Opportunity to talk to different groups at tables set up in the theatre lobby. Students will be able to ask any questions they may have along with picking up any applications they may need, although not all positions require an application. Information will also be available that provides the due dates of the application, the interview, and the date for when notifications will be sent out saying whether you received the position or not.

Kim Case, director of Orientation Staff and Yearbook Staff, said that leadership is a huge part of NW. The NW mission statement speaks of a belief that “is the basis for a comprehensive integration of faith, learning and living that prepares students for lives of service to God and others.”

“Leadership should be servant leadership,” Case said.

Many experiences can be learned from being in a leadership position one wouldn’t normally have.

“I strongly encourage students to pursue leadership positions. It doesn’t hurt to try. Everybody brings different experiences to create their own type of leadership,” Case said.

Not only does a student get to interact with other students in the leadership positions, but gets a faculty or staff member to act as a sort of mentor.

Leadership Opportunity Night takes place once a year, so if you are not able to make the night, you can contact Jeff Guthmiller at extension 77143 for application forms and information.
President Obama’s America

By Derefe Chevannes

On January 20, 2009, Barack Hussein Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States of America. Importantly, Obama became the first African-American president in the nation’s history and is the first black person to lead a white majority country. This momentous occasion came almost 150 years after the emancipation of slaves and 50 years after the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. This is not only a memorable moment for people of color but also for people of the world.

With such a historic inauguration come some hefty expectations. President Obama is expected to cure an ill economy, to wash the feet and face of America and to keep the country safe from any or all domestic and international terrorism. History shall be the judge of the legacy of former Pres. George W. Bush, but we must all admit (whether fan or critic) that since 9/11 the country has been kept safe from terroristic elements. President Obama is expected to follow suit; any attack on American soil could very well mar his entire presidency.

However, where former Pres. Bush was remiss, Pres. Obama will be proactive, understanding that diplomacy can no longer be brushed to the sidelines but instead must become a crucial part of the White House’s international relations.

Arguably, as the most powerful leader of the free world, Pres. Obama’s sight is set no further than the borders of American soil, with the economy being the key issue of the day. Job creation and bailout stimulus packages will be top priorities as a result.

Some other immediate policy changes that Pres. Obama will seek to address include: ending the war in Iraq, closing Guantanamo, creating affordable healthcare, improving the education system and catering to environmental reforms. With a largely Democratic Congress and Senate, Republicans in both Houses become integral in striking a bi-partisan balance. Whatever the president’s solutions, we pray that his answers are right ones.

Often times I ask the question: how much of American politics will see the “change” that Pres. Obama so eloquently and passionately promises? Lest we forget, Pres. Obama is a politician and with that title we expect “more of the same.”

But then, what’s the cost of a little hope? What can we really lose if we completely hinge our support on President Obama, even if he wasn’t the recipient of our vote on election day? In this unstable economic climate, building bridges is far more important than widening divides.

We wait to see what Pres. Obama has up his sleeves. He’s a talented politician, a skilled orator, a shrewd individual and has an inspiring persona. With these impressive attributes, America should be in safe hands. Let us show our support by either poses our disagreements or offering our approvals.

Let time and history be the judge of an Obama presidency; it would be a cardinal sin to cast the final verdict before the trial began.

The Christian responsibility

By Jackie Knibbe

In response to the informant post entitled “MLK Jr. Day,” in which the author asks us if we took the time to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day. I feel it is fundamentally important to celebrate this day. Seeing the amazing performance “Daughters of Africa” on Tuesday night has not only greatly influenced my appreciation for the impact that King has made, but how African-American women shaped what our country is today.

Do I feel that observing MLK Jr. Day and reflecting on minority oppression is important? Certainly! Do I think that taking a day off and watching King’s speeches for MLK Jr. Day proves that we are responsible Christians “living by Jesus’ principles”? Not necessarily. I hope that as Christians we have not fallen into the temptation that works define our relationship with Christ. Throughout Christian history there have been heated discussions about works-based Christianity and faith-based Christianity.

To say that observing MLK Jr. Day is an act that adds definition to our Christian faith makes an unsubstantiated claim in regards to this ongoing discussion. If this were true, every Christian outside of the United States would have questionable principles, considering that no other country officially recognizes this uniquely American celebration.

