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**NC/DC: NW students look to regain title**

**BY ANDREW LOVGREN**

As October draws to a close, Northwestern and Dordt students are entering into a whole new and exciting season. That’s right – it’s time for the return of the beloved singing, musical and performing competition, NC/DC.

The Northwestern Selection performance, going on tonight at 8 p.m. in Christ Chapel, will mark the beginning of the competitive season. Solo singers and groups alike will beshowcasing their incredible vocal abilities for fellow students. The competition is sure to be stacked with some amazing performances this year – usually, 10 to 12 groups are involved in this preliminary round, but earlier this week there were already 11 groups signed up with over a day to go before the deadline for entries were due, with a total of 18 entries.

“There are so many students who want to be in it this year,” said Lori Couch, Director of Student Activities.

Among those students who are ready to show us what they can do is junior Kristen Menchaca.

Menchaca first felt the desire to be involved after watching the NC/DC finals as a freshman. Last year, Menchaca made it all the way to the finals, thanks to her spectacular covers of songs from artists including Francesca Battistelli and Disney’s Pocahontas.

“I think my favorite part of the whole thing was seeing friends that I didn’t know could sing belting out songs,” said Menchaca.

This year, Menchaca will be performing in a group with Zach Borchardt. Menchaca will be playing the piano and Borchardt will be on the guitar, thrilling the audience with a song by Sir Elton John.

“I think it will be fun to do it with someone,” said Menchaca. “I’m excited to get the chance to share the experience!”

Heather Craven, with partner Emily Mahlum, auditioned for NC/DC for the first time. The two friends, both a bit nervous to sign up by themselves, decided to go it together.

“Mostly wanted to do it because it looks fun and challenging, and I have enjoyed the atmosphere as an audience member,” said Craven. “It’s interesting to see people express themselves this way, it takes some guts!”

After tonight’s performances, NW students will be able to watch video clips of all the competitors and vote for the five singers or groups they want to see in the next round. Voting will happen online, starting at 9 a.m. tomorrow and going until noon on Monday, at ncdeextreme.com.

From there, those selected will be heading to Dordt College on November 6th for the first round of competition involving all schools. During this round, judges will be commenting on the performances. The top two selections will advance to the NC/DC Extreme Finals on November 20th, held in the Bultman Center.

Although Dordt students may brag about its singers taking home the trophy more often than NW students, trends quickly change. Admission to each round of the competition is completely free, so come support NW students, then go online and vote.

**Family weekend to bring music, comedy, personal interaction**

**BY TYLER LEHMANN**

This concert not only showcases our incredible vocal abilities, but it’s a great opportunity for fellow students. The concert will showcase all of NW’s major music ensembles, as well as three feature soloists.

“Many Northwestern students participate in one or more of our ensembles, and this concert gives those students an opportunity to showcase their hard work for their families,” said Dr. Holm, director of choirs.

“This concert is a great opportunity for families, friends, and campus and community members to hear a wonderful variety of music-making that is very representative of the department and our students,” said Dr. McGarvey, director of bands.

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“‘This concert is a great opportunity for families, friends, and campus and community members to hear a wonderful variety of music-making that is very representative of the department and our students,’” said Dr. McGarvey, director of bands.

“‘You should definitely come because it’s a celebration of everything musical at NW,’” said sophomore Charlotte Richards. Admission to the concert is free.

“’Like Family Weekend because it provides one special opportunity for families and students to connect where students live. It provides a great opportunity for interaction between students, families, and faculty and staff,’” said McGarvey.

“Sports buffs, fear not. NW’s football team invites families to watch them take on Dakota Wesleyan University on Saturday at 1 p.m. in De Valois Stadium.”

“Football is a great family event. It’s a place where you can come out, support your team and spend quality time with family,” said head football coach Kyle Ackertoff.

Half time festivities will include recognition of NW’s 2010 Parents of the Year. Admission to the game is $6 for non-students. For lighthearted entertainment, NW presents 8Bimprov, a professional comedy improv team from Omaha with two NW alumni as members. Two shows will be held, the first at 4 p.m. in the England Proscenium Theater and the second at 9:30 p.m. in the Hub in the Rowenhorst Student Center.

Other Family Weekend activities will include NC/DC Selection, a campus version of “American Idol,” Friday at 8 p.m. in Christ Chapel, and an all-day art exhibit Saturday in the Paske Gallery in the Kerver Visual Arts Center featuring the works of a professional newspaper illustrator.
Discipline is ‘Educational Process’

Contr. from pg. 1
“...I don’t see a difference at all,” said volleyball coach Kyle Van Den Bosch. “The way NW is heading is great, and I hope it continues.”

For athletes who have on-campus or off-campus discipline issues, the Code of Conduct (CoC) Policy comes into play.

