When I was asked to report on the NCC vs. WIT game, I was a little apprehensive because I’m not really big on sports, but I learned that flag football is for everyone. And what a year to attend because this was the first win NCC has had over WIT in flag football. I rode the bus up there with the team and observed that this team had gotten really close. They were all pumping each other up. They all had a part on the, and team nobody felt left out. I had the opportunity to watch the game unfold.

I was excited and surprised to see girls on the field. The team was pumped, so were the fans, everyone knew this was the year we would win! By halftime, Grant, # 20, had 2 interceptions and it was over. Before the game, # 44 went to catch the football for the final touchdown and came down hard, spraining his ankle. A few minutes later, Katie Molacek hit the ground and came up with a bloody nose. Yet, even with the injuries, nothing could kill this team’s happiness about the win. The team celebrated by pouring ice on their Coach Kristy Landis. Before you knew it, everybody was throwing ice at each other. On the bus on the way home, I observed everyone’s happiness over their win. These teams teach students about team work and it teaches them that you don’t have to be athletic to play on a team. Everybody was helping everybody else out, when #44 sprained his ankle the team members helped carry him of the field. Now if you ask me, that’s teamwork. I think they should have more intramural sports and games because it gives students a time to interact with others, who like doing the same thing they do. More games in the future? You’ll just have to wait and see.

By: Jamilyn Top

THe NCC and WIT teams prepare for their fun battle on the field. (Photos by Melanie Avila)
MEET THE EDITOR: VERONICA HAVENS

Thanks for picking up this edition of The Collegian! I’ve thoroughly enjoyed being the student editor for this publication this semester and hope you enjoy all the hard work the staff put into this! My name is Veronica Havens and I’m in the Associate of Arts program here at NCC. Only recently, in August, I joined this community in northwest Iowa. Growing up and living in Midwest Illinois, I enjoy this area and what this school has offered all of us. With hopes of being a future Hawkeye, I hope to one day manage one of the gorgeous state parks near us. I believe that the foundation I receive here at NCC will greatly help me with that.

I know that there’s something for everyone in this edition of the Collegian. If you’re interested in the Vampire Diaries, CW, and numerous vampire movies on their way, we’ve been bombarded. Hollywood has taken a new addiction and are running with it as for the public.

We apparently can’t get enough. I believe we can all admit that this all really started to get huge when Twilight branched to tweens and middle aged moms. Twilight sunk its teeth into literature and now cinema and hasn’t let go. So, what should we think of this phenomena and how it started?

If you’ve never heard of the Twilight saga, it’s quite possible you’ve been living under a rock. Everywhere you go, there are posters, movie previews, t-shirts, memorabilia and screaming girls wishing that Edward, the main character, were real. The movies are increasing the following of the books at a rapid rate. We tend to always view movies as easily having a bad influence, but literature? Is it possible that a set of four books can cause unrealistic expectations and unhealthy ideals in those that read them?

In case you’re unaware of the story line, the basic story is like any other sappy teenage love with a little twist. Twilight is about a girl named Isabella “Bella” Swan. Bella, at the age of 15, moves to rural Forks, Washington, leaving behind her sunny world in Arizona. Living with her father for the first time since she was a little girl, Bella is pretty sure she’ll never find Washington appealing to her.

The students at school find her exciting and new, but nobody finds her more enticing than Edward Cullen. The Cullens are an all adopted family of 5 teenagers and a young set of successful parents. They are all beautiful and unbeknownst to the rest of the community, they are vampires. They deny their true nature only by feeding on animal blood in order to live with society. Bella quickly falls in love with Edward and discovers his true nature. They, together, fight for their forbidden love and face dangers along the way.

This may sound like a typical romantic teen love story, and for the most part, it is. However, an entire generation has been sucked into this world and they don’t want out. There have been rumors and stories that have circulated because girlfriends are leaving their boyfriends with excuses ranging from, “I need someone more like Edward” or “I don’t think you love me as much as Jacob loved Bella.” Not only is this disturbing to realize that a fictional character is so heavily influencing a teen girl’s relationship, but the relationships they enjoy are overall pretty unhealthy when applied to the reality.

The first time you read the Twilight series, you may easily fall into the story line and let your warm and fuzzy heart take over. However, if you start to really analyze the nature of the relationships, in the first book alone, you’ll realize the controlling, emotional roller coaster that Bella endures.

