were much too easily entertained to be bothered by notions of drinking. We were too busy discussing books, creating crazy croquet courses and playing Nerts at the lunch table.

So I’ll do my best to rationalize something I’ve internalized.

The Bible is always a good place to start. Romans 14:21 says, “It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.” Ephesians 5:18 says, “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”

Apparently alcohol in excess can be harmful as a Christian. But if I am with people who know how to drink responsibly, why wouldn’t I drink?

My first encounter with alcohol was, in a word, annoying. I was nine, and had ordered what I thought was sherbert in a fancy restaurant in the Czech Republic. To my chagrin, they had poured wine over the sherbert (and had served it to a nine-year-old).

Besides disagreeing with my taste buds, alcohol adds unnecessary calories. If I’m going to splurge on something, it’s going to be chocolate, hands down.

As I mentioned before, I live by my head and alcohol can diminish the control I have over my brain. That scares me. Proverbs 23:32-33 addresses this loss of control: “In the end [wine] bites like a snake / and poisons like a viper. / Your eyes will see strange sights / and your mind will imagine confusing things.” This fear might not make much sense, but it affects my perception of alcohol.

I’m not saying drinking is bad. Intellectually there would be no problem with me drinking in moderation, but for the personal reasons I mentioned, I have thus far chosen to abstain.

As you can see, a discussion of alcohol can get complicated. Perhaps it is not a question of whether alcohol is good or bad, but of how you approach it. Whatever your approach, don’t make the same mistake I did and spout out empty arguments. Believe me, you’ll only make a fool of yourself. Instead, be thoughtful.

**Drink up, but model responsibility**

**BY CURTIS VER MULM**

Here at Northwestern, there are quite a few people who consider the consumption of alcohol to be taboo. For those of us who have reached, or are about to reach, the age of 21, the question of whether or not it is okay to drink may be on our minds. While I do not in any way condone underage drinking, I do believe that the consumption of alcohol by Christians who are of age, if done with the right attitude, is permissible and should not be looked down upon.

Let’s start where many Christians get insight into a topic like this, the Bible. While the Bible absolutely is against drinking to excess and drunkenness, there is no indication that drinking wine or any other form of alcohol is a sin unto itself. In fact, the Bible encourages drinking in some places. “Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God loves what you do.” Ecclesiastes 9:7. This passage, and the verses after it, encourages us to enjoy the simple pleasures in life God has given us.

Alcohol can also be good for you. In 1 Timothy, Paul advises Timothy to “Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for your stomach’s sake and your frequent infirmities.” 1 Tim. 5:23. Apparently, Timothy had been suffering from stomach ailments on his missionary journey that could be cleared up by drinking a little wine. Wine has been known to settle an upset stomach for thousands of years, but alcohol has other health benefits. For example, one New England Journal of Medicine study found that men who consumed alcohol three to seven days a week had fewer heart attacks than men who drank once a week. Moderate drinking may also help reduce risk of diabetes and dementia.

The effects of heavy drinking, however, far outweigh the benefits. Too much alcohol can negate the positive effects of moderate drinking and actually increase risk of heart disease. It can also cause cirrhosis of the liver, interfere with sleep and have negative effects when combined with other drugs among other things. Obviously, drinking in excess is not a good thing to do. It is extremely important to keep your alcohol consumption at a moderate level.

Drinking in excess and drunkenness is explicitly condemned in numerous places in the Bible. Therefore, Christians, even if they do drink, should take great care to keep their consumption level in check. However, I don’t think that this means Christians should give up drinking entirely. Instead, we should see our freedom to drink as one of the many opportunities for us to minister to the people around us, especially to younger generations. In today’s culture, we are constantly bombarded with beer advertisements, depictions of excess drinking in the media and the glorifying of alcohol consumption in general. I think that we Christians who do drink need to stand out as the positive example of responsible alcohol consumption. Just as education can teach children the dangers of firearms and how to use them safely, alcohol education can teach people to respect the dangers of alcohol consumption, and to encourage positive and responsible use.