Adopted three years ago, the policy states that “any student on campus who breaks campus rules first goes through the campus discipline system. If they are a part of the Athletic Department, they must go through the procedures of the CoC Committee, consisting of the Athletic Director, Assistant Athletic Director and a member of Residential Life.”

The CoC decides each incident on a case-by-case basis, based first on the severity and then on the individual’s pattern of behavior. This applies not only to campus contracts, but also to off-campus issues.

“The goal of this, though it entails discipline, is to help individuals who have made mistakes to realize the issue and create personal growth,” said Athletic Director Barry Brandt. “We tend to internalize ourselves and our rights, but our own rights sometimes trample on the rights of others without us knowing it. We need to think big picture. That’s why we created the Code of Conduct, to be an accountability and educational process.”

Recently, two students were involved in an off-campus incident that required the attention of the sheriff’s department. Each student’s case is looked at individually after the facts have been gathered from all possible sources.

“The CoC was created to give the department consistency across all sports,” Brandt said. “Every case stands on its own.”

None of the campus discipline is intended to merely punish students for their behavior.

“We try to do very few things that are purely punitive,” Hummel said. “Most of what we do is developmental to help the individual grow.”

Much of the cultural adjustment from state to state is experienced by all college students in a new environment.

“Some will decide this place isn’t for them,” Hummel said. “Some get here and think, ‘what is this place? It’s like Pleasantville here.’ That can take getting used to.”

Such a change can make dorm life more difficult or build barriers between students who don’t understand each other’s differences.

“Our growing cultural diversity can be a much bigger challenge than an ethnic diversity,” Brandt said. “All students bring their own ways of thinking, and college is their first chance to fully make their own decisions.”

According to Hummel, it’s up to students to help each other adjust in different ways.

“Engage people from all states and cultures,” Hummel said. “Some people who come from homogenous areas simply don’t know how to do that. Everyone is adapting here in some way.”

By JULIA LANTZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Recently established by the generosity of the Franken family and donors, the Servant Leadership Institute on campus hopes to enhance leadership development among Northwestern students and to better prepare them for their future roles after college.

“How this is going to be done will be different in different workplaces and with different professions,” said Dr. Feenstra, co-director of the Institute. “We want to hear from faculty and staff, students and community members on what would be helpful to them in their vocational pursuits.”

Students are encouraged to ask faculty and staff to incorporate this in the classroom and in other organizations and activities on campus. The Servant Leadership Institute is willing to host either a local or alumni to speak at a student-group discussion.

“If a campus group would like to read a book or visit a business, they can talk to us about how we can support that endeavor,” said Feenstra. Students can also seek involvement through organizing a retreat targeted toward a specific major or career goal. The Franken Center is willing to help sponsor these retreats to help students explore how faith and the work they will be doing after college connect. Feenstra also commented, “For students doing internships this spring we are offering to buy a book for the student and faculty supervisor that focuses on faith at work.”

Students can also be involved by attending or doing a workshop for this year’s Day of Learning in Community. The keynote speaker for this is year is David Miller, Director of the Princeton University Faith and Work Institute and author of “God at Work.” This year’s Day of Learning is on Wednesday, February 16.

“All Christians are leaders in some realm—in a job, in the family, in the community, in the church,” said Feenstra. “As students graduate and go into the world of work we want to be sure they are prepared to integrate their faith with their work.” The Servant Leadership Institute hopes to help students who are currently developing leaders at NW improve and be challenged and to provide others with the opportunity to be leaders.

The Franken Servant Leadership Institute is closely modeled by the way Jim Franken ran his business. Franken used a servant leadership model—a model involving leading others by serving,” said Feenstra. The Servant Leadership Institute, just like NW, takes seriously its responsibility to help students discern God’s call on their lives and integrating faith and learning.

NW students go natural in ‘Noctober’

By KATE WALLIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The month of November marks the beginning of a cornucopia of traditions including Native American Heritage Month, National Novel Writing Month and Peanut Butter Lovers Month.

Here at campus, we observe another long-standing university tradition: No-Shave November.

According to some NW students, No-Shave November has been observed for as long as anyone can remember. Allowing different opportunities for men and women to participate, students voluntarily forsake the razor in favor of the natural, sometimes culturally unacceptable, practice of letting the peach fuzz grow.

For men, the product of the month-long endeavor is one of communal pride and allows for some healthy competition among floor mates and friends. It’s a chance to embrace their follicles before getting into the more stringent appearance-oriented work world.

“It’s fun to see guys grow beards, even those who thought they couldn’t. It’s especially fun because we’re all doing this together, in solidarity, in community,” said Seth Herning.

For Alex Boston, the adventure begins before the month does.

“I feel some people have an unfair advantage,” he said. “For example, Isaac Hendricks. So I have to get a head start.”

For NW women, the no-shave traditions also defy the calendar limits. Beginning after Fall Break and continuing until Thanksgiving, the female version is aptly referred to as No-Shave Noctober and presents its own sources of bonding and new experiences.