In the first book alone, Edward Cullen comes into everything his new, young girlfriend is doing. In the very beginning of them meeting, he was apparently breaking into her house to watch her sleep. In the book, this is glamorized into being a sweet, loving activity, but in reality, it’d be hard to not put a restraining order on him and instill fear in the entire family. At one point, he daintly her car so she can’t go out around people that Edward doesn’t like. This may be understandable in some ways, but most of all, it’d be considered quite an overreaction in our own world. Eventually, you will find that any decision this teenage girl, Bella, makes, she lets her boyfriend decide ultimately. And finally, in the second book, when he leaves her, thinking it’d keep her safe, she is broken. She shut up her friends and family and goes cold. She feels like she’s gone, she is nothing anymore and eventually endangers herself several times just to feel alive again. The entire book showcases, repeatedly, this obsessive relationship and makes it seem like the life that we should all envy. My hope is that teenage girls do not expect or desire this obsession in their own lives. This criticism may make you assume that I disliked the novels. I’d have to say the contrary. I actually quite enjoyed the series, as long as I stepped outside of it and kept in mind what it was. The books are written very smoothly and can drag you in pretty easily. Stephanie Meyer created quite a world from her imagination that will entertain women everywhere for a long time to come. However, the foot must be planted on making sure teenage girls everywhere realize the implications of a relationship of this manner.

Contact Veronica at havensv_ncc@nwicc.edu!
Exploring the Learning Community

By Jamilyn Top

When I was at orientation I was as confused as to what the learning community was. I wanted to be able to let everyone at NCC know a learning community can do for you. So, I asked Beth Frankenstein exactly what the learning community is and why she decided to bring it to NCC. Beth says, “Students take three classes together as a convenient time with the same classmates. Faculty collaborates to plan the assignments so the students don’t get overwhelmed. The learning community also offers you some security because you’re with the same teachers and students in all the classes.” The learning community may also do fun events together, like when my Learning Community went bowling a couple weeks back. You get to know a lot about your classmates. In the few months we have been in school, I have learned more about my classmates than you probably will in a year. We get to know each other faster and more in depth because we spend almost all of the day together with the same professors. Our learning community meshes really well, we don’t have any clashing personalities. It’s like we were all meant to be put in the same classes. Beth Frankenstein teaches College Experience in my learning community. Now, you may be asking what College experience is. It is a class only taught to those in the learning community. It helps you adjust to college life and gives you study tips. It also can help you find out what kind of person you are what you want to be when you grow up. Beth is the counselor on campus so we spend some classes just talking about what’s going on in our life; she listens really well and makes it fun. I sometimes forget I’m in class.

I also spoke to Amy Jurrens who teaches Composition in my learning community. Amy told me she’s proud to be a part of something like this. Both Amy and Beth have been doing their Learning Community for 2 years along with Stephen Gibbons. Our papers in psychology and composition overlap, so we only have to write one paper instead of two. The learning community was created for student experience of built in time to connect with classmates and faculty. Personally, the learning community has helped me with the transition from high school to college.

It has also made me come out of my shell and hang around with people I normally wouldn’t. I am excited to be in the learning community and am hoping to participate in it next semester. They have two learning communities right now. I’m in the 1st one which consists of Composition taught by Amy Jurrens, Psychology taught by Steve Gibbons, and College experience taught by Beth Frankenstein. The 2nd learning community consists of: Environmental Science taught by Stephanie Theel, Ethics taught by Ken Carlson, and Research Literacy taught by Nancy Fiklins. Veronica Havens, who is in the 2nd learning community, says, “Being new to the area, I’ve found myself connecting to the faculty and students easier within the learning community. I think the application of all three classes helps us learn more also.” With the growing popularity of the Learning Communities they may decide in the future to create more in other programs. If you decide a learning community is for you, when you sign up for classes next semester, talk to your advisor about it. Because if you want to make new friends and have a little less stress, then join a learning community!
**Hawkeyes or Cyclones? The Age Old Rivalry**

By Veronica Havens

I n Northwest Iowa Community College painted Black and Old Gold or Cardinal and Gold? It seems that the state of Iowa is divided over this nationally recognized rivalry between the University of Iowa Hawkeyes and the Iowa State University Cyclones.

The age old rivalry had once came to a halt in 1934 when the teams were so spitting mad that they stopped playing each other for 43 years. Luckily for the sports loving fans in Iowa, the teams now hit the field every year to battle for the Cy-Hawk trophy. This trophy was introduced in 1977 by the Des Moines Athletic Club and the rivalry has only continued.

