Roles reversed: Students teach profs

BY MEAGAN MCDougall
STAFF WRITER

Northwestern manages to incorporate dancing into many aspects of campus life. Whether it’s the West Hall Dance Party, Lamrof, RUSH or even an impromptu dance party in the red room of the Franken Center, students who want to let loose and shake what God gave them find a way to express themselves.

This Saturday at 7 p.m., Dancing with the Profes will bring out the classy side of NW’s dancing repertoire. This is a dance competition in which students choreograph routines and perform them with members of the faculty or staff. The judges critique the pair’s performance, just like on TV, and the students make the ultimate decision with a live vote.

Junior Jennifer Nilson and Dean Calsbeek will be performing a salsa to “Let’s Get Loud” by Jennifer Lopez.

“There was a little anxiety when I found out about doing the salsa,” Calsbeek said, after saying that his only dance experience was from his days as a NW student.

“(Jennifer) is amazing,” Calsbeek said. “I thought she was extremely patient and understanding in allowing me to learn at my own pace and stop to ask questions.”

Nilson has taught the salsa before in a RUSH routine, but this is her first year participating in Dancing with the Profes.

“It was something I wanted to do last year but couldn’t,” Nilson said. “This year, I kept getting emails, and I didn’t even apply until the last day, but I knew it would be something that would challenge me and force me out of my comfort zone.”

Both say that they are confident in their routine, and Nilson said she is excited to see what everyone else has come up with.

“We’ve creeped on a few people to see who our competition is, but we’re both in it just for the fun of it,” Nilson said.

The biology department has declared a rivalry between their three faculty competitors, Calsbeek, Elizabeth Truesdell and Laura Furlong. Truesdell, after being persuadred by her students to participate this year, will be doing a swing dance with senior Andrew Klump.

“I’m doing a little bit of stressing,” she said. “I don’t want to land on my head or get kicked in the face, which has actually happened.”

This is Truesdell’s first experience outside of college with dancing as well, but despite her sore muscles so far, she said they are “in it to win it.”

The practices have proven to be difficult for many of the participants who are not familiar with dancing.

“We have heard the voice of the student body, and we want to do something about it,” said senior SGA member, Jordan Gowing. “People would like to see the RSC, the Rowenhorst Faculty Center, be converted to the RSC, a place specifically for the students. Personally, so would I.”

“We have heard the voice of the student body, and we want to do something about it.”

- Jordan Gowing

The first topic on the agenda for discussion was the upcoming Sodexo meeting. Sodexo will be meeting with SGA on Monday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. in RSC 149 to gather student feedback concerning the changes in the cafeteria this semester, including the addition of the pizza line, new juice machines and the new sauce area. Also on the agenda for the meeting is a discussion regarding weekend meal hours.

“It has been brought to our attention that many students would like to see the cafeteria opened for breakfast on the weekends,” SGA president, Wes Garcia, said. “We plan on talking about the pros and cons of a decision like this as well as other meal time hours.” Along with cafeteria hours, discussion for extended Hub hours is also on the agenda. Students are encouraged to attend this meeting or talk to their class representative to voice their opinions.

The second topic of discussion was the student initiatives to be taken on by SGA members. In pairs, SGA members plan to address different topics that have been voiced by students. These include addressing the recent internet-blocking situation, the want of a fire pit on campus, placing card swipers at the doors of the men’s dorms and giving the RSC a more student-friendly environment.

“We have heard the voice of the student body, and we want to do something about it,” said senior SGA member, Jordan Gowing. “Many people would like to see the RFC, the Rowenhorst Faculty Center, be converted to the RSC, a place specifically for the students. Personally, so would I.”

RSC roof strains under 100 tons of SNOW

BY ANDREW LOVGREN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Due to the largest snowfall since 1975, a section of the roof in the RSC began sagging during Christmas break under roughly 100 tons of snow.

“The student at the RSC desk saw a tile drop and immediately let someone know,” said maintenance director Scott Simmelink. “We called a local contractor (Bouma), and they came with the wooden supports you see there now. They also helped us get snow blowers up to the roof.”

The section of the building near the back by the mini-gym was part of the original factory built around 1947 that was later purchased by the college to house the original student center.

While the rest of the building has been renovated and is now supported by steel joists, the small section that was sagging is supported by wooden joists. One of the wooden joists in the ceiling had a knot that cracked under the weight, which caused a domino effect through the other supports.

“The snow just accumulated in drifts,” said RSC director Dale Thompson. “The main drift was seven or eight feet tall, almost 20 feet wide and 40 to 50 feet long.”

Maintenance teams, accompanied by employees from Bouma, worked for six days to remove all the snow from the roof.

Several structural engineers have been in to survey the damage and form a plan to fix the affected section of the roof.

“It will be done. It’s just a matter of how and when,” Thompson said. “It likely will have to wait for warmer weather, but it could be done by the end of the school year.”