I understand that the post’s author desired to raise awareness of the great impact King made on our country. We should remember and meditate on his speeches and ideals.

However, I do not judge those who did not take the time to reflect. “Christians living by Jesus’ principles” who do not take the time to meditate on MLK Jr. Day are not horrid Christians. To continue to go to class and learn about history, social justice, or even human anatomy on MLK Jr. Day only confirms the impact he has made. I think King would not have dreamed for us to take the day off and sleep in to remember him. He probably would have wanted us to continue to live in community while learning how to improve the future.

Jesus tells us in Luke 10:27 to love God first, and people secondly. If we took too much time to reflect on that simple statement, perhaps there wouldn’t be such a structure with race and oppressed persons. So, should we reflect about Martin Luther King, Jr.? Surely! However, Christians would be better off being judged by their strong commitments toward love and community than by their reflections on a nationally semi-observed holiday.

I wish the informant post had been put in a place where there would have been room for comments and possibly rebuttals. I think the use of the informant should remain “free form of advertising” and not a place for opinions. While I am a fan of opinions, especially ones I disagree with), good opinions leave room for disagreement. The Beacon is a place where students need, more opinions anyway, so help them out! Start and continue conversations in the Beacon.
Gran Torino poses a lesson in multiculturalism

BY GREG WHITE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Walt Kowalski, an auto worker whose wife has recently died, lives in a rotting neighborhood in Detroit. He is the last white person in a neighborhood now teaming with Hmong people. His sons murmur about moving the old man to a retirement community to keep him out of trouble.

Walt’s neighbors are a Hmong family with a adorable daughter, Su, and a timid son, Tao. Tao’s gangbanger cousins try to get him to join their gang, but Walt growls at the gang, but Walt growls at the gangbangers to “get off his lawn” as they look down the barrel of his Korean War carbine. Walt must allow Tao to culturally learn to coexist with his neighbors. Multiculturalism and community are hallmarks of Northwestern College, also we can draw many lessons from Walt. After the recent elections, the student body was indigently rebuked in chapel by Kevin McMahan because one of the international students was taunted for the color of their skin. This is no way to live in community. In Gran Torino, Walt has to learn to accept the fact that his neighbors are different. They come from foreign culture, but they still are able to teach him something about himself. He also has to learn to take initiative to gain understanding. Walt talking with Su and eating platefuls of Hmong food provide some of the more touching moments of reconciliation in the film. Sacrifice is vital to community. Walt’s iconic sacrifice solidifies his friends’ safety and happiness. Acceptance, initiative and sacrifice are fundamentals for community life.

Gran Torino is a story that should keep hopes of reconciliation afloat. Even with all the guns, profanity and racial slurs, it is a film that suggests that violence only escalates, but sacrifice brings true reconciliation.
From snowy Iowa roads to sandy Oman dunes
Winter weather delayed study abroad

BY KADY BRAM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Somewhere in Oman, amidst swimsuit-friendly temperatures, is a clear and beautiful pool of water. Nestled in a hidden canyon along a canyon wall, the pool sparkles under a waterfall that cascades into shimmering blue waves at the bottom.

Freeze that image.
Now transport your imaginary self from that paradise into associate professor of sociology Scott Monsma’s living room. Students that participated in the Christmas break study abroad program to Oman experienced both of these settings.

Their departure date was pushed back a few days due to canceled flights, so the 13 Northwestern students who went on the trip spent a little extra time getting to know each other before they left the United States for Oman. They played games and watched movies together, but were still understandably disappointed as their destination had been worth the wait.

Despite difficulties experienced in the beginning, everyone agreed that their destination had been worth the wait. Many students bemoaned the fact that the study abroad program had to be packed into such a short time frame.

“We only scratched the surface in our two weeks there,” senior Amanda Bracklein said. “I really wish I could have waited and gone on the semester study trip.”

Other than swimming in the cavern pool at Wadi Sheb, students also snorkied in the Indian Ocean, camped in the desert, explored the local marketplace and toured the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque. Despite being half a world away, they were still able to find some reminders of home.

“We attended a Christian worship service in Arabic that was held in Zwemer Hall,” said Monsma. “Yes, there is a Zwemer study abroad trip.”

Senior Amanda Bracklein, sophomore Jacquie Clark and senior Hannah Cunnane ride camels across the dunes of Oman on the winter study abroad trip.