According to Fern RD, Lisa Barber, “The idea for No-Shave Noctober and the waxing party started at the end of a conversation on disciplines I was having with some students. We challenged the women in Fern to not shave their legs for the month.” Barber continued, “Then we further challenged them to try waxing their legs. We use all homemade wax and t-shirts for strips.”

In similar fashion to No-Shave Noctober, women at NW participate in another unique tradition: Natural Beauty Week.

“Natural Beauty Week started with the D-group leaders four years ago. They wanted to focus on natural beauty and identity. Everyone is challenged to give up a beauty ritual for the week,” Barber said. “For some this meant giving up hair or hair products or even showering.

 Universally, each of these November traditions focuses on issues of identity, highlighting the way culture influences the way people see themselves and others. As Brett Amiotte said, “I think there is an attempt, for even just a moment, to say, ‘We’re not going to care what the world thinks, we’re just going to let it go.’”
What is your greatest fear?

“My fears are zombies and losing my brother.” –Rebecca Dix

“My greatest fear is that Northwestern students are unprepared to live for the Lord if the literal scriptural account of end-time tribulation occurs within this lifetime. I think that gentle Believers will suffer through the time of Jacob's trouble so that they may be a witness to the persecuted, unbelieving Jew. Our generation is relying on an imagined mercy that God will not allow Believers to suffer that oppression. Such an unsupported reliance will lead to the falling away of many Christians. I fear that those individuals are my peers: the future leaders of our time. Are we willing to critically examine the Scriptures in a literal framework as an act of holy fear toward the Holy God?” –Abraham Klatter

“FAILURE is my greatest fear.” –Shelby Vander Molen

“I’m most scared of fire ants—there was a bad experience in a New Orleans Taco Bell—and forgetting my humanity.” –Katherine Wallin

“My greatest fear is being in the Beacon.” –Matt Skelton

“My greatest fear is sharks. Yes, sharks. I was born in Iowa, never lived anywhere else, and have never been to the ocean. I can’t touch a book with a shark on it and can’t see them on TV or in movies. I can’t watch cartoons or animated movies with them. I even went to the zoo last year and had to nearly avoid the entire shark building. Luckily I was able to make it through with a small amount of hyperventilating while 10-year-olds watched.” –Jennifer Cantwell

“My greatest fear is discovering who I am and not being loved for being that person.” –Brielle Giesen

“I am scared of storms in which the girls reside. I occasionally have fractic nightmares of endless, stifling hallways...with inescapable encouragement plastered on with creativity that drives me to insanity ...trapped in a building permeated with the overwhelming scent of estrogen...and running, tripping, falling while trying to run away from the engagement monster! I respect all of you, Northwestern women, but your dorms frighten me.” –Matt Vander Molen

“My biggest fear is being crushed to death by an anacoda.” –Charlotte Richards

“I’m really afraid of people knowing what I’m afraid of. I’m afraid that if people find out, they’ll come up with some way to force me to be exposed to whatever I’m scared of.” –Erica Graber

“My greatest fear is being hit by a car...” –Jenni Kaharian

“I’m afraid of over-working the Beacon editors.” –Andrew Lovgren (through Jordan Langer)

“My greatest fear is the fear of failure.” –Jill Weitgenant

“I’m afraid of over-working the Beacon editors.” –Jordie Fiala

“One of my fears is that of ripping off a fingernail or toenail. I can’t even cut my nails by myself.” –раща Стюарт

“TICKS. Some of my worst memories are hiding under it and will grab me if I’m next to a table or a bed, someone will find a tick on me. I would make my mom, my sisters, and my dad check my hair for ticks every night sometimes as many as five times before I would go to bed. To this day, I shiver and have to fight back tears if I see a tick. And that’s just if I see one.... When (God forbid) I actually happen to find one on me, whoa. I FREAK OUT.” –Samantha Mahler

“I’m afraid of having my picture printed in the Beacon.” –Nick Rohlf

“I already skirt the lines of sanity. My biggest fear is that someday I will totally lose it, not even knowing who I am anymore. I fear that someday I’ll end up in a padded room, wearing a straightjacket, with puddling and drool cascading down my face, and eyes glazed over. The worst part? I won’t even know that it’s happened.” –Derek Hanisch

“I’d say that my greatest practical fear is of deep waters, but my greatest social fear is of being rejected by people.” –Jordan Vermeer

“I’m afraid of spankings.” –Jordan Langer

“The fear of death by an anaconda. I’ve seen a documentary about how they use their mouths to suck in air before they use it to strangle their prey, then they put the mouth a bit. Some people fear snakes, some people fear global warming, but this person fears gingers.” –Emily Wohlers

“I’m afraid of spiders.” –Tristan Hall

“I’m afraid of over-working the Beacon editors.” –Andrew Lovgren (through Jordan Langer)