**Should of-age Christians drink?**

**Dear Reader...From the Editors**

Northwestern has a very defined sense of how community functions. To partake in it, one must share the history, stories and ideas unique to him or her. When one communicates these things, others learn to value differences. In other words, there is a healthy level of vulnerability expected for students to interact in a holistically educational way.

Vulnerability seems to be a big word around other campuses this month as well, following the suicides of four gay boys who were all victims of homophobic bullying. All of them were 15 or younger with the exception of Tyler Clementi, an 18-year-old freshman at Rutgers. Tyler threw himself from a New York bridge after his roommate had secretly recorded him kissing another guy—a video that was later uploaded to YouTube. While there may have been other variables affecting Clementi’s decision, it nevertheless seems clear that this indirect form of harassment was a climactic moment.

Research done by Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network suggests that these are not isolated incidents of bullying on the grounds of sexual choices. In fact, 85 percent of LGBT students have reported verbal harassment and 40 percent were victims to some form of physical harassment. When surveyed, 30 percent claimed to have stayed home from school one day out of the previous month for fear of abuse. So the trend is that though it might be relieving for a homosexual student to be open about his or her sexuality, there are unfortunate repercussions in communal relationships and, ultimately, in their personal well-being.

For many, these statistics may seem to have little substantial translation into the experience of the NW community, which traditionally has had a low number of openly gay students.

In response, consider the testimony of 2009 graduate Tucker Schneider. Tucker, who came out in January of his sophomore year, was an especially active part of the NW community. He was involved in SGA. He made numerous contributions to our theater productions in his time here.

And many students will remember his controversial senior art exhibit, which featured painted nudes to demonstrate themes of censorship and withholding the truth.

Two months after coming out, Tucker began receiving hateful, demeaning letters from members of this community. In an interview, he said that these continued to come on an almost weekly basis for the next two and a half years, increasingly more aggressive. Indirect, defenseless and accumulating attacks like these could have had much more disastrous psychological results had he not had other pockets of social support.

Of course, the same treatment does not befall other on-campus gays who have kept closeted or at least relatively quiet about their sexuality. Whether or not this is a viable option for them, this approach seems somewhat disconnected to otherwise clear community values: sharing what we deem the important parts of ourselves in an environment where we can be protected and respected.

Certainly this disconnect can be attributed to touchy, longstanding moral concerns about homosexuality that exist among many NW students and faculty. Moreover, the official position of the college (as stated by the student handbook) counts on-campus homosexual behavior of any kind as a violation of policy.

Even so, between these recent instances of harassment and our presumable emphasis on community, there may be room to re-assess the handling of homosexuals on this campus. Can gays be honest about themselves together with the rest of the campus? More importantly, will they be treated humanely after coming out? After a notable trend of self-destructive responses, one would only hope that there this a collective commitment to protect the vulnerable.

**Would you...**

**WE WANT ‘EM**

**You have em...**

**No Homecoming court Required chapel 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@nwciowa.edu.
The ultimate battle: Facebook vs. Twitter
BY SHELBY VANDER MOLEN
STAFF WRITER
Facebook vs. Twitter: For some it is a cats vs. dogs kind of debate. Others say Facebook and Twitter have different functions and are best utilized in tandem. According to the statistics, Facebook.com cites over 500 million active users worldwide, while according to Computerworld.com, Twitter trails with just 75 million users. Beyond user rates, frequency of usage likewise boasts Facebook with a 50% usage on any given day while Twitter, though quickly growing, shows that only 17% of users tweeted during last month. Despite Facebook’s dominant numbers, these sites remain the top two social networking sites and thus rivals to some degree. In fact, many users who have chosen one or the other agree vehemently that their site is indeed best. NWC Junior and Facebook user Heather Craven agrees, saying she feels Twitter is “basically a giant con.” She says, “From the general impression I get of Twitter, I think it’s a silly way to tell people the random crap you’re doing (or not doing) more times than they care to know.”

