

PLAYING IT UP

Members of the Northwestern theater department are getting ready for their rendition of "45 Plays for 45 Presidents." PAGE 8



STILL HAVING A BALL

Even though the team's season has been postponed because of COVID-19, Northwestern's soccer players say they're motivated. PAGE 10



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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

'It's kind of a mess, honestly'

Students watching debate say they're not 'big on either candidate' in 2020

By JORDAN GREEN
News Editor



Trump



Biden

With her black mask covering her face, Northwestern sophomore Savannah Francis sat in the Student Center ballroom Tuesday night, hoping to learn more about the two men vying for the most powerful political office in the world.

As the debate dragged on, however, the sophomore political science major from Talequah, Oklahoma, said she wasn't hearing what she wanted

to. She took a deep breath.

"It's kind of a mess, honestly," she said. "I'm not really big on either candidate, so I'm trying to formulate my own opinion."

More than 20 Northwestern students gathered in the ballroom Tuesday night to watch a livestream of the first presidential debate of the 2020 election season.

See DEBATE, Page 11

A CLASSY PLACE



Photo by Jordan Green

The Northwestern Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Karsten Longhurst, rehearses outside the J.W. Martin Library Sept. 23. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, professors are conducting class in a number of dif-

ferent settings, including the outdoors. The Northwestern News has compiled a photo essay showing some of those places. To see the essay, turn to pages 6 and 7 in this edition of the Northwestern News.

Artist brings love of sculpture to Alva



By SEAN DOHERTY
Student Reporter

How do we interact with the environment and the space around us, and how does it interact with us? That is what Ania Garcia Llorente, Northwestern's artist in residence for the fall season, tries to capture.

"I'm interested in the body and making things so you can use it with your body, and the relationship between the object, the body and the architecture," Garcia said.

Unlike like the art that hangs on a wall or stands in a museum, Garcia's sculptures are meant to be used.

"I create objects so your body has to move in a special way to be able to use them," she said. "The body then has to adapt. You have to really synchronize the body to this new system, this new object. They're meant to be touched and manipulated. I'm interested that when you approach, and you don't recognize what it is, how your body behaves with it using your muscle memory and your memory of what you understand about the object."

Garcia realizes that ordinary objects are more than we perceive.

"A chair is not just something that has a particular shape or design," she said. "It creates a whole system on how you behave with your work environment or your home environment. It trains your body to sit in a special way. Because the chair forces you to sit a certain way, then you learn how to

See ARTIST, Page 3

Ania Garcia Llorente poses for a portrait with one of her wooden sculptures in her studio in this Sept. 22 photo.

Photo by Jordan Green

NEWS

Page 2 & 3

EDITORIAL

Pages 4 & 5

PHOTOS

Pages 6 & 7

FEATURE

Page 9

SPORTS

Page 10

News

DEBATE: ‘This is absolutely embarrassing for both sides’

Continued from Page 1

President Donald Trump faced former Vice President Joe Biden on national television to talk about the coronavirus, a nation-wide mask mandate, economic recovery, and other hot-button political issues.

Some Northwestern students who watched the debate questioned whether the candidates addressed substantive political topics.

Zach Robinson, a freshman health and sports science major from Odessa, Texas, said the candidates failed to answer important questions. Instead, he said, they just attacked one another.

“This is absolutely embarrassing for both sides,” he said. “This is not politics. ... This is just name-calling. It’s 100% embarrassing.”

Robinson said he feels Trump was more articulate than Biden, but he said that neither candidate performed well.

“Neither of them presented what they want to do to make things better,” he said. “They just talked about who’s done what to make things worse. I already know who’s done what bad. I want to know how this is going to get better, not how it’s been bad.

“I don’t think it’s going to change my mind, but I still think it’s pretty embarrassing for both sides.”

Angie Aguilera, a junior vocal performance major from Woodward, said she’s grown tired of the 2020 election’s political divisiveness.

“I feel like either option isn’t a good option,” she said. “Either



Above: Students watch Tuesday night’s presidential debate via livestream in the Student Center ballroom on campus. Below: Students watch Tuesday night’s debate via livestream in the Student Center ballroom.

side that you’re standing on, people are looking for a way to point their finger at the other person rather than acknowledging their differences and trying to come together. I just feel like there’s more divide now the farther that we go into it.”

Aguilera said she feels like she can’t trust some of the nation’s top political figures.

“It makes me feel like, ‘Do they really care about, just like, average people like ourselves?’” she said. “There’s so much hate, and I don’t like that there’s so much hate. ... There’s a way to talk about things, and there’s a way to not talk about things.”



While students said they would listen to the candidates, some said they have already decided who they’ll be voting for.

Lizzie Shephard, a freshman health and sports science major

from Vinita, Oklahoma, said she found the debates interesting.

“Being a first-time voter, it’s nice to know both parties, but I’m definitely for Trump,” she said. “I like his support with the military and police, obviously, because they have impossible jobs.”

Shephard isn’t alone. According to a recent poll conducted by The Wall Street Journal and MSNBC, more than 70% of Americans say they won’t change who they’re voting for after watching presidential debates.

Still, some say the debates are important because they want to learn more about the candidates. Francis said the candidates’ platforms on Native American issues matter to her.

“I’m half Native American, and I want to study Native American law after I graduate from here, and I want to work with, like, Native American relations, tribal relations in the government. And neither one of them have done anything really good for the Native American tribes. I mean, Trump did actually ... he signed that bill to help missing and murdered indigenous women, which, I was happy about that.”

While candidates spoke about a number of issues in the debate, Francis said she isn’t sure whether the debate would sway her vote. But she said she would listen to see which candidate told the truth more.

“It’s all just kind of jumbled together,” she said. “I’m trying to figure it out.”

Northwestern reports 18 active COVID-19 cases

By JORDAN GREEN
News Editor

Northwestern Oklahoma State University has 18 active cases of the coronavirus, university officials said Sept. 25.

One university employee has tested positive for the virus. The other 17 cases are student cases.

The total number of positive COVID-19 cases among Northwestern students and employees includes cases at all of the university’s campuses in Alva, Enid, and Woodward.

Officials did not identify the people who have the virus.

Officials first reported on Aug. 28 the number of students who have COVID-19. At the time, six students had tested positive for it.

University officials report the number of COVID-19 cases each Friday on NWOSU’s website.

To see the number of cases on all campuses, visit <https://www.nwosu.edu/coronavirus/active-covid-19-cases-nwosu>.

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Hello, Fall!

A collection of Michelin Design Works Sweet Pumpkin products, including a large bottle of hand and body lotion, a box of candles, and a jar of soap, all featuring pumpkin and autumn-themed designs. They are displayed on a rustic wooden log slice against a stone wall background.

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