“My biggest fear is that of ripping off a fingernail or toenail. I can’t even look at it when people lose theirs. I saw my brother chop his toenail off with a hatchet, and ever since I’ve had this irrational fear.” –Carrie Engen

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“Romanian Ruminations

Muings from Marii Langley

This doesn’t apply specifically to my study abroad semester, but I have been struck lately by a few semi-related thoughts. So let me share one of my passions with you: love watching people. I always have. And Romania is a great place to enjoy such a hobby! There is something delightful about watching an unfamiliar culture buzzing around me for the first time. There is something captivating in the eyes of every person, their posture, and the way they appear to be enjoying such a hobby! There is something wonderful about the way they are watching me. It is an experience that I cannot put names. I wound my way through immense crowds and no longer felt like an oddity; around Lupeni, I am fairly easily singled out as a stranger. It was lovely to feel unnoticed and to blend in as one of a crowd. From a distance, though, observing the stream of faces passing by, I can’t help but shudder at the thought that I will never know a name for most of the interesting faces passing me by. Sometimes I think back stories for them based on their expressions or their actions. But I will never know their reality and all the wonderful things that make each one unique. I will never even know their names. And that just makes me sad.

On the same trip to Cluj, we took a trip to Sighet, near the Ukrainian border, at the northernmost part of Romania. There we visited a museum commemorating the victims of communism in Romania and other Eastern European countries. The experience of walking through old prison cells and torture chambers was heart wrenching. One hallway was especially painful—a hallway filled to top with photographs of the persons who lived and died in the building we were walking through. Faces, again without names. But more painful still was walking through the sculpture memorial, which included immense walls of black marble into which were carved the names of thousands of victims of communism. Names without faces by the score made the tears flow freely down my cheeks; each name represented another person I would never know, but this time who I could not even acquaint myself with through appearance, expression and action. People lost to me forever except in title. There is something incredible about observing humanity, especially when I really take the time to sit back and watch, to really see the people around me and to recognize the incredible worth of the lives I come into contact with. There is something captivating in the eyes of every person, something interesting in their posture, attitudes and stance. And I am delighting in my current opportunities to observe new ones daily!
 FEATURES

What to do when there is just too much candy

KAYLA ARNDT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It’s Halloween time, and that means trick-or-treating! No matter how old you are, everyone loves to get an abundance of candy. But how many days in a row are you going to eat those fun-size delectables until you just want them out of your sight? Here are some creative, generous and tasty ideas for all that leftover candy.

If you love craft projects, try making a candy wreath for Thanksgiving or using the leftovers to decorate picture frames. Christmas tree ornaments are always fun—as long as you don’t eat the candy after it’s set out for two months. Also, don’t forget that the candy can be frozen and used to decorate a gingerbread house later in the season.

If you lack creativity but still want to brighten someone’s day, send a care package to our troops overseas. Send a card to a loved one and tuck a hug or a kiss inside. Send a box of goodies to overseas. Send a card to a loved one and tuck a hug or a kiss inside. Send a box of goodies to

leftovers are just what you need. Twix Cheesecake Pie: With an electric mixer, beat two eight-ounce cream cheese bars (at room temperature) with ½ cup sugar and two large eggs. Mix in 16 chopped Twix Fun Size Bars (16 grams each; two cups total); pour into an eight-inch chocolate cookie pie crust. Bake at 325 degrees fahrenheit until set, 40 to 45 minutes; cool. Sprinkle with six chopped Twix bars; chill until firm.

SweeTart Milk Shake: In a blender, blend 16 SweeTarts candies (about two tablespoons) with one pint softened strawberry ice cream and ½ cup milk until smooth. Serve in glasses and top with additional SweeTarts, if desired.

York Miniatures Peppermint Patties Brownies: Prepare a 19-ounce box of brownie mix. Spread half the batter in an oiled eight-inch square pan. Top with 16 York Miniatures Peppermint Patties (13.6 grams each), leaving even borders of batter. Spread the remaining batter on top; bake according to directions. Cool, and cut into 16 squares.

Study break snack, anyone? A fun and entertaining holiday, we all know that Halloween can get as old as the candy if we’ve got too many leftovers. So when you bring back buckets full of candy or are unable to pawn yours off on the little trick-or-treaters, remember there are other options than eating it yourself. Enjoy the sweets, but try something new this year and make your candy into a creation!

Campus Ministry: Deliberately focused on encouragement

ANNA HENKE
STAFF WRITER

A spiritual discipline is an act or behavior that is deliberately chosen and intentionally practiced in order to focus on God and grow in obedience in the Christian life. Discipleship Coordinator Abby Janzing is heading up the spiritual discipline aspect of Campus Ministry this semester. Her goal is to promote spiritual disciplines as a concept, and, most importantly, to encourage students to practice spiritual disciplines both on an individual and community level.