The maintenance crews will continue to keep an eye on the situation, but they expect no further issues.
Drawings and daisies: McCollough to display senior show

BY JENNA VAN OORT
STAFF WRITER

Senior art major Michelle McCollough has always loved daisies. Drawing them or writing about them, she discovered that they are symbolic of who she is. This is where the title of her upcoming art show comes from. “Daisy: a Self-Portrait” will be displayed in the Te Paske Art Gallery from Feb. 8-19.

Like most introspective artists, Michelle gets the inspiration for her art from within. “My work is simply an exploration and exaggeration of myself,” she said. “Most of my art and poetry are a struggle within.”

Michelle planned to stay at Northwestern for only two years and then transfer to another school to study architecture, but she discovered that her love for art was too great. She said, “I’d like to get back on the architecture path. I’ve got my whole life to work; I’ll just stay in school until I’m 30.”

The Lincoln, Neb. native’s show will include acrylic paintings, ink paintings, prints and some of her original poetry. There will be a public reception for the artist at the gallery on Friday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. Her artwork can be viewed in the gallery Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to midnight and Sundays from 1 p.m. to midnight.

Regarding after-graduation plans, Michelle is in no hurry to quit learning. She said, “I’ve got my whole life to work; I’ll just stay in school until I’m 30.”

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‘1.42 Trillion - Current National Debt’

The budget, while spending billions towards improving employment rates, would spike taxes considerably as an estimated 4.5 percent of the nation’s economy in the next decade would match deficit. The plan also halts many governmental programs, a concern students are beginning to realize here on campus with teachers being laid off and complete programs being cut nationwide.

The budget’s premises focus on aiding struggling businesses, Social Security funding, and economically depressed states. Additionally, though tax refunds face cancellation in the near future, Obama plans to continue tax breaks for middle-class families through the projected budget year in 2011.

As arguments arise among political parties and future election tactics for the following year circulate, Obama defends his proposed budget by claiming the nation’s debt was not of his own accord, and in order to improve the nation’s economic situation – reaching heights of the 1980’s – funding must be first invested in order to see growth.

With such large numbers, balance is key in establishing a working system. While some programs will stagnate in spending, some, such as education, will reap benefits. Overall, Obama hopes to decrease spending by $250 billion by 2020.

Consequently, tensions among Republicans rose predominantly over increased taxes and decreased tax deductions of the wealthy. Obama plans to continue tax reductions for low-income families while cutting the proposed tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 for many. In response to tax terms creating cross-party unease, Robert Gibbs, White House spokesman, believes officials must focus on the crucial issues, employment landing on top, in order to bring the nation into stability.

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NW Iowa recieves largest snowfall since ’75

President Obama has proposed a new budget plan for 2011 to create more job opportunities.

NW maintenance teams work diligently to clear off over 100 tons of snow over Christmas break. The drift was estimated at eight feet tall, 20 feet wide and 40 to 50 feet long.

Chili Bash! $ $ $

Casey’s Bakery in Sioux Center is offering all-you-can-eat chili, cinnamon rolls, nachos, corn muffins and a medium drink for $4 (with student id) all day Thursdays.
The Right to Reason: Obama in his first year

‘This is not the change America voted for.’

BY TYLER VERMEER

President Obama captivated the hearts of many Americans on the campaign trail in 2008. Hope and Change was the catchphrase that people bought into. What was his change? He promised to change the corruption in Washington, eliminate reckless spending, reduce the deficit, create jobs and promote bi-partisanship among others. He has promised change in all phases of government, but what change did we really get? Here are the facts.

In a debate with Sen. McCain in September 2008, Sen. Obama promised earmark reform for the American people by saying, “When I’m president, I will go line by line to make sure that we are not spending money unwisely.” In February 2009 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was rammed through congress. The stimulus package was a bill numbering 1,588 pages and costing $787 billion designed to create an estimated 3.5 million jobs. What people fail to realize is that this bill didn’t cost $787 billion, but rather nearly $1.2 trillion. Where did the other $413 billion go? According to heritage.org, the bill contained 9,267 earmarks and pet projects. Was this money spent wisely?

Another huge part of President Obama’s campaign platform was putting people back to work. The $787 billion bill designed to stimulate the economy needed to be passed or unemployment would exceed an unprecedented 8 percent. Despite passing the stimulus, the unemployment rate has exceeded 10.2 percent. But this number does not include everyone who is unemployed. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the total number of Americans who are not working full-time or gave up looking for employment is actually about 22 million, or 15.8%. Since the stimulus package passed, (atroc.org) has reported that America has actually lost 2.7 million jobs. Even if the hypothetical 3.5 million jobs were created through the stimulus package, only a net gain of 800,000 jobs would have been yielded. $787 billion divided by 800,000 equals $983,754 per job created. Where is this money going? This is pure taxpayer waste, and doesn’t include the other $413 billion in earmarks and pet projects. This is not the change America voted for.