Others like Junior Andrew Stam have both and say that they offer very different services. Where Facebook has a more traditional profile and inbox based layout, Twitter operates more like a texting service. While Facebook has a live chat option, the main communication is in a post and then-wait-for-a-response fashion. Twitter still provides a static profile page but focuses primarily on a conversation and constant flow of updates. Though Stam says he got Twitter initially for the same reason many join Facebook, to “keep tabs on far-away friends,” Stam says he also enjoys using it to follow his favorite celebrities and tap into their daily lives. But when it comes to content he says, “Things I post on Facebook are things I don’t care who reads. Things I post to Twitter, I only want my select friends and followers to read.” Though he uses both equally and simultaneously on his computer, he receives closest friend’s tweets on his phone.

Twitter may seem friendlier to mobile users, but sophomore Jeremy Bork, a Facebook user, says he accesses Facebook on computer and via Facebook mobile on his phone equally. Because of the ease of access, Bork says he typically checks his profile 3-5 times a day. For Bork, Facebook is a nice study break because it “keeps my attention,” and it is nice to keep in touch with friends. F e l l o w s o p h o m o r e E l i G ro e n e n d y k agrees. “Facebook is a handy tool to connect all my friends for organizing a praise team, setting up a fantasy football league and other things.” For him it is “enjoyable and convenient,” but he also fears it has been overused and abused.

While there are many positive factors to any social network whether Facebook, Twitter, or others, an accompanying negative is one that Groendenyk states clearly, “Actual face-to-face time may be suffering because of face-to-Facebook time.”

“I never was a man named Stingy Jack. Stingy Jack was an old man who liked to play tricks on everybody. He was even better liked to play tricks with the Devil. One day, Stingy Jack tricked the Devil into climbing up a tall tree, and then we wouldn’t let him come down. He made the Devil agree that if he let him down, the Devil would never let Jack into hell. So the Devil agreed. “Many years later, Jack died. When he got up to the pearly gates of heaven, Saint Peter decided that Jack wasn’t going to be allowed in because he had been too grumpy and mean in his life on Earth. So Jack decided to go ask the Devil to let him into hell. Surprisingly enough, the Devil refused, keeping his heaven and hell, and it was dark. The Devil gave him a piece of glowing ember from the fire to light his way. Jack put his ember in a carved out turnip, his favorite food to steal in life. It is said that even now, Stingy Jack still wanders between heaven and hell in the dark with his glowing turnip.”

The Irish were afraid of Stingy Jack, so they decided to carve out turnips and put candles in them to scare him away at night. If a house had a turnip with a light in it, it was thought that the spirit of Stingy Jack couldn’t get into the house, and the people inside were safe. In the 1800s Irish immigrants to America went over to the United States, one-fourth of all the candy sold annually in to your cravings than the holiday candy for one night’s use? Wow, we do love chocolate.

Halloween doesn’t need to be a night that kills our diets, however. Of the numerous options of candy bars and sweets that can be thrown your way, you can totally have the best of both worlds. The Twix candy bar won students’ favor over the KitKat two to one. Unfortunately, “reaching for a Kit Kat will save you 20 calories and rack up less saturated fat and sodium,” said Cynthia Sass, author of The Ultimate Diet Log.

According to Jeanne Benedikt at celebrations.com, Snickers bars have topped the charts for years as the #1 Halloween candy bar. When compared to Reese’s, Northwestern students don’t quite agree. Reese’s won out six to four. Sass reports that Reese’s have more protein than Snickers thanks to all of that peanut butter, but Snickers contain less fat, less saturated fat and 10 fewer calories in a fun-size to fun-size match up. What about the sugar high you can get from SweeTarts and Smarties? Is one better than the other? Students prefer Smarties 10 to four – and it’s a good thing because Smarties have half the calories and grams of sugar than SweeTarts.