The rivalry was reborn. Though it is the prettiest trophy in the sport, it still holds grand recognition in the Corn State.

The Hawkeyes currently hold a 22-11 lead over the Cyclones since the birth of the trophy, including the most recent game on September 12, 2009, a day that most Cyclone fans want to forget and Hawkeyes fans are still beaming about.

Ricky Stanzl, of the Iowa Hawkeyes, had a record high day against four other teams as the Iowa forced six turnovers for an exhilarating 35-3 win over Iowa State.

So where does our very own campus lie? It came down to a campus wide vote and the results are in! According to one anonymous voter via comment, "Dude there's totally not even a contest. Hawkeyes all the way!"

And, this comment was correct. Statistically, the Hawkeyes raked in 67% of the vote to only 33% to the Cyclones. Other fill in answers ranged from, Nebraska, Oklahoma State, Kansas, Michigan State, Michigan, and Notre Dame. As far as the big Iowa schools, however, the Hawkeyes seem to really take our small northwest Iowa college!

**Environmentally Friendly Students**

By Veronica Havens

A new course this semester at Northwest Iowa Community College is Environmental Science. The course is taught by Stephanie Theel, a science instructor at NCC. In order to incorporate this course into other useful topics, it is part of the second learning community for students. Along with Environmental Science, students partake in Ethics and a Research course. The students have found the learning community experience to be very helpful and being a part of this course helps me decide where I want to take my major in environmental studies. The curriculum helps teach a more conscious lifestyle. In the course, you will learn the effects of your lifestyle on the world as a whole.

Many times you hear college students complaining about the inability to apply what they're learning to their future lives. However, this course is not one of them. Being more environmentally aware, will further help our generation learn ways to conserve and progress in our abilities to manage the world we live in.

Stephnie Theel, had a few things to say as to why she took on the opportunity to teach on this course, "I took the class on because NCC wanted to offer a conservation program. I find environmental science very interesting and it is a subject everyone should know. Each person should know their carbon footprint, and know ways that they can help reduce pollution. This class has a lot of potential to make students aware of their impact on the environment. I also find it so important that students learn about the environment instead of being influenced in one direction by the media."

I have always been interested in environmental topics and this course has already opened me up even more. From comments in class, I believe I've seen my classmates believe that to be true, also. In discussion, you can see that everyone's minds are more conscious of their own efforts and their own impact.

Alongside the environmental course, the conservation program was started. This program can help you with a career in conservation. If you are interested, contact your advisor. The environmental topic of this community this semester, also. The learning community consists of Environmental Science, Ethics and Research Literacy. Ethics will help you analyze where people get their ethics with practical application and Research Literacy will help you learn the best ways to research for a paper or find sources for anything. These three courses tie together perfectly and you will write a research paper that ties the three together. You'll receive three grades from one paper you write and you'll find that the application helps you understand all three topics even better.

Contrary to popular belief, it may not take too much effort to make your life more environmentally conscious. Below you can see a very simple list of everyday efforts that will help you to reduce your environmental impact.

- Use reusable totes. Every store offers them for only around $1.00 each. They last a long time, and there are so many styles to match your own personality.
- Turn lights off when you’re not in the room.
- Fix any water leaks in your home immediately.
- Lower your typical thermostat by only a couple degrees. You’ll barely notice a difference and you’ll save more power than you realize.
- Turn off the water when you brush your teeth.
- Fix the toilet and you’ll save more water than you realize.
- Plant trees and other flowers in your yard.
- In the summer, hang your clothes to dry.
- Fix any water leaks in your home immediately.

**EXPLANATION for the Masses**

By Laurie Nordahl

O ur very own Laurie Nordahl has a world of knowledge in her head and she's more than willing to share that with YOU! If you'd like to learn more about shoplifting and other important life aspects, email her at: Who knows, perhaps your insightful question will land in the next issue of The Collegian!

Q: Why do drive-up ATM's have Braille on them?  