Health care reform was a staple on the campaign trail. In a debate in Los Angeles, President Obama said, “That’s what I will do bring in all parties together, not negotiating behind closed doors, and broadcasting those negotiations on C-SPAN so that the American people can see what the choices are, because part of what we have to do is enlist the American people in this process.” But what has happened in these health care debates? Not a single negotiation has been broadcasted on C-SPAN because the majority of negotiations have been done behind closed doors, away from the American people. The Senate voted on its version over Christmas break after midnight. Apparently Congress thinks Americans aren’t paying attention.

This has irritated the American people so much that Massachusetts voted in Scott Brown to replace the late Ted Kennedy. This is President Obama’s explanation of the special election result. “People aren’t unhappy about what’s happened in the last year or two, but what’s happened in the last 8 years.” Apparently, the president is still blaming President Bush. And apparently Massachusetts was so disgusted with President Bush they voted in a Republican. The last time I checked, President Bush was a Republican. President Obama’s arrogance offends me. He’s been in office over a year and he continues to point the finger elsewhere.

Whether America likes it or not, Barack Obama is our president. What we’re called to do is pray for him. Pray that Barack Obama seeks God for answers and guidance. Even after praying, if you still feel that you need to do more, call your congressmen. Tell them to quit the reckless spending, tell them to listen to the American people, and tell them to stick to their promises or on Nov. 2, they too will be part of the 22 million unemployed after they get voted out of office.

From the Strip

Not so ‘sin’ city

BY HOLLY LAWRENCE

When one thinks of Las Vegas, they think of sin, Strip, gambling, clothes, and spoilt brats who gamble our lives away. This is not true at all. But you would be right in saying that the Valley is a bombardment of the senses. You can eat just about any food from any part of the world and at any time, and it’s especially better with the 90% discount of about 90%. Plus, there are shows like Cirque du Soleil and Criss Angel, and no personal income tax.

The part of the Valley that tourists only bother to see is the Strip and Downtown, but there is more than that to offer. There is the Red Rock National Park, the Hoover Dam, Mount Charleston’s summit and plenty of famous locals to creep on. The only place in the Valley that really has anything to do with “sin” is the Strip. There, most locals do not go. In fact, the only reason we would go to the Strip is to ride the overpriced thrill rides atop the Stratosphere, and even some can’t say they’ve been up there. We are just normal people who have adapted to our surroundings. Yes, we may have a certain tolerance for the “sinful nature and stereotype” of our city, but that doesn’t mean there are not churches and volunteer organizations that help people in need. Hardly any Valley residents are gambling addicts. We are just your average city with average citizens who, at the end of the day, still marvel at the beauty of the sunset going down behind the Spring Mountains.

‘Obama’s first year in office was successful.’

BY ELLEN TOLSMA

“Yes we can!” was the chant heard around the nation just over a year ago. Since his inauguration Obama’s approval ratings have declined. In spite of this I believe President Obama has made an impressive start.

Obama said in his State of the Union address, “One year ago, I took office amid two wars, an economy rocked by a severe recession, a financial system on the verge of collapse and a government deeply in debt.” This is probably not how Obama would have chosen to begin his presidency, but it is what he was given and an evaluation of his first year should begin here. Additionally, Obama proposed an aggressive agenda including ending the war, economic recovery, a health care bill, and closing Guantanamo-admittedly optimistic.

Obama has not accomplished everything he hoped; however, he has made significant progress in important areas. Obama’s leadership has started the long, complicated process of health care reform. Both the Senate and the House have passed their version of a health care bill and are now working on reconciling the two. These are significant steps in the right direction toward making health care affordable for many Americans including small business owners and families.

Obama has also addressed economic recovery; his efforts began with the unpopular bank bailout which probably saved our nation from a financial meltdown. He addressed taxes, asserting in his State of the Union address, “that 95% of Americans experienced a tax cut” including “8 million Americans paying for college.” In addition to tax cuts, Obama introduced the Recovery Act which created jobs for approximately two million Americans. Economists from both parties acknowledge that this helped save jobs and kept America from economic disaster.

Republican Iowa Representative Chuck Rodberger said, when asked if he believed we were out of the recession, that we are recovering. He believes that Iowa is slow to feel recovery because the Midwest tends to feel economic change last. He believes that on the coasts, the economy has turned for the better. He believes 2010 will be a tough year, but with a GDP increase of 2.2% in the third quarter and 5.7% in the fourth quarter, it is hard to say that we are still in a recession.

I believe Obama has renewed international respect for the United States. He holds a deep conviction that dialogue is the best route to peace and prosperity. He is utterly consistent in his conviction to find common ground and engage in dialogue. This is not an idea far from NWC’s history. Former NWC VPA Dr. Harold Hie is so convinced that he has written a book expressing the same convictions (Learning to Listen, Ready to Talk). Gaining trust and respect from leaders of other nations is how our country can move forward to make this world more peaceful and our country safer.

Whether or not you agree with Obama’s politics, it is important to look at his accomplishments honestly. He has not yet accomplished everything he hoped, but important work was accomplished in one short year. He has worked for economic recovery, health care reform and modeled respectful conversation as a way to work toward peace. I believe Obama’s first year in office was successful, and I have faith that he will continue to work for the good of the United States, the country he loves and serves.