Enjoy the candy and chocolate overkill of the year but just know that even on Halloween, calories do count.

A fun tradition with a creepy past
BY TINA MCGIVERN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Many of us have been carving pumpkins as a Halloween tradition for as long as we can remember. But why do we do it? “I have absolutely no idea,” freshman Brian Thomas said. “I couldn’t even begin to tell you why... that’s pathetic!” As told by the History Channel, the Pumpkin Nook and several other Halloween-type portals, information, the story behind carving pumpkins is a little more elaborate and spooky than expected.

There once was a man named Stingy Jack. Stingy Jack was an old man who liked to play tricks on everybody. He was even better liked to play tricks with the Devil. One day, Stingy Jack tricked the Devil into climbing up a tall tree, and then we wouldn’t let him come down. He made the Devil agree that if he let him down, the Devil would never let Jack into hell. So the Devil agreed.

“Many years later, Jack died. When he got up to the pearly gates of heaven, Saint Peter decided that Jack wasn’t going to be allowed in because he had been too grumpy and mean in his life on Earth. So Jack decided to go ask the Devil to let him into hell. Surprisingly enough, the Devil refused, keeping his heaven and hell, and it was dark. The Devil gave him a piece of glowing ember from the fire to light his way. Jack put his ember in a carved-out turnip, his favorite food to steal in life. It is said that even now, Stingy Jack still wanders between heaven and hell in the dark with his glowing turnip.”

The Irish were afraid of Stingy Jack, so they decided to carve out turnips and put candles in them to scare him away at night. If a house had a turnip with a light in it, it was thought that the spirit of Stingy Jack couldn’t get into the house, and the people inside were safe. In the 1800s Irish immigrants to America found pumpkins and decided they were much easier to carve, so that’s where the switch happened.

The tradition of carving pumpkins has been passed down for centuries and it’s amazing that we still practice this tradition. “Every Halloween my family gets together and carves tons of pumpkins and we put them out on our front step for the trick-or-treaters. It’s one of my favorite traditions,” freshman Alyssa Duren said. “I wish we could do it more than once a year!”

Although celebrating Halloween with Jack O’ Lanterns is a fun tradition that many students have grown up with, living in a college dorm can make carving pumpkins a little more difficult. “Maintenance hates it,” Fern RD Lisa Barber said. “Pumpkins get mushy and soft and start to stain the carpet.” If Halloween just wouldn’t be the same without that scary-faced Jack O’ Lantern, be sure to put a paper plate or towel underneath your pumpkin to prevent it from staining the carpet — and be sure to throw it out if it starts to get soft.

Feel free to carve away at the orange flesh of your Pumpkins and purchase some Halloween night, be sure to remember the story of Stingy Jack.

**Quiz in the Corner**
Go to the Beacon online to find out the answer!

What is the origin of the colors black and orange in association with Halloween?
A. Black for night and orange for the moon
B. Black cats and orange pumpkins
C. Black for death and orange for harvest
D. Black spiders and orange candy corn

How about the candy of autumn — candy corn? Sass held it in comparison with Tootsie Rolls. On a national level, candy corn wins the taste test hands down with 20 million pounds consumed annually. Students on our campus, however, prefer Tootsie Rolls by a landslide of votes. The toss-up here is perfectly fine because the two sweets tie when it comes to nutrition. “Though you need to eat 26 pieces of candy corn to rack up the same number of calories – 140 – as six Tootsie Rolls, both candies contain artificial color and flavor,” Sass said.

Enjoy the candy and chocolate overkill of the year but just know that even on Halloween, calories do count.
How To: Halloween costumes on a college budget

BY HOLLY STEWART
STAFF WRITER

With Halloween just around the corner, many students are still looking for last-minute costumes to join in with the festive season. And let’s face it: college students do not have a lot of money to spend on one-night costumes. Besides a Wal-Mart run to Sioux Center or venturing to the temporary Halloween stores in the Sioux City mall, there are plenty of cheap places to buy costumes online, such as www.zoogstercostumes.com or www.buycostumes.com.