A: As you know, we live in America, a country also known as “the Land of Opportunity.” Frequently nowadays, you hear about people wanting equal opportunity. Well, a desire for civil rights isn’t a new thing, you may be surprised to know. In fact, way back during the early dawn of money dispensers, there was quite an outcry from the non-seeing community. They wanted their independence and they were tired of it and decided to force the blind in these dark times (no pun intended). They were tired of it and decided to make their voices heard. As with most public declarations for fairness, there was a reaction. Suddenly, Braille was everywhere. On elevator buttons, door signs, even on some restaurant menus. Well, the father of all ATMs wasn’t deaf to the uprising, either. He felt guilty for excluding all of those roadblocks, he wondered if he was the world with his prejudiced, non-Braille machines. So he, very considerately, hastened to correct this ethical slip-up and included Braille on the keyboard of every machine. Now, Father ATM was always a believer in equality. Once he rectified his own biased mistake, he wondered himself, “Is this enough?” The answer, of course, was no.

“How discriminatory of me!” he exclaimed to no one in particular as he was rearranging piles of money in his office (or so I’ve read). “I’ve only been thinking of the blind that enjoy walking! The driving blind community has completely escaped my notice!” And with that, he sent out urgent orders to his drive-up ATM manufacturers demanding that Braille be included on every keyboard from now on.

Sure, Father ATM got some backlash for his action. “The blind don’t drive, you idiot!” was a rather common phrase shouted in his direction for a very long time, but the man refused to budge. “The blind are people, too,” he told them. “They have the right to decide their mode of transportation, it’s their vehicle, after all. They should get a say over what they drive with it.”

That, Rachel, is why drive-up ATMs have Braille. Because one man chose to take a stand for a principle and he wanted his insults or rotten foods society hurled at him. In the words of the creator of the ATM, “The driving blind are people, and people have a right to be able to get their hands on cold, hard cash in the fastest way possible.” He didn’t deny them that right. Would you?
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Helping in Haiti

The photo is not taken at NCC, but I feel that NCC is very much part of the reason for this photo. This past August, I was fortunate enough to be part of a medical mission team from Marcus that provided medical care to the people of Mizak, Haiti. Serving the medical needs of these people in Haiti, especially the children, was the most inspiring and life changing adventure I have ever had.

Silver Moon

by: Katelyn Westra

Mine eyes behold the silver moon
Shedding all her star-like tears
My heart bleeds with many wounds
A confirmation of all my fears

Why does the moon cry tears like stars
Even the wisest cannot tell
Why does my heart have many scars
I know the answer all too well

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Northwest Iowa Community College

AROUND CAMPUS

STUDENT LIFE CONTEST!

This fall, The Collegian wanted to see just how talented our fellow students are in different literary skills. So, we hosted a Poetry, Fiction Short Story and Photography: Student Life Contest! After weeks of receiving submissions, reviewing and judging, we’re proud to announce our winners! The winners will receive a $20 gift certificate to the NCC Bookstore, which can be picked up at the bookstore by the winner! I’d like to thank Amy Jurrens in the English department for her assistance with judging the writing contests, We know that you’ll enjoy the winning submissions just as much as we do! So, without further a due, Here are your winners!

FICTION SHORT STORY

Congratulations to Amy Baker! Amy is part of the Automotive Service Technology program here at NCC and this is her first semester. She enjoys writing, sewing, rock climbing and is currently working on her very own fantasy novel!

POETRY

Congratulations to Katelyn Westra! Katelyn is in the Administrative Secretarial program. She enjoys several things like being with her friends and movies. She usually gets inspiration for her writing in the middle of night or from her dreams.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Congratulations to Anita Schneider! Anita recently started her Associate Degree Nursing program. Of this photo, she had to say, “I was fortunate to be part of a medical mission team from Marcus that provided medical care to the people of Mizak, Haiti. Serving the medical needs of these people in Haiti, especially the children, was the most inspiring and life changing adventure I have ever had.”

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And They Met

By Amy Baker

He approached her slowly and saw that she was unconscious. He hesitated, he should just leave her to her fate, but he could not leave someone in need. He gently picked her up as if she weighed nothing and walked off into the forest.

She was wrapped in warmth. That was her first sensation, warmth. She had not been warm in a long time with the searing cold on the skin. It felt good and she didn’t want to leave it. But then a thought slowly entered her conscious, why was she warm? In the last few weeks her captives had not done anything to make her comfortable and now that she thought about it she was not only wrapped in warmth but she was resting on what must be a soft mattress. Slowly she forced her eyes open and began to take in her surroundings.