Want to write for the Beacon?

The Northwestern College Beacon takes pride in being a student newspaper. Anyone interested in writing an article for the Beacon is encouraged to attend the staff meetings and contribute their writing. To contribute please contact the editor of the Beacon at beacon@nwc.edu. All students are welcome to become a part of the long standing tradition.

CONTACT US WITH IDEAS OR OPINIONS

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Speed dating leads to laughter and ludicrousness if not love

By Anna Henke

Well, maybe not love, but there was definitely a lot of laughter. When students were asked if Speed Dating participants had experienced the thrills of new love, the response was unanimous: “No.”

However, all felt that it was a fun opportunity for something new to do on a Saturday night in Orange City. 

“As you may guess, given Northwestern’s gender ratio, there were more women than men in attendance. The males sat at tables while the females participants were herded past these tables at one minute intervals. All dorms were represented by a least one individual, but some had a higher representation than others. The community of NW came together to see and be seen, generally act ridiculous, and play up the affectionately acknowledged reputation of Northwestern as a college that includes the “Senior Scramble,” “Ring By Spring,” and “MRS Degree” mentalities. Freshman Melissa Hassman, a resident of Stegenga Hall, enjoyed her experience. She and a friend “double speed dated,” meaning that they walked the room as a pair and shared each male date. They were not the only pair of girls to do so, as it was more comfortable and funnier to reminisce about later. Hassman reported that she and her friend prepared goofy questions and generally had an entertaining evening. She appreciated the atmosphere created by Fern RD Lisa Barber, the MC, who provided questions and challenges for the couples, including a Sudoku race. Junior Greta Floding of Fern Hall also prepared questions, most of which were random, ridiculously specific and designed to provoke silly and creative answers. Floding asked most of her dates this question, among others: “If you were a mythological creature, what would you be?” Answers included hippogriff, God of War, phoenix and dog.

While male participants did not, in general, prepare cutesy questions to ask their dates, one-liners were highly prevalent and worked to great effect. Sophomore John Hellinga of West Hall even prepared a resume to hand out during the process, including a picture, “in order to expedite the process,” said Hellinga.

Although Northwestern students may not have found their true love at Speed Dating, it was a fun opportunity to meet new people and a unique weekend event. Whether this will incite an influx of valentines via campus mail and dates at the cafeteria remains to be seen.

Hosting a Super Bowl Party, Dorm Style

By Holly Stewart

It’s time for the big game: the NFL showdown featuring the New Orleans Saints and the Indianapolis Colts. Next to the game, the most important part of every Super Bowl party is the food. College students usually don’t have much extra money to spend on food, but here are some recipes that can help make your Super Bowl party a success.

Remember that you can utilize the microwaves and stoves in your dorm’s kitchen area. Instead of buying premade foods, make your own. It’s cheaper and you can share the expense with friends to make it more cost effective. For instance, if you are planning a party with several people, ask that everyone bring one food item to add to the menu. In this way, you will have a lot of options without one person having to do all the work.

Quesadillas are a great party option. All you need is cheese dip, salsa, and tortillas. Spread the dip and salsa on a tortilla and heat in the microwave for 45 seconds. Nachos also require only chips and cheese dip. Of course, grills go against dorm rules, but hot dogs can be made on the stove. Just boil them in a pot of water until tender and slap them on a bun. Deviled eggs are a popular party finger food that can also be made on the stove. To make twelve deviled egg halves, all you need are six hard-cooked eggs (hard cook them by boiling them for about 4 minutes), two tablespoons of mayonnaise, one teaspoon of mustard, and a little bit of salt and pepper. Cut the six hard-cooked eggs in half, scoop the yolks out of the halves and mash them in a bowl. Stir in the mayo and mustard and season with salt and pepper. Then scoop the mixture back into the egg halves and leave to chill for a bit.

Kool-aid and punch mixes are cheap, and can be made in large quantities. For desert, root beer floats are a favorite and like most of the recipes, only need 2 ingredients—root beer and ice cream.

All of these recipes take less than 10 minutes and cost less than $10 to make. Make sure that you have enough food to comfort the fans of the losing team and enjoy the game!
Pondering from Across the Pond
From the Precocious Mind of Emily Muilenburg
FOR HER CORRESPONDENT FROM
THE ESTEEMED OXFORD UNIVERSITY

The rain was just starting as I trudged back from the library this morning— not enough to douse me or anything, but just enough for me to get wet sand from the Oxford University Parks between my toes. This environment seemed conducive to pensive thinking, so I tried to come up with some deep thoughts to share with the Northwestern community about Oxford. The only thing that really came to my mind was “Nature is so stupid,” but that was after I spent ten minutes walking around a tree, trying to take a picture of an extremely elusive gray squirrel.