When asked about their Halloween costumes from last year, students across campus found inexpensive and easy ways to dress up as some of their favorite characters and people. Sophomore Skylar Tiahrt, who dressed up as Beast Boy from Teen Titans, bought his whole costume and it only cost him about fifteen dollars. Sophomore Sarah Kugler dressed up as Poison Ivy, one of the villains from Batman. “My costume was an amalgamation of items I already had and things I bought at Goodwill,” Kugler said. “Overall, probably 10 dollars max!”

But what if spending money just isn’t an option? Halloween costumes on a college budget are easy – as long as you’re creative. Junior Holly Lawrence got her costume for free by compiling some of her own items and some of her friends’ to dress up as “Where’s Waldo” complete with a red and white striped dress and big glasses.

Sophomore Amber Amundson praises the idea of coming up with your own costumes. “Honestly, I think store-bought costumes look really cheap anyway. There is always that fear that someone will have bought the same thing, and they are 20 to 40 bucks. Coming up with your own costume and assembling it out of far less pricy pieces is a lot more fun.”

Look around the media today; there are plenty of celebrities and TV characters that would be a blast to match – the possibilities are nearly endless.

Try dressing up as Lady Gaga or a character from Glee or Mad Men. The look of “Flor” from the Progressive commercials is easy to imitate. Just grab a brown wig, a headband, white pants, a polo shirt, some red lipstick and a name tag and you’ll look ready to sell insurance!

A quick and easy costume is to dress up like the guy from the Old Spice commercials. Look at him, look at yourself. Then grab a towel and some deodorant and you’re ready to rock the look.

If you’re looking for a typical Halloween costume, a plastic bag and a cardboard box will provide what you need to turn yourself into a sassy-looking witch for a night. Cut three holes in the bag for your arms and head, snip away at the box until you’ve got yourself a pointed hat. The last piece is a broom and that should be easy to find.

Dressing up as an old lady is a great and clever costume for both women and men. Visit the Fern dress-up bin or spend a few dollars at Bibles for Missions to find an old dress and some costume jewelry. An umbrella can work as a cane and don’t forget some bright makeup and a lot of powder.

The SAC is hosting a Costume Contest this year for Halloween. All you need is a group of five friends and some pretty stellar costumes; what better place to start than a roll of toilet paper and a white t-shirt? Find that, and it’s easy as 1-2-3 before you’ve got yourself a straightforward-dead mummy.

Costumes will be judged at half-time of Saturday’s football game on Oct. 30. The countdown to Halloween is ticking quickly but don’t let the worry of choosing the right costume get you down.

The inside scoop about students losing sleep

BY ALYSSA CURRIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It’s a common problem on college campuses across the nation. Desk lamps are on until five o’clock in the morning and students drag themselves to their early morning classes just three hours later. It’s a lack of sleep.

From athletics to theatre productions to hitting the books in the hard sciences, how much do curricular, and extracurricular, activities cut into a college student’s most precious free-time activity of all? Is it a time-management problem? Do athletes and science majors really have less free time?

To answer these questions, a survey was taken across campus in which students of all grades were asked how much sleep they get per night on average. It turns out that athletes may have a reason to whine.

On average, those participating in a sport get one hour and nine minutes less sleep than non-athletes. “Practice takes up a lot of time, but

image

In the end, beauty sleep just isn’t what it used to be. Women on our campus get roughly 45 minutes less sleep than men. Is it the time spent in front of the mirror applying makeup or straightening your hair that makes the difference? If so, sleep a little more and wake up looking refreshed. Applause is in order for the men across campus who know when it’s time to turn off fantasy football and crawl into bed. Because after all, sleep isn’t overrated.
Simple, ridiculous games offer short-lived entertainment

BY MICHAEL GUTSCH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At this point, anyone who has spent any amount of time tooling about on the Internet has probably been distracted by flash games at one point or another. These simple and addictive games often utilize a short-lived but creative game mechanic.