CM has always promoted spiritual disciplines. Last year, CM was focused on Bible reading. They also organized 24-hour prayer vigils in dorms and held themed prayer labyrinths—focusing on a specific spiritual discipline.

This year, CM is committed to making this focus more intentional and consistent. Janzing says on this more focused approach: “It’s a little scary but kind of exciting to try something new and see what God will do with it.”

CM plans to focus on one spiritual discipline a month, holding some sort of community activity and also a gathering to facilitate discussion about the spiritual discipline in question, ideally with a panel of faculty and students discussing and learning together.

October’s spiritual discipline has been prayer. CM sets up a 24-hour prayer vigil from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Prayer Room of the Franken Center. Janzing reported that over 60 people signed up to pray for the vigil, and it is possible that many more participated: “Students were encouraged to just drop in to the Prayer Room.” The first discussion session, in which a panel of professors and students met to talk about prayer, took place on Thursday, Oct. 28.

The spiritual disciplines for the remainder of the year are fasting, worship, Sabbath, God’s Word, service, and stewardship. Janzing welcomes any students wanting to encourage and participate in the practice of spiritual disciplines on campus. There will be monthly meetings to generate ideas and plan community events. The next meeting is on Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. It will be held in the North Conference Room of the Franken Center. These meetings are open to all students—“it’s not too late to get involved,” Janzing said.

Abby Janzing is one of three Discipleship Coordinators. The other two are Josh Gross and Jacklyn Pun. Gross is continuing to facilitate prayer labyrinths for CM this year. Pun is working on a new project, “Inner Circle,” which she hopes to introduce next semester. “The Inner Circle is a concept based off of Jesus’s inner circle of disciples (Peter, James & John). He had a deeper relationship with this small circle than with the larger group of 12. They were relationships of interdependence, confidence and vulnerability based on love and transformation,” Pun said.

Information on all CM programs is provided in weekly emails. Take a look!

Quiz in the Corner

Go to the Beacon online to find out the answer!

The first prayer labyrinth originated in Greek mythology, where it was an elaborate structure constructed for which king?

A. King Thebes of Cadmus
B. King Minos of Crete
C. King Epopeus of Sicyon
D. King Thracian of Tereus

PHOTO BY ANDREA OSCHNER

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Northwestern graduates: Where are they now?

TINA MCGIVERN
STAFF WRITER

Having a different major from your roommate or neighbors is one of the interesting aspects of college. Everyone is here to pursue their own passions, and collectively we make up a pretty good… community. Liberal arts colleges require all students to take general education courses, but the real joy comes when you get to study what interests you most, not just what is required of you.

However, having to choose just one specific major can sometimes feel limiting – four years is a small amount of time to cram in all the education you may desire. Four years is also a short amount of time to learn about learning, teach about learning, learn about teaching and teach about teaching. Say what? Welcome to the education department; it’s time to take a look at what life is like for them.

Sophomore Hannah Krohn is an elementary education major with an endorsement in special education and reading. Her dream job would be to work with special education students in kindergarten through second grade in one-on-one situations. “I guessed it took me a while to realize that I wanted to major in elementary education. I took a bunch of personality tests in the Frankencenter and decided that that was where God wanted me to be. I love working with kids – especially kids that are the ‘underdog’ in the classroom,” she said.

What does she love most about being an education major? “The feeling you get from younger students whom I’ve had in the past, when they absolutely adore everything you do!” Krohn also says she loves working with her cohorts in her education classes. “They’re all really fun and outgoing,” she stated, “and it’s fun to bounce ideas off of each other and see what everyone has to say.”

Northwestern graduates: Where are they now?

Holli Stewart
Staff Writer

Northwestern College. A whole education for your whole life. But seriously, does Northwestern equip you with the tools necessary to generate success in the workplace after graduation? Northwestern presented 268 diplomas to the graduating class in May 2010. But where are they now?

Derefe Chevannes, a NW graduate who originally hailed from Jamaica, is currently living and working in Jacksonville, Fla. A political science major, Chevannes is doing a one-year internship with 2 Mile Ministries, a Christian organization focusing on transforming neglected and disadvantaged communities. At the end of the internship in May of 2011, Derefe will begin law school.

“At a political science major, it became extraordinarily clear that much of what I was taught, as it relates to politics, I have encountered in the real world and was familiarized with in classes. Also, I remember taking Human Relations with Prof. Oliver, and learning the basics of the course helped me when dealing with kids who have been exposed to poverty and various forms of systemic discrimination. My faith has opened my eyes and I have been using that to navigate me through the maze of today’s dog-eat-dog world.”

Chevannes admits to always finding ways in which to implement his learning from Northwestern. His faith, the biggest part of what he does, was originally cultivated right here in northwest Iowa. Along with his internship, Chevannes volunteers at several places, including the Jacksonville Human Rights Commission, which is responsible for investigating cases of racial, gender, age and other forms of discrimination in the area of employment and housing.