That’s pretty much how time works here in Oxford—I find the hours fading away as I spend most of the day sitting on the same part of the same couch in the same room, reading, reading, reading, writing… maybe some Facebook in there. Oxford literally means the ford of oxen (no, really?), which doesn’t exactly pay tribute to its rich history of academia and prestige. The ox thing sort of makes sense though, because everything seems to move more slowly here.

Everyone’s days are mostly filled with study of some kind, but not in the boring, mind-numbing way. Reading, drinking tea and frequenting the local pubs make up the population’s daily schedule. In fact, people used to refer to studying any subject as “reading,” this makes sense for people who read C.S. Lewis, but not as much for those who “read mathematics.” The thing is, everyone seems to thoroughly enjoy what they’re doing—and no one here seems to be stressed out.

One of my favorite pastimes is to walk slowly down the pavement (English-English for “sidewalks”) and watch people. I realize that’s pretty creepy, but this way I get to take in the variety of people walking down the streets. The typical Oxfordian is a tall, skinny man with glasses and a long face. He’s wearing a black detective-looking overcoat, and shiny black shoes. He is probably carrying a shoulder bag bursting with thick books about Plato and Shakespeare. But this “typical” man isn’t all that typical. Oxford has this great thing called pedestrian-only streets, where the whole street is colored with different shades of black and grey jackets and jumpers (sweaters).

Here and there I’ll see a pair of bright yellow tights and a zebra-striped handbag, a Mohawk, or jewelry in a place I never thought metal could pierce. It’s terribly strange to see these ultra-modern flairs walking next to a thousand-year-old building—but not as much for those who “read mathematics.” The thing is, Oxford isn’t the only feature of Fern that benefits its residents on a daily basis.

Four years ago, Fern Resident Director (RD) Lisa Barber reminisced back to her childhood years and came up with the idea for a dorm dress-up bin. The summer after completing her first year as an RD, Barber bought a significant amount of clothes at a Salvation Army in Chicago to officially put her new plan into motion.

Originally located in her dressing room, Fern is now a Salvation Army in Chicago to encourage “not your everyday” outfits such as Bingo Night and LAMROF. Complete with a makeshift dressing room, Fern is now essentially an entire department store at your fingertips, free of charge. Though you may find a pair of outdated overalls instead of a pair of hip American Eagle jeans with trendy tears and rips, you can bet that if you’re in a dress-up mood you’ll find something that catches your interest. Who wouldn’t want to wear a sweatshirt that says, “Jesus can mend your achedy bracky heart!”

Now just because the ladies of Fern have the privilege of reliving their childhood and dressing up in frilly prom dresses does not mean that they never act their age.

Every month the dorm gets together for a night of insightful discussion called “Mug ‘n Muffin” where the ladies are encouraged to participate in conversations that range in subject from personal testimonies to struggling issues.

On Feb. 1, Fern kicked-off their spring semester Mug ‘n Muffin series. The Stegenga RD Rebecca James spoke with the ladies about the importance of not comparing themselves to others.

“I would love to see this discussion yield fruit of healthy self-identities and genuine relationships amongst the women in Fern,” Barber said.

From dressing up in bedazzled hot pink pantsuits and mad scientist wigs to discussing profound and significant issues, Fern residents are host to a unique place that catches interest through both mature and immature methods.

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Does your dorm/apartment have what it takes?

It’s time to name the top dorm rooms and aparments on campus. If you would like your living space to be included in the judging, please e-mail us at beacon@nwciowa.edu
The tube in twenty-ten

The cast of LOT is almost as exotic as the show’s never-ending plot twists and in philosophical speculations.

BY LISA WALTERS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Northwestern's minimal television connection will damper the emotions of some, but for those devoted tube-watchers, the line up for the upcoming season is looking to be more jam-packed than ever.

Critics say new shows such as “Human Target” and “Caprica” might be worth tuning in for this upcoming season. Fox's “Human Target” is regarded by The Boston Herald as “the closest thing on TV to swigging a keg of Red Bull. It's one hour of pure energy, a blast of fun action and stunts.”

“Caprica” is show set 58 years prior to the events of “Battlestar Galactica.” The Washington Post writes, “There's enough going on in “Caprica” to keep a sci-fi fan, or anyone who likes to settle into a good story, satisfied and even beguiled.” Professor Richard Sowienski is curious to see “how the idea of the One True God is shaped.”

For example, the idea of the One True God is shaped by saying, “I think in reality shows such as romantic reality shows, it is very difficult to determine just how real it is because we don’t know how scripted it is.” Sophomore Rachel Peterson, with the female perspective on the show, said, “It is sufficiently entertaining, however, demoralizing to women. It really doesn't ever tend to work out.”

One show that has seemed to work its way into hearts of many is Fox's “Glee.” It is essentially a show about a handful of high school misfits who join a glee club. I would have to say however, that the great musical arrangements make up for the mediocre script writing. Junior Abby Raska said, “I love it because it is fun. It is fun to see which song they are going to remake next.”