For the most part, flash games began as throwbacks to easily-programmed retro games. 2D platformers, scrolling shooters and simple adventure games can be found in plentitude. One of the finest examples of creative genre-reinterpretations is the aptly named “Robot Dinosaurs That Shoot Beams When They Roar.”

As you’d expect, the game is hilarious and full of colorful personality besides being a great side-scrolling shooter. Another standout, “Sonny,” is an old-school, turn-based RPG which puts you in the role of a zombie for a long, plot-heavy and surprisingly complex experience.

While the demand for classic game styles is as strong as ever, newer game tastes have crept on in genres like the ever-popular tower defense, or destruction-based games. There has been an influx of new games, which the goal is to incur as much structural damage to various castle structures as possible. Players do this by flinging projectiles from a distant catapult (much like the iPhone’s “Angry Birds”). The game uses what might seem like an outdated, complex point-scoring system. But you’ll still find an obsessive eagerness to splat your way to all of the points.

There are also many other flash games that sitarize this oft-exploited concept. “Spewer” is an exceptionally cute game. It is one of several games which have involved shifting the environment so that its of gravity dimensionality enables the character to move through the puzzle.

There are also many other games that have shifted the environment so that its gravity dimensionality enables the character to move through the puzzle.

From Sufjan’s prior “Year of the Rabbit” and his recent work as a producer, we should have guessed that he would not stay in one place. The folk-revivalist in him may be gone in favor of other frantic projects. The folk-revivalist in him may be gone in favor of other frantic projects. The folk-revivalist in him may be gone in favor of other frantic projects. The folk-revivalist in him may be gone in favor of other frantic projects. The folk-revivalist in him may be gone in favor of other frantic projects. The folk-revivalist in him may be gone in favor of other frantic projects.
Mitchell’s historical novel considers worth of life’s intangibles

JOSH DOORENBOS

STAFF WRITER

“The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet,” set in turn-of-the-19th-century Japan, is a romantic, intelligently historical novel that gets at the question of what gives things worth or value.

David Mitchell’s novel takes the reader to the Dutch East Indies port in Dejima, Japan. In a time when Japan’s international relations were closed, the Dutch occupied a special trade relationship, the only outsiders let into the country. Ship after ship arrives from the European nation, and the essential question early in the book is: What is copper worth or value.

Of course, we soon learn that the company has not been doing as well as it should, much of which is due to the mismanagement of materials by its chief Daniel Snitker. These bad business methods are what bring our title character, Jacob de Zoet, to Dejima. He works as a clerk—one that quickly rises in the ranks because of his skill with balancing and rectifying mismanaged books. Working with Vorstenbosch, the new chief, he is able to preserve and reorder the trade relationship in Japan.

At least for a time, that is. The whole of Dejima soon turns out to be a money pit. Even Vorstenbosch falls into corruption before all is said and done, and Jacob is left with new question: What is the price of honesty? For him, it is a lower post beneath rivals who accuse him of financial irresponsibility, and the lost opportunity to return home to his fiancé. Now Jacob, who has accumulated enemies because of his excessive ability to do the very job he was sent to do, is at the bottom of the ladder with all of those enemies looking down on him.

Of course, these first two questions of worth merely walk us to the steps of many other questions posed by the novel. Jacob must consider: What is the price of love, faithfulness, freedom?

And, most importantly to him, and to his friend/interpreter Ogawa Uzaemon, what is the price of Aibagawa Orito? Orito is a midwife who is allowed to study under a Dutch doctor until her father dies. Afterwards, she is sold to the shrine of a rich Lord Abbot named Enomoto—who has strange powers, appearing to be able to read minds as well as many other scary, invasive things. There, the “nuns” are used as vessels to bare children, impregnated by the men of the shrine. As Orito, Uzaemon, and Jacob all dig deeper into the “rules” and going on of Enomoto’s shrine, its true activities appear even more sinister.