Debra Warren, a NW graduate with a B.A. in Social Work currently has two jobs, one as the Chippewa/ Lac qui Parle County Outreach Coordinator and Victim Advocate for a domestic violence agency called Safe Avenues in Montevideo, Minn., and the other as coordinator at a licensed foster care home called Onward Services, for people with disabilities.

“Learned from NW how to work hard and not procrastinate (as easy as that can be in college), strive for excellence and take advantage of every opportunity to make a positive impact on someone’s life. I have learned to be patient with myself as I attempt to learn and gain experience and really figure out what area of social work it is that God wants me to focus on,” said Warren.

Wilcox also said that she realized she could not expect to start out with the highest paying job in her field but instead needed to take advantage of the opportunities to gain experience that were given to her.

Community is something that Warren misses about NW. “I’ve never lived on my own before,” she said. However, she claims that NW’s community strengthened her to the point where she has been able to go out and seek her own community through her new church. “Most importantly, NW taught me to put my faith and trust in Jesus Christ because, no matter what comes my way, a new job, a future husband, or even graduate school. He will keep me strong and get me through.”

According to graduates, NW provided the education to match the price that students paid, lived up to its expectations and provided a well-rounded education that prepared them for a not so well-rounded world.
Real-life haunted houses hold true ‘paranormal activity’

BY AARON BAUER
STAFF WRITER

As Halloween approaches, numerous haunted attractions begin to catch our eyes, drawing us in with their startling frights and fair entertainment value. But what of the locations that we deem to be legitimately haunted? You know, creaky floors, self-closing doors, soft whispers and cold spots. Is it just the wind sweeping through the house, or has the spirit of a deceased planted itself in the room where they passed away in hopes of finding help or scaring away occupants? Either way, this is the time of year for skeptics and true believers alike to investigate the haunts within the houses.

It is difficult to pinpoint exactly when haunted houses first came about. In fact, in my search for the ghost of haunting past, I found very little to point me in the direction of the origin. On the other hand, it is easy to see a trend in the locations which are believed to be haunted. Castles, former hospitals, and any place known for the occurrence of a murder or tragic accident death are all common hotspots for ghost stories and tales of terrifying pasts. Even in Adams, Tenn. (check out the America: the story of the Bell Witch House people believe they have seen the ghost of Abraham Lincoln).

There are even a few places here in Iowa to take a look at if you appeal to you. Currier Hall at the University of Iowa is said to be haunted by three young women who used to share a room, a girl wanders the halls of two separate dorms at Coe College in Cedar Rapids due to her family’s donation of a grandfather clock and a plethora of instances have caused concern at The Grand Opera Theater in Dubuque. The most famous haunted location in Iowa is the Villisca Ax Murder house, where the Moore family and two guests were murdered in June 1912. After all these years, the crime in still unsolved.

The appeal of hunting for ghosts and the like continues to increase, and our interest is fed by TV shows such as “Ghost Hunters,” “Paranormal State,” and “Ghost Adventures.” Some even have their attention grabbed by movies like “The Haunting in Connecticut” and “Ghost Ship.”

Even the greatest nonbeliever is likely to at least be entertained by the investigations and reactions portrayed in these medias. If you find no fear in a corn maze and simply laugh at the costumed crazies at haunted attractions, may be traveling to various haunted houses would be your thing. Even without seeing or feeling a ghost in your presence, the eerie stories behind the haunting may be worth the journey. Try it out this Halloween, and take some easily frightened friends with you.

Belle and Sebastian ‘Write About Love’ once again

BY TESLA MCGILLIVRAY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Belle and Sebastian have been an ever-growing cult favorite since their 1996 debut, “Tigermilk.” In fact, their version of twee pop, reminiscent of classic acts like The Smiths, has been featured as a cultural phenomenon in films like “Juno” and “500 Days of Summer.” Their latest album features a bluesy, angst-filled spell, the track bursts with Mulligan’s joyfully (and ironically) toned melodic chorus “I hate my job/ I’m working way too much/ everyday/ I’m stuck in an office.” The song balances these mundane, claustrophobic spaces with the skyscraper’s roof above, an obvious freedom metaphor.

In the end, Belle and Sebastian’s latest release, played by two vocalists to contrast the male and female views of a forgone passion, is typical but not a disappointment. It’s probably exactly what you’ve been daydreaming about.
Horror classics use scary images for intelligent ends

BY JORDAN LANGER

Why watch horror films? Are they merely an excuse for two lovers to touch each other? Are they simply a gauge for the resilience of our stomachs? For some, the genre is regarded as disturbing, inhumane or indulgent. As it becomes more splatteringly abusive and disturbing, there may be something appropriate in that view. Still, this type of movie can be useful because it provides a controlled setting for us to try processing what are, in the real world, irrational fears. They show human beings at their most vulnerable, and therefore help us to understand what ultimately governs our behavior. And, as professor Mike Kugler notes, their turn-up, bloodied presentation of the body can align with Christian's theological interest in human frailty and Jesus' sacrifice.