And most certainly not least, is the talk about the last season of ABC's “Lost.” For many, that is just what they feel when it comes to the show, lost. Sophomore Jordan Kruse states it plainly, “I watched the first season and then got lost and couldn’t keep up. I got so lost.” There are many, however, who agree with freshman Sean Guthmiller, “It is such an awesome and exciting show that definitely keeps you on your toes.”

As Guthmiller, “It is such an awesome and exciting show that definitely keeps you on your toes.”

D.C. Pierson dazzles in teen sci-fi novel

BY SARAH KUGLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Drawn together by their love of science fiction stories, Eric and Darren create an entire world populated by cyborgs and robots.

Neither has any other friends, and they quickly become close. But then Eric throws acurve into this standard story of adolescent loneliness: he does not sleep. When a confused Darren asks for clarification, he says: “I mean I can’t sleep. I’ve never been able to and I don’t have to. I am physically incapable of it and I don’t require it.”

Ultimately, it is not about the sex, the drugs, the parties, or the girls. It is not even about Eric’s strange sleeplessness; The Boy Who Couldn’t Sleep and Never Had To probes the issue of “growing up” and suggests an alternative to our typical impressions. As Eric and Darren wound between the realms of childhood and adulthood, I realized that our cultural perception of “coming of age” is mostly a myth.

No specific event – one party, one kiss, one one-night-stand or even one summer makes you a grown-up.

Eric and Darren defend suburbia against space monsters even after they have had sex and done drugs, even after they are supposed to be “grown-ups.” This way in which D.C. Pierson intertwines the world of magic and fantasy with the world of skepticism and reality resonates due to its perceptive commentary on growing up.

We don't relinquish all things childish as adults.

Sure, I may not believe in Santa anymore, but I cling to child-like idealism and wonder in more subtle ways – my prayer for world peace and my awe at childbirth rather than my desire for toys or my wonder at the stars. By ensnaring this nuance, Pierson captures the awkward period of teenage transition in which no one really knows how they are supposed to behave.

He suggests that the world of grown-ups is not what kids think it will be. Especially for Eric and Darren, being an adult is more like reverting back to being a little kid – you have to almost believe in magic; everything else – the sex, drugs, parties etc. – become much less important.

The world is full of magic and adventure; you just have to keep your eyes open.

Fiction: It Happened in the Hub, a Northwestern Mystery

BY KEVIN WALLACE & JOSH DOORENBIOS
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

“Okay,” he dropped a stack of three books on the corner table of the Hub-at-N-Dub, “where do we begin?” She laughed at him, pulling out her red, single subject notebook.

“We well can start with coffee,” she reached into her back pocket for her student ID. “Or how about small talk?”

“Sorry,” he set down his pencil. “I don’t usually do that.”

“Coffee?”

“Small talk, I love coffee.”

She laughed at him again, “Well, James right?”

“Yeah.”

“Oh...”

“Let’s start with that.” Sheila led James to the counter.

Sheila. She was a beautiful piece of creation: tall and slender – not in an anorexic way, but athletic. Her long blond hair hung free, midway down her shoulder blades. When she smiled her high cheekbones tucked away a dimple on the left side of her face. James could only assume she has no intelligence to go with her looks. Why else would she pick him to partner-up for this Gen-Psych project?

James watched Sheila talk to the Hub worker, a Brunette named Audra who was apparently her roommate. They talked and laughed and Sheila ordered coffee. Audra told her she’d bring it out to her when it was ready, because she had other drinks to work on.

Sheila sat down and smiled a soft smile. “So, Where do you from?”

“When you ask?”

“From?”

“From Paris With Love”

“Yeah.”

“So you suppose you’re used to the smell.”

James gave a small grin, “What kid isn’t?”

“New York City doesn’t smell like this, not at all.”

“New York City? Wow, I never knew anyone from the Big Apple.”

Audra walked out from behind the counter and put Sheila’s coffee on the table. Sheila thanked her and she swiftly turned and was back to work behind the counter.

“Yeah, it’s weird being here in small-town Iowa. I bet my graduating class was bigger than the entire campus here! How big was your class?”

“I was homeschooled. So, one.”

“Homeschooled, eh?” Sheila opened her notebook to a blank page, “So am I the first girl you’ve ever talked to without your mother present?” Sheila gave a playful smile.

“Ha. And I guess your dad works for the mob, too, huh?”

Sheila laughed, “Yeah, of course, what else do we do in the Big Apple.” Sheila air-quoted. Her eyes twinkled a little as she took a drink of her coffee.

James stretched out his legs under the table, his foot brushing against her leg. He quickly pulled it back and quickly averted his gaze to look at his books.

‘Dangit. Come on James, you idiot, now she thinks you’re hitting on her.’ He looked up slowly.

Sheila wasn’t looking at James though. She had slipped the sleeve of the coffee down and was looking at her cup. She squinted and held the cup closer to her face, then, suddenly, terror covered her face. She dropped the cup and coffee spilled across the table. James jumped up and pushed his books off the table just as the coffee rushed towards him.

Sheila was grabbing her throat and gasping for air, coughing and kicking her legs as if she were trying to stand. She fell sideways out of her chair and spanned on the floor as Audra yelled out, “Call 911! Someone!”