She was in a cave of some sort, it was a dark alcove with a curtain of leaves over the opening. She reached out with her left hand and felt the wall closest to her, it was rough and flaky but at the same time it was not hard like rock but softer, almost spongy, like bark. The alcove was narrow and long, maybe six feet by ten feet and she was laying at the far end on a bed made of logs and a mattress stuffed with soft pine boughs. There was also a small table and single chair made from branches next to the bed. She could just make out an unlit candle, some rags, and papers on the table. A small bowl was filled with water and a small pitcher was placed at her head. She sat up, fought past the pain, and moved as far away from the elf as she could, which wasn’t far.

“I’m glad to see that you have woke. I was becoming concerned,” a melodic voice came from behind the light.

As her eyes adjusted to the light, she first saw that the elf was perched on a tray and that tray held platters of food. Then she saw the tanned, well formed arms that held the tray, then his face slowly came into view. It was long and angled but soft with kindness and just as tanned as his arms. His long sun bleached, brown hair was pulled back behind fine pointed ears. Her eyes widened in fear. He was an elf, she might as well be out in the forest alone and injured. She forced herself up, fighting past the pain, and moved as far away from the elf as she could, which wasn’t far.

“St-stay way,” she stammered through the pain.

“Please, I will not hurt you,” concern showed in his bright blue eyes, “please you will pull out your stitches and cause more injury to yourself. I won’t hurt you.”

“Why are you doing this?” she whispered.

“You were injured and the snow has come,” he started as if his deed was as normal as breathing.

She gave him a look of confusion and doubt.

“You would have died and I could not allow that to happen, seeing as you are the victim of some crime and not the guilty party. Elves have a natural intuition when it comes to these things,” he explained patiently.

“You’re going to heal me just to torture me,” she stated calmly.

“Elves value life, we only kill when we want to be free,” his voice almost sang the words to her. She had to admit, the tray of food was very enticing. She had the tray open, the food on the table and sat down.

“I will not hurt you,” he said again, “and you are free to just go as long as you please, you may leave at any time. I just ask that you stay long enough to heal and wait until the passes open so that you will make it to a human community and not end up right back here and worse off then you are now.”

The elf gathered the papers on the table and turned to leave the room. As he reached the leaf covered opening he turned back to her.

“Rest,” he indicated the tray of food, “if you need anything just let me know. You may call me Bael.”

With that he turned and left the room. She ate and drank and then settled back into the soft bed and blankets and was asleep before she even knew it.

Warmth. Again surrounded with warmth, she didn’t want to move, she didn’t want to wake up, she just wanted to stay and enjoy the warmth. Slowly she stretched, feeling her aches and pains growing less. She sat up straight and looked around. The alcove was a small, dark room with a single chair. There was a soft green glow coming through the leaf curtain and the tray from before she slept was gone and in its place were some clothes, a large bowl of steaming water and a big fluffy towel. That’s when she realized she was naked. Blushing, she quickly pulled the blankets up to her neck and scanned the room again making sure that the elf was not in the room. Moving to the edge of the bed, she slowly stood, feeling the weakness in her right leg. Looking down she saw that it was badly bruised and a clean white bandage was wrapped around her calf. Carefully and slowly she took a step towards the table, and while it was painful, she was relieved that she could walk. Using the towel and warm water she washed the filth of the road from her body and then dressed in the clothes left for her. There was a long tun of the softest material she ever felt, a rich dark blue, that fit snuggly over her curves and legs. There was also a large assortment of animal figures carved from wood that looked almost life like.

When the stew was ready, she got out two plates and two bowls, she served herself some stew, filling the bowl to the rim, and took half the bread and went to the only chair in the work area leaving the other bowl and plate by the pot of stew. As she stared to eat, she heard a rustling coming through the the opening to the outside and Bael came in with snow on his shoulders and a smile on his face. He stepped through the door and looked around the room and found a half made chair and an assortment of wood working tools. Then as Bael left the chair in the center of the room, he placed an assortment of animal figures carved from wood that looked almost like life.

After returning to the warmth of the tree cave she realized that she was hungry. Going to the little cooking area, she searched through the alcove and found some carrots, potatoes, a small hunk of meat, half a loaf of bread and some spices. Using this and a pot she made a thick stew over the smallest fire she could find. Taking the covering to the room she had slept in. As she stepped through the door, she was hit by the intense cold outside and as her eyes adjusted to the sunlight all she saw was snow piled above her head. Disappointed she turned to go back inside and saw the cave was a giant tree that stretched higher than all of the rest of the trees around it.