Given the chance, many of the students that traveled to Oman over break would not hesitate to return someday.

“Twas life-changing,” Bracklein said of her short time there. “I see the Middle East in a completely different way, now. The people there are friendly and compassionate—I will never forget them.”

Among the beautiful sights, both natural and man-made, some of the best memories students recall from their trip are those that involve the people of Oman. Junior Laura Elder and senior Lindsay Squires spent one afternoon in the company of some Omani women and children.

“They were sitting on the side of the road by their homes. One woman was stitching some beautiful beadwork. The other was talking with her and looking after the kids,” said Elder. “We went and sat down with them to discover they knew little English. We spent the next hour or two sitting with these women. They were so open and loving and hospitable.”

Giving blood: a donation to patients or the blood bank?

BY KILEY SELIGMAN
FEATURES EDITOR

Each year donors give blood to help the more than 4.5 million patients who need blood transfusions. Yet, these goodwill donations are costing the patients and are sometimes making blood banks rich.

According to a ‘Philadelphia Inquirer’ article, “Each year, unknown to the people who give the blood, blood banks buy and sell more than a million pints from one another, shifting blood all over the country and generating an estimated $50 million in revenues.”

The Siouxland Blood Bank has contracts with 37 area hospitals in Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska.

“After blood is donated, it is brought back to the lab, then sold to hospitals to recoup our costs,” said Siouxland Blood Bank’s recruiting supervisor Cristy Van Beek. “Then hospitals sell to people who need blood.”

The prices hospitals charge varies. “It is based off of demand. Each hospital charges different prices,” Van Beek said.

The Siouxland Blood Bank is a non-profit organization. The money they receive only goes towards their costs. However, Van Beek said, “Some are for profit, it varies based on location.”

In Siouxland, “Hospitals only pay for units that are transfused,” she explained. If all of a hospital’s blood is not used, it is brought back to the blood bank. “Then we give it to a different hospital before it is dated. This keeps it cost efficient for the patient.”

Though some blood banks sell blood for profit, donors can never receive payment for their blood according to FDA regulations. The FDA only allows plasma to be sold in the United States. “We even have to be very careful with FDA regulations if we have contests or giveaways,” Van Beek said.

Other countries, such as China, pay donors for their blood.

January is Blood Donor Month and Siouxland Blood Bank will be on campus January 28 and 29 from 10a.m.-4p.m. Other countries, such as China, pay donors for their blood.

According to Van Beek, “Most blood banks in this area are non-profit.” However, next time you give blood, check to see if you are donating to keep costs efficient for a patient or if you’re making a blood bank rich.
Warm up this winter with one of Orange City’s coffee offerings

**FEATURES**

**NW group answered alum’s call for assistance**

**BY AMANDA KUEHN**

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In 2005 Hurricane Katrina displayed how devastating a natural disaster can be, killing nearly 2,000 people and changing the lives of millions. Northwestern responded by sending teams of students on Christmas Break service trips to help clean up the devastation.

Over the past three hurricanes have continued to hit hard and NW has responded in kind. This past Christmas break a team of 10 headed to Texas to assist with the aftermath of Hurricanes Rita (2005) and Ike (Sept. 2008).

The trip, which took place January 4 through 12, was initiated by a call from a NW alum in the Houston/Galveston area who expressed the need for assistance. AmeriCorps volunteer Brittany Caffey orchestrated the trip and was accompanied by instructor in nursing, Deb Bomgaars; freshman Ashley Evans, senior Cassie Klitzke, junior Lindsey Peters, freshman Kristin Trease, junior Chelsey Ulfers, sophomore Dan Unekis, professor of history Mike Kugler and MOC-Floyd Valley senior Sarah Kugler.

The team stayed at St. Andrew’s United Methodist Church in Beaumont and worked on three houses in the surrounding area.

The first two days of the trip they journeyed to nearby Bridge City where Hurricane Ike hit all but 14 homes. There they joined forces with a team of six from a Presbyterian church in Phoenix. Together the teams picked up where other volunteers left off and went to work mudding and taping a house in preparation for drywall.

NW’s other work sites were a little closer to their home base in Beaumont. At the first of these sites the team tested their reconstructive skills, using plywood and shingles