Everyone was on their feet and gathered around, each terrified and helplessly staring as Sheila slowly stopped kicking and James stood back in shock.

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From Paris With Love

“Okay, let's hit the ground running, shall we?” Sheila said. She turned to face him, and he noticed that her brown eyes were sparkling with excitement. “We have a lot of work to do, and we don’t have much time.”

“Okay, let’s get started.”

“Fine. But first, we need to discuss our strategy.”

James nodded, “Okay.”

Sheila took a deep breath and began to talk. “We need to work on our script first. We have to come up with a story that will capture the audience’s attention.”

“Okay, I agree. But how do we do that?”

“Let’s start by reading the novel. We can get a sense of the characters and the plot.”

James nodded again, “Okay, let’s do that.”

With that, Sheila and James began to work on their script. They had a lot of work to do, but they were determined to make this project a success.

By the end of the week, they had a rough draft of their script. They were both happy with the results, and they knew that they would be able to make adjustments as they went along.

The next week, they worked on filming their scenes. They had a lot of fun, and they were able to capture the essence of the novel on camera.

Finally, the day arrived for them to debut their film. They were both nervous, but they were also excited to share their hard work with the audience.

The film was a huge success. It received rave reviews, and it became a hit in the film industry. Sheila and James went on to work on many other projects, but this was the one that started it all.

In conclusion, writing a script for a film is a challenging task, but it can also be a lot of fun. With hard work and dedication, anyone can achieve their dreams. This story is a testament to that. Sheila and James were able to turn their passion for writing into a successful career, and they are proof that anything is possible if you work hard enough for it.
Prepare to bElieve

BY ANDREW LOVGREN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Think of your favorite movie. Was it something that makes you laugh each time? Or perhaps it was something that scares you out of your seat, no matter how many times you see it? Or maybe you’re like me, where your favorite movies are those that leave their mark as you exit the theater, still pondering... are those that leave their mark as like me, where your favorite movies

Carnegie attempts to keep Eli in his town by using a young girl under his employ, Solar (Mila Kunis). And, once you get past seeing Jackie (That 70’s Show) and hearing Meg (Family Guy), Kunis plays a crucial and convincing supporting role.

This movie will turn some people off with its ‘R’ rating, for brutal violence and language. The movie does have some strong violence, but compared to most action films the violence is manageable with minimal gore, minus a few moments. The swearing is also evident, but surprisingly rare with roughly a baker’s dozen through the duration of the movie, used in an exclamation, rather than derogatory, manner.

The movie’s impact lies not in a single theme or statement, but can be gathered throughout the movie. Each person will likely take home his/her own unique lesson, different from the person next to them. This allows the viewer to relate to the movie and possibly enjoy, and learn from, a different aspect each time they watch.

The Book of Eli couples strong, emotional visual effects, brilliant acting and a compelling, thought-provoking story line to deliver a powerful film that you simply cannot see just once.

In the words of Eli, “There is always a choice.” Make the right one and see The Book of Eli.

If you like Sufjan Stevens or Iron and Wine, try The Mountain Goats: folkys religious exploration

BY SARAH KUGLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Life of the World to Come tells a story of faith without entrenching itself in a single religious ideology.

The Mountain Goats’ frontman John Darnielle identifies himself as religious, but he remains skeptical of institutionalized faith. Instead of forcing a specific dogma on the listener, Darnielle uses his songs to pursue ideas or ask questions. Each track, named for a passage from the Bible, follows concepts drawn from or inspired by that text.

Expressed in simple language, Darnielle’s words resonate because of their honesty. “I will do what you ask me to do / Because of how I feel about you,” he sings in “Genesis 30:3”. This simple language, however, does not imply simple subject matter. Even though listeners understand what he’s saying, The Life of the World to Come requires multiple listens and some contemplation. Pursuing complex, universal themes such as our search for home, for love, or for the afterlife in accessible language allows listeners across the spectrum of “religiousness” to ponder them. Darnielle seems interested in initiating a conversation rather than simply voicing his personal opinions. This approach appeals to me because, rather than limiting his audience through dogmatic rigidity, Darnielle uses the Bible as a platform from which he can speak to everyone.

Whether you view the Bible as a strict rule book or as just another piece of literature, The Life of the World to Come encourages you to ask questions and draw your own conclusions about faith.

Darnielle’s chameleon voice also enhances The Life of the World to Come. Sometimes nasal, sometimes rough, sometimes melodic, he characterizes each song through vocal variation. Often speaking in rhythm rather than singing, he also evokes a conversational tone. This sense of conversation comes through in the instrumentals also. Rather than complex instrumental layers, The Life of the World to Come usually features acoustic guitar, piano, and drums. However, a few songs incorporate other instruments to great effect.

Among these is “Psalm 40:2”, which uses electric guitars. A swirl of drums, vocals, and guitars drives its final line, in which Darnielle’s usually soft voice rises to a skittering wail. This emotional investment compels listeners to care as well, asks them to listen well and to think.