And They Met

Helping in Haiti

Photography

Congratulations to Katelyn Westra! Katelyn is in the Administrative Secretarial program. She enjoys several things like being with her friends and movies. She usually gets inspiration for her writing in the middle of night or from her dreams.

Helping in Haiti

The photo is not taken at NCC, but I feel that NCC is very much part of the reason for this photo. This past August, I was fortunate enough to be part of a medical mission team from Marcus that traveled to Haiti. We held a medical clinic in Mitzik which is south of the city of Port-Au-Prince. If it had not been for my education and training at NCC in the Practical Nursing program last year, I would not have been able to be a part of this team. I am currently in the ADN program at NCC, looking forward to becoming a registered nurse. Hearing about my plans to go to Haiti, one of my nursing instructors, Judy Nieuwenhuis, decided to go, too. Another student from Marcus, Jessica Rosewall, who is a PN student at NCC this year, went on the trip as well. The experience was a life-changing, unforgettable adventure. We provided medical care to hundreds of people. I was finally able to put my nursing skills to work by providing health care to these people of Haiti! It was incredible. I learned so much from this awesome experience and NCC has helped me to make my dream of becoming a nurse become true.

by: Rachel.
By Veronica Havens and Laurie Nordahl...
ever wonder how your date views a movie as opposed to you? We decided to tackle the differences and send one guy and gal team out to return with their own opinions on one single movie. Here is how they played out. You may be surprised at the results!

NICK LELOUX’S REVIEW

The movie we went and saw was Love Happens starting Aaron Eckhardt mostly know for his nomination for best acting role in “Thank You For Smoking” and also in “The Dark Knight.” Also in the movie is the beautiful Jennifer Aniston who doesn’t need any introduction from her big roles as Rachel Green in the sitcom series Friends, as well also know for her movie roles, such as Bruce Almighty, Rumor Has It, Rockstar, The Break-Up, and Marley and Me.

The movie “Love Happens” is about a man named Dr. Burke Ryan played by Eckhardt. He is a therapist who confronts pain from loves ones who are lost with his patients. Even though he has never taken any of his own since his wife’s death three years prior. At the same time, Eloise Chandler (Aniston) he had been running from himself for far too long and it’s time to own up to the past. There is also a bird-jacking thrown in for good measure.

Anyway, “Love Happens” is actually a movie about a motivational speaker struggles to come to terms with his wife’s tragic death. The audience follows him as he stretches to help his clients, tries to fulfill his late wife’s wishes, and as he works through his own hypocrisy. We also get to watch him smoke some hookah. Lucky us.

You might notice, my dear and perceptive reader, that the word “love” is never mentioned in the title, of course. Why might that be, you ask? Well, quite simply, it’s because the movie was not about love. At least, not in the way most movie-goers would anticipate.

Generally, the typical romantic comedy has the universal formula of some laughs, a lot of love, a misunderstanding or two, and a happy ending to tie it all together. If this formula is true, it must also be true that “Love Happens” is not a romantic comedy. So, what is it? More than anything else, this film is about an internal conflict. Dr. Burke Ryan (our esteemed motivational speaker) has a lot of truths to deal with that, up until his discovery of vocabulary-loving florist Eloise Chandler (Aniston), he had been refusing to touch. Throughout the movie, he slowly comes to realize that he’s been running from himself for far too long and that it’s time to own up to the past. There is also a bird-jacking thrown in for good measure.

I know what you’re wondering. Is there a happy ending? Does Burke find peace? Do he and Eloise end up together? Does love actually happen? Lots of questions arise in this movie. I suppose you could find out the answers for yourself if you’re interested. As for me, I can’t say I recommend catching this falsely advertised film. All in all, “Love Happens” was a little different, sometimes amusing, frequently touching, but, when it comes right down to it, utterly forgettable.

Even so, I still believe in Harvey Dent.
MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Continued from page 6

SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is an applied method of instruction for preparing America's high performance workers enrolled in public career and technical programs. It provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. It builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes and communications skills. It emphasizes total quality at work—high ethical standards, superior work skills, life-long education, and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free-enterprise system and involvement in community service. Currently the NCC SkillsUSA Chapter consists of 7 program chapters working together or independently to complete a program of work. Under our Constitution, each member is involved in leadership training, teamwork, and character development through curricular activities, community service projects, and fundraising. Social events involve students in fun activities to build self-confidence, communication skills, and relationships through networking. During technical skills training members experience the value in quality work and the dignity of work. Contact Steven Youngs for more information.