Whether seen in this late-October season or some other time, here are five films—spanning different subgenres, production dates and themes—that should pique the interest of both horror enthusiasts and thoughtful viewers.

“Night of the Living Dead.” Shot in grainy low-definition, this 1968 zombie flick epitomizes the instinct of human dread. After the never-explained rise of the undead, a hapless universe of people—religious group—finds itself boarded into a rural house with very few resources. Their survival isn’t helped by the political struggle between the men, each having different opinions about their safest bet. Whether or not the film is a metaphor for happenings of the late 60’s (the characters do have a high view of media), there is an interesting meta-narrative about race. To me, this idea spreads to the dark, disfigured ghouls, who we know next to nothing about—only that they act out of instinctual hunger. Viewers are left wondering if tears can be kept out, will inevitably break through, or, perhaps worst, are growing within.

“Alien.” Ridley Scott’s familiar sci-fi classic pits a group of space minors, including series’ icon Sigourney Weaver, against an alien—a perfect specimen of survival. While an android crewman presses for the preservation of the life-form (especially when it is contained within their research facilities), this scientific task eventually comes at the expense of the other crew members. Weaver’s maternal instincts shape the deterrent counter-plan, which leaves us with something of a feminine document.

“Repulsion.” This surrealistic film follows the deteriorating mind of Carol, its blonde protagonist, who locks herself in her apartment. Why does she do this? Living with her exploited yet sexually forthright sister, we eventually come to understand her sexual anxiety and/or suspicion of men. Among other reasons, it is worth seeing for its vivid, expressionistic imagery: in a dreary sequence of real and imagined, the walls split, protruding arms grab at her body, a rotted rabbit filet gathers flies, a man’s corpse floats in the bathtub, and the furniture is disheveled. While also frightening to the viewer, the film asks us to consider the strange behaviors of others who express their fears in peculiar ways.

“Eyes Without a Face.” The poetic French oldie adheres to the mad-doctor formula, but has its own set of implications. In this case, a surgeon tries to restore beauty to the face of his disfigured daughter, victim to a car crash of which he was responsible. In order to do this, he abducts other beautiful young ladies, performing heterograft surgery to transplant their face to his mask-wearing daughter. After the procedure has been completed, the skin begins to sag, not holding its beauty. The film deals with the horrible ambitions of regret and with the innocence of the horrifyingly disfigured.

“Aging superstar meld in action-comedy

BY JORDAN BORN

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you were told that a melting pot of aging, A-List Hollywood actors were being banded together to form the ultimate special ops team, you might think it another washed-up promotional gimmick to sucker in middle-aged viewers or nostalgic young adults.

In the case of “Red,” though, the hilarious maturity of its actors is actually handled quite tactfully. What results is a cool, taut action thriller.

Despite its loaded cast, “Red” is unquestionably the story of Frank Moses (Bruce Willis). A retired CIA agent, Frank spends most of his time alone in his suburban home on an unfamiliar territory that is ironically dictated by routine. To aid in his newly sedated lifestyle, Frank has taken a liking to a certain service agent, Sarah Ross (Mary-Louise Parker), whom he tries to get close to by coming over with ways to talk with her over the phone.

Frank’s plans to win Sarah over are suddenly interrupted, though, when he becomes the CIA’s newest target on their hit-list. In order for Frank to come up the situation surrounding a devastating mission to Guatemala, which his black operative team cleaned up, he’s going to have to go straight to the source of the whole scheme: the Vice President of the United States.

With only a slight bit of convincing, Frank is joined by the few remaining in his crew – Joe Matheson (Morgan Freeman), Marvin Boggs (John Malkovich), Victoria (Helen Mirren), and Ivan Simonov (Bryan Cran) – in a battle for their own nearly-completed lives.

There are two main over-arching themes that I identified in “Red.” First, you’re never too old to accomplish whatever you put your mind to. While you may not be as fit (physical or otherwise) to do the things you were once able, that should never get in your way because experience prevails over irrational thinking by lesser opponents. And secondly, life is too short to never be able to invest in anything or anyone. Given Frank’s position as a highly specialized agent, he was trained to believe just that. Without anyone close to him, Frank soon found out how incomplete his life really was and that forced him to move outside of his comfort zone.

Based on the graphic novel by Warren Ellis and Cully Hammer, “Red” is a memorable film because we are given likable characters to empathize with before they are thrust into the conflict-induced thrill ride. Frank and Sarah play well off of each other, even if their relationship consists only in awkward communication. Coupled with Martin’s antics of distrust and Joe’s composed demeanor, there is a nice blend of characters throughout. By the time the first bullet is fired, we’re cheering each of them on through their journey towards redemption.