All three—Orito, Uzaemon, and Jacob—spend half of the novel seeking to free Orito, who does not want to be “engifted” with a child at the shrine. Each of them gives up much in the process, Uzaemon most of all. But that doesn’t necessarily mean that it’s satisfying; at some point, the question becomes, “Is it worth the price?”—whether for Orito’s freedom or, for Enomoto, immortality.

Without ever being too ornate in its prose, this book has plenty of skill to catch you by surprise. It is so enrapturing and blindingly that you will not realize that you’ve been hooked until you’re far into part two or three.

The book is straightforward in style, which is a departure from David Mitchell’s past work. Dave Eggers, writer of “A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius,” says that his book, for Mitchell, is “as if an acrobatic but show-offy performance artist, adept at mimicry, ventriloquism and cerebral literary gymnastics, had decided to do an old-fashioned play and, in the process, proved his chops as an actor.”

I can assure you that the moments and money spent on this book will be well worth the price.

Abducted boy creates a world of his room

ALENA SCHUESSLER

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Jack, the narrator of Emma Donoghue’s novel “Room,” lives in a world that consists of a single room with one Table, one Bed, one Wardrobe and one Sink. He and his mother live in “Room,” an 11-by-11 foot shed in the backyard of an abductor. Unbeknownst to him, there is a whole world outside the door he’s never seen before. He’s never been outside the walls of Room.

Donoghue presents Jack’s world as charming from the beginning, but readers soon see the horror Jack doesn’t know he’s experiencing. This life is all he’s ever known, and it’s not all he’s ever wanted. Ma was nineteen when she was snatched from her college campus, and seven years have seen torture within the same lead-lined, soundproofed walls. Old Nick comes around every night, and the terror the five-year-old experiences is horrifying.

The seemingly endless days and nights make the reader feel hopeless and disheartened. The feelings are reminiscent to anyone feeling trapped figuratively or literally in their own lives. Somehow in her pain, Jack’s Ma is able to speak truth about imprisonment around the world: “When I woke up in that shed,” she says, “I thought nobody’d ever had it as bad as me. But the thing is, slavery’s not a new invention… people are locked up in all sorts of ways.”

The bright hope amidst all the darkness is the beautiful relationship between Jack and his mother. Ma loves Jack unconditionally, despite the fact that his father is her captor.

The main questions the book revolves around are: What is safety? What is home? If this room is all Jack has ever known, is it safe? He remarks after escaping, “I’ve seen the world and I’m tired now.” When his mother tells him they’re never going back to Room, he begins to cry. He has lived in Room his entire life; even though it has been an awful prison, it has been his home.

The dark, beautiful story of the five-year-old is both heartbreaking and healing. The novel speaks of change and the hope of a better life, while keeping the optimism of a young boy who is naïve to the evils of the world. In a brilliantly crafted work, Donoghue hooks readers and leaves them thinking.
Volleyball continues perfect season

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT

The Northwestern men's volleyball team shot a 306 and wound up in sixth place at the second GPAC Qualifier played in Hastings, Neb., on Saturday, Oct. 9. The Raiders played 110 minutes of soccer against Nebraska Wesleyan, but neither team was able to score and the game ended in a 0-0 tie. NWU had 23 shots to NW's 10. Watts made nine saves to earn her fourth shut-out of the season. Sarah Seagar had two shots on goal out of the Raiders' five.

NWU ends its regular season against Hastings College on Saturday at 5 p.m. at Korver Field.

Men's golf wraps up fall schedule

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK

Senior Caleb Blauwet had five tackles and one sack, while Van Otterloo added four tackles. As a team, the Raiders had a season-high six sacks, including two by sophomore Stanley Fleming. Freshman Theo Bartman led the special teams with 4.5 tackles and two kickoff returns for 78 yards. The Raiders will travel to Crete, Neb., on Saturday to take on the Doane Tigers at 1 p.m.