Campus Crusade for Christ

We have had a local chapter of Campus Crusade for Christ on our NCC campus for almost two decades, open to all students who are seeking Christian fellowship. CCC is an international organization with three main goals, (1) to introduce students to Jesus Christ, (2) help them connect with other Christians and grow in the faith, and (3) equip them walk with God for a lifetime to have an impact for Christ on their campus and around the world. We do a weekly Bible Study, some fun outings and occasionally get together with other Crusade chapters from other campuses. Our signature service project is a toy drive before Christmas. Many people on our campus have contributed, and we are grateful for their help.

We meet Wednesdays at 12:30pm in B202. Anyone can attend or contact Stephen Gibbons for more information.

There are plenty of ways for you to get involved in your college. Make sure you check out all the options you have, contact the group and find your place!

Levy Renewal Passed for NCC

A key component of NCC’s ability to offer a high-quality, state-of-the-art classrooms and labs was up for renewal during the 2009 School Board Election on September 8. Voters in the four-and-one-half counties that represent NCC sent a clear message of resounding support for the College by passing the levy by 75.7 percent.

Bill Giddings, NCC President, stated, “On behalf of the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, staff and students at Northwest Iowa Community College, I would like to thank you for your vote of confidence in supporting the 6 Cent Equipment Levy for your community college. The official 75.7 percent positive vote tells us that you support the quality educational services we provide at NCC. I want to assure you that we are and will continue to be good stewards of your tax dollars. We are committed to serving northwest Iowa through our “high value” transfer and technical credit programs. We are also proud to serve 26,800 continuing education enrollments annually. We will continue to play a vital role in making northwest Iowa a special place to live and grow.”

The 6 Cent Equipment Levy allows the College to fund the purchase of instructional equipment and enhances programming opportunities for students. Students recognize the College’s commitment to providing industry-standard equipment to support the learning process, and the faculty’s dedication to teaching what students really need to know.

Over the last 10 years, the College has used the money generated from the 6 Cent Equipment Levy to purchase trucks for the Powerline Program, hoists for Automotive Technology and Truck programs, and welders for Welding and Collision Repair and Refinishing programs. The College has also upgraded technology, including the purchase of more than 100 computers from a local vendor.

“NCC has top-notch equipment and great instructors,” said Jared Bomgaars, a welding graduate from Hull.

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Open House for the New Student Housing Complex

Northwest Iowa Community College held an open house for their new housing complex, O’Brien Hall, Friday, September 25. About 30 people enjoyed the ribbon cutting ceremony and refreshments. Tours of the new facility were available all morning.

Dr. Giddings, NCC President, commented, “The ribbon cutting for the new residential facilities at Northwest Iowa Community College signifies growth and progress for the College and the entire area.” Giddings continued, “The residence facility will provide opportunities for students to live on campus and take part in campus activities. This facility will also attract new students to NCC that would not have previously considered our College. We are very proud of our new residential facilities on campus. We believe it will be a great asset to our students and expands what NCC can offer to them.”

O’Brien Hall is a suite style housing complex that accommodates a total of 45 students. Most of the suites consist of a living area for four students with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a kitchen/living area. It also features a recreation room with a television, a game check out, computer lab, wireless internet, laundry facilities, a basketball court and many more amenities. O’Brien Hall is also ADA (American Disability Act) compliant.

Jeff Pool, NCC Housing Coordinator, stated, “We are really excited about the opening of O’Brien Hall. Last fall we ended up with over 40 students on a waiting list for NCC housing. The opening of O’Brien Hall allows for more students to live in affordable on-campus housing and get the full college experience that they are looking for.”

Pool continued, “Our students really enjoy our current facilities and the NCC residential life experience, so I would encourage future students to get their housing applications in early to assure that they have a spot for our upcoming semesters.”

Jeff Pool
NCC Housing Coordinator

To receive more information about NCC, contact the Admissions Office at studentservices@nwicc.edu or call 712-324-5061 or 1-800-352-4907. Or visit our website at www.nwicc.edu.
NCC is First in State to be Approved to the Electrical Examining Board

In June of 2009 the Iowa Electrical Examining Board for the State of Iowa granted approval to NCC’s Industrial & Commercial Wiring Program to be the first college in the state of Iowa that can grant students credit towards sitting for their journeymen’s examination.