And that’s a rare thing for a movie with so many big names.
Football runs over Doane
BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Raiders host Dakota Wesleyan on Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Sophomore Brandon Smith added 142 yards and three touchdowns to go with two catches for 16 catches.

The Raiders hit pay dirt first after sophomore James Rodriguez's 39-yard field goal and a one-yard touchdown run by Smith. Freshman Davis Bloomendaal replaced the injured junior Jayme Rozeboom at quarterback in the second quarter and went 3-13 for 57 yards.

Sophomore Araya Assfaw kept pace at the two-touchdown mark for Duren and two for Bosch. The defense had seven kills to go along with two blocks, while junior Kyle Van Den Bosch. He had six kills and had a career-high six ace serves. She also added 10 digs on defense. Senior Kaityn Beaver had three kills and lofted up 30 assists. Sophomore Kate Buyert contributed five kills to the attack, and seniors Karis Vink and Bobbie Jean Rich added four and two kills, respectively.

The road was a little more difficult for the Raiders on Wednesday, Oct. 20, against Dordt. The game had extra incentive for both teams, as NW looked to tie Dordt's record for the longest winning streak in conference history. It was also the final father-son coaching matchup for the Raiders.

Penalty kick fatal to women's soccer
BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT
SPORTS EDITOR

A handball inside the box gave Hastings a penalty kick and a goal in the 54th minute against the Red Raiders on Saturday. Oct. 23. Despite a barrage of 30 combined shots, 14 on goal, neither team was able to find the back of the net in regular play. Hastings had 18 shots compared to Northwestern's 12 and also had eight shots on goal, while NW had six. Both teams had four corner kicks. Freshman Ariel Watts allowed one goal and made seven saves at goaliekeeper. Freshmen Alyssa Duren and Alli Dunkelberger had four shots each, with three shots on goal for Duren and two for Dunkelberger. Senior Sarah Seeger added one shot on goal.

The GPAC Tournament will begin on Nov. 2. Currently, the Raiders are ranked sixth. Their opponent and venue are to be determined.

Strong showing for women's cross country
BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Northwestern women's cross country team placed fourth in the Graphic Edge Invite Meet on Saturday, Oct. 23. Black Hills State won the meet, followed by Augustana and Concordia. The Raiders bolted Morningside, who has been ranked all year.

Senior Charity Miles placed seventh after running an 18:28 to lead the Raiders. Seniors Sara Hess (19th) and Jenna Sorensen (24th) ran times of 18:59 and 19:08, respectively. Junior Teresa Scholten got 34th place after she ran a 19:25. Freshman Dawn Gildersleeve placed 32nd after running a 19:56. Sophomore Leslie Stover ran a 20:14, which put her in 66th place. Senior Heidi Hildebrandt ran a personal best of 20:19 (71st).

Men's cross country races at Mount Marty
BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Red Raiders finished 14th out of 20 teams at the Graphic Edge Invite in Yankton, S.D., on Saturday, Oct. 23.

Sophomore Sean Guthmiller led the Raiders with a 74th place finish in 27:39. Sophomores Jesse Baldwin (83rd) and Tyler Drenkow (99th) raced times of 27:56 and 28:23.

Freshman Ben Bosch finished in 27:02. Sophomore Araya Assfaw got 151st place after his time of 29:15.

Sophomore Leslie Stover ran a personal best of 29:32 to finish in 164th place. Rounding it out for Northwestern was sophomore Andrew Lichter who ran a 29:56.

NW will compete in the GPAC meet on Nov. 6 in Yankton, S.D.

Player Profile
Taylor Malm
BY ANDREA OCHSNER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Taylor Malm discovered Northwestern through a friend's father and has been very grateful ever since. Malm is a senior this year and has been playing running back for the Red Raiders for the past four years.

Malm began his football career when he was 10 years old in California. His continued love for football made finding a college easier as long as he found a school where he could play. "The coaches showed a lot of interest, opened that door and I went through it," Malm said.

This spring Malm will be graduating with a degree in Exercise Science. "The body in general is something amazing and I just wanted to see how it worked," Malm said, regarding his reasons for choosing this major.

In his years at NW, Malm has learned “a lot of dedication, hard work and staying disciplined because it’s always classes then football, and I had to find time to do homework.”

Malm has learned some other valuable life lessons. “Teamwork was a big one in football. The coaches always wanted us to develop our faith, which is a big part also.”

Malm gives this advice to his fellow teammates and scholars: “Enjoy the moment; it goes by fast. Don’t have any regrets. You don’t want to look back and say, ‘I wish I would have done that.’”

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Future plans are still up in the air for Malm. “I thought about joining the military. My ultimate goal is to get into the fire department back home.” Malm hopes to join the Air Force and get involved with the medical aspect, which would help with working for the fire department.

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