My favorite aspects of this album – the thought-provoking lyrics and Darnielle’s ever-transforming voice – hardly explain The Life of the World to Come. I feel unqualified to discuss other attributes, especially its musicality. My dad has a theory about music, though. He says: “If it sounds good, it is good.”

I don’t agree with him entirely, but, because I’ve found so much that I love in this album, somehow all the parts I don’t understand are less important. For now, I’m happy to listen and to ponder. The Life of the World to Come by The Mountain Goats lets me do this and reminds me that sometimes asking questions is more important than finding answers.
Men’s basketball falls to Dordt, trounces Mt. Marty

Seim and Miller contributed with two doubles and pulling down nine rebounds. Junior Becca Hurley scored 23 points and dished out six assists to lead the offensive effort. Sophomore Kami Kuhlmann and freshman Kendra Dejong each scored 12 points, while senior Randa Hulstein added 11 points and 11 rebounds for a double-double and dished out four assists.

NW improved their record to 20-3, 11-2 in the GPAC on Wednesday night with a win over Mt. Marty, 67-60. The Raiders shot 40 percent for the game, while the Lancers shot 36 percent. Four NW women scored in double figures: Hulstein had 17 points, Kuhlmann had 16, Hurley added 12 and Dejong scored ten. Hurley also added nine rebounds and five assists.

NW, who is rated fifth in the latest NAIA poll will travel to Blair, Neb. on Saturday to take on Dana College at 2 p.m.

Wrestlers finish third in the GPAC, defeat Briar Cliff

The Red Raider wrestling team scored 91.5 points last Saturday to take third place at the GPAC Wrestling Championships in Sioux City. Dana College was crowned conference champion with 136 points followed by Morningside with 99.

Northwestern also had three individual GPAC champions in seniors Levi Price and Brian Heibeinger and sophomore Nic Leither. Finishing with runner-up honors were freshman Jerod Flores, junior David Carter, and junior Brad Hughes. Freshman Luke Evjen added a third place finish for the Raiders.

The Raiders followed up their conference performance by defeating Briar Cliff 27-21. Carter and Hughes each recorded pins in 1:54 and 1:33, respectively. Freshman Nate Halpin won a 3-2 decision and the Chargers left two weight classes open to round out NW’s scoring.

On Saturday, the Raiders head back to Sioux City for the Briar Cliff Open at 9 a.m.

Two champions and a school record for track and field

Tough competition didn’t stop two Red Raiders from claiming victories in their respective events at the Minnesota State Open in Mankato, Minn. on Saturday.

Junior Charity Miles ran 18:34.1 in the 5000-meter run to win the race and provisionally qualify for nationals. Senior Kyle Sauter was the other champion, running the 60-meter hurdles in 8.38.

Sophomore Kara Den Herder also had a notable performance, setting the school record in the weight throw with 46’6.75”. She placed 11th in her event. Other top finishes came from juniors Jenna Sorensen, who placed eighth in the mile (5:31.5), Stacey Dietrich, who was ninth in the 60-meter hurdles (9.81), Breamn Rozeboom, who was tenth in the 5000-meter run (19:33.8), and Corrie Fausth, who placed tenth in the 600-meter run (1:42.1), along with freshman Jana Olson, who pole vaulted 9’2.5” to finish tenth.

On the men’s side, sophomore Mark Mineart cleared 5’11.75” in the high jump to capture ninth place. Freshman Adam Potter rounded out the top-ten finishers by running a 2:03.5 in the 800-meter run and placing tenth. The Raiders will compete next in the John Dalton Invite at the DakotaDome in Vermillion, S.D. on Saturday.

Profiles

Kyle Sauter

Kyle Sauter started his running career racing against cars with his twin brother. “Most of the time the car would win, but that did not stop us from trying to beat it.” From there came junior high track where he and his brother found they were faster than most of the older kids. Now, Sauter is a senior at Northwestern and still running on the Northwestern track team. He knew at a young age running and competing was something he loved and wanted to do for as long as he could.

Throughout his career, Sauter has always been a sprinter and hurdler. In high school, Sauter participated in four events: 110 meter hurdles, 4x400 meter relay, distance medley relay, and long jump. In college Sauter competes in the 60 meter hurdles, 55 meter dash, 400 meter hurdles, and 4x400 meter relay. Sauter is not only busy on the track, but also busy in the other aspects of his life.

Sauter juggles school and track, being a husband to his wife, Emily and also managing the Snap Fitness in Sioux Center. “I do not have a lot of free time,” says Sauter.

Sauter’s favorite track memories take place when he was a member of the Northwestern track team. “I will miss seeing my friends on the track team. They are a great group of people that love the sport as much as I do.” His words of wisdom for underclassmen would be to “make the time you have at college count, because it goes a lot faster than you think.”

Sauter is a senior Physical Education major with a concentration in Fitness Management. His post-graduation plans for right now are to continue working at Snap Fitness until God calls him elsewhere.