The time the students spend in the classroom, time they spend in coops (internships), and their lab time now count towards the completion of their educational time and on-the-job training that they must have in order to test for their journeymen’s exam.

An oversight by lawmakers during the 2007 Legislative Session jeopardized the ability of NCC to train electricians.

The law, designed to provide for a statewide system of education, inspection, and continuing education effectively eliminated community colleges from offering the training for new electricians.

Over the last year Industrial & Commercial Wiring instructor, Mike McLaughlin, has played a pivotal role in working with the State Legislature and promoting the economic impact and viability of the ICW program.

McLaughlin was instrumental in working with the state Electrical Examining Board to write the rules so community colleges, NCC specifically, could offer training for students interested in becoming electricians.

New rules were approved in March 2009, which required community college programs to provide 2,000 hours of student/instructor contact time, with 1,600 hours of technical electrical instruction. The rules outlined specific curriculum content and specific requirements for instructors.

In June of 2009 NCC became the first community college in the state to officially receive state approval.

McLaughlin stated, “This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Electrical Program at Northwest Iowa Community College. During the past forty years NCC has earned the reputation for being one of the best and well known Electrical Programs in the state. We are continuously making sure our students have the best educational experience at NCC and are well prepared to go into the workforce with the skills and knowledge they need.”

-Mike McLaughlin
NCC Industrial & Commercial Wiring instructor

In order to be eligible for consideration to sit for the journeymen’s exam students must:
1. Have completed the ICW Program at NCC
2. Have completed 6,000 hours of documented on-the-job training

For more information on this program or any of NCC’s forty plus programs contact the Admissions Office at student@services@nwicc.edu or call 324-5061 or 1-800-352-4907. Or visit our website at www.nwicc.edu.

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Bill and Jean Giddings recipients of the Virgil Lagomarcino Award

Bill and Jean Giddings, lifelong education and community leaders, have been awarded the Virgil Lagomarcino Award by the Iowa State University College of Human Sciences. The award was established in 1975 to honor graduates who are nationally and internationally recognized for their meritorious service or distinguished achievement in the field of education. Bill and Jean will be recognized at a university-wide ceremony on October 16.

For over 35 years, Bill and Jean Giddings have helped to educate thousands through outreach, collaboration, and a vision to create better, more informed citizens in our societies.

Dr. Giddings has also been involved in the creation and implementation of work force and economic development programs, raising over $2 million to secure grants such as the $1.7 million Department of Labor Community Based Job Training Grant resulting in NCC’s Biotechnology Lab Technician Program and the $1.1 million Vision Iowa Grant to complete the Northwest Iowa Lifelong Learning and Recreation Center. He has also worked tirelessly with underserved populations; with his encouragement, hundreds of Latinos in Nebraska and Iowa have pursued their dreams of higher education. For these efforts, he was given the Nebraska Community College Association Chief Executive Officer Award in 1999.

Dr. Giddings also serves on numerous committees and boards locally and across the State. On the state level he is a member of the Iowa Power Fund Board and the Iowa Association of Community College Presidents. On a local level he is a member of the Sheldon SCDC, Sibley Rotary Club, and the Sheldon Kiwanis.

A humanitarian in all senses of the word, Jean has devoted her life to serving populations with special needs. Through her work with Goodwill Industries and her role as a vocational trainer with Village Northwest Unlimited, Jean’s expertise in specialized education brought an awareness of people’s barri ers and the challenges they face every day. With her skills in this area, she created the “Brain Power” curriculum, a series of classes that improve cognitive development, thought processing, and social interaction of those with special needs.

A couple that has set the precedent for being active in community, church, and Iowa State organizations, the Giddings have become role models for many young alumni and education professionals. Their involvement continually makes an impact on the lives of those who come in contact with them.

As one of their nominators writes, “These two have lived a life of service to education…They are some of the most deserving and committed folks that I have worked with.”

Bill and Jean are ISU Alumni Association Life members. Bill holds three degrees from Iowa State University; B.S. in Mathematics ’68, M.S. in Education ’74, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration ’85. Jean holds two degrees from Iowa State University; B.S. in Home Economics Journalism ’69 and M.S. in Education Administration ’71.

Bill and Jean Giddings were presented the Virgil S. Lagomarcino Laureate Award Colleges of Human Services on Friday, October 16.
Parents need to consider their youngster's age, size, ability and maturity before allowing them to ride. Always supervise your child.

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