Women's cross country sees improvement

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT

Women's soccer season nears end

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT

The Northwestern football team improved its record to 4-2 after a thorough battering of the Dordt Defenders on Saturday, Oct. 16. The 17th-ranked Raiders dropped Dordt to 0-7 with a score of 48-3. Dordt couldn't defend the Raider offense, as NW racked up almost 600 total yards. The rushing attack tallied 363 yards, led by sophomore Brandon Smith and senior Taylor Malm, who both gained more than 100 yards in the same game for the second time this season. Smith scored two touchdowns and had 20 carries for 170 yards. Malm carried the ball 15 times for 123 yards and a touchdown.

Junior Jayme Rozeboom completed 16 of 24 passes for 177 yards and two touchdowns. Freshman Davis Bloemendaal got a chance to quarterback in the fourth quarter, completing four of six passes for 38 yards. He also threw the first touchdown pass of his college career.

Malm and sophomore Tyler Walker were the top targets, as Malm had six catches for 42 yards and Walker had five catches for 71 yards. Walker, senior Caleb Van Otterloo and junior Tim Vermeer each caught a touchdown pass.

Sophomore James Rodriguez made two field goals for the Raiders, one from 29 yards and one from 39 yards. The defense held Dordt to 157 yards and only nine first downs. Senior Caleb Blauwet had five tackles and one sack, while Van Otterloo added four tackles. As a team, the Raiders had a season-high six sacks, including two by sophomore Stanley Fleming. Freshman Theo Bartman led the special teams with 4.5 tackles and two kickoff returns for 78 yards.

The Raiders will travel to Crete, Neb., on Saturday to take on the Doane Tigers at 1 p.m.

Women's soccer season nears end

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT

The Red Raiders improved their GPAC record to 5-4-1 with a 4-1 win over Briar Cliff on Wednesday, Oct. 20. Freshman Alii Dunkelberger scored two goals to bring her season total to nine, while freshman Kate Fonte scored once to bring her season total to five. Freshman Ann Calsbeek also added a goal.

NWU dominated with 20 shots, 15 on goal, and held Briar Cliff to four shots. Dunkelberger had five shots, three on goal, and Jensen added four shots, three on goal. Fonte had three shots, all on goal, and freshman Missy Yorack and Calsbeek each had two shots on goal.

The Raiders out-shot Midland 12-7 on Saturday, Oct. 16, but lost 2-1 in overtime. Dunkelberger scored the lone Raider goal and led the offense with six shots, two on goal. Freshman Alyssa Duren added two shots.

NWU was out-shot by Dordt 15-10 last Wednesday, Oct. 13, but was unable to find the back of the net and lost 1-0. Dunkelberger had seven shots, four on goal. Duren added five shots with two on goal, and Fonte had three shots, one on goal. Freshman Ariel Watts made five saves and allowed one goal.

On Saturday, Oct. 9, the Raiders played 110 minutes of soccer against Nebraska Wesleyan, but neither team was able to score and the game ended in a 0-0 tie. NWU had 23 shots to NW's 10. Watts made nine saves to earn her fourth shut-out of the season. Sarah Seagar had two shots on goal out of the Raiders' five.

NWU ends its regular season against Hastings College on Saturday at 5 p.m. at Korver Field.

Men's golf wraps up fall schedule

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK

The Northwestern men's golf team shot a 306 and wound up in sixth place at the second GPAC Qualifier played in Hastings, Neb., on Oct. 8. Three freshmen led the Raiders. Neil Malenko, Ryan Kiewiet and Kyle Stanek all tied for 17th with a four-over 78. Sophomore Michael Dwyer and junior Tim Vermeer each shot a 79, which put him in a tie for 29th. Sophomore Michael Clark tied for 50th after shooting an 84.

After two rounds, NWU is in fifth place with a 604. Nebraska Wesleyan (605), Hastings (595) and Sioux Falls (594) hold the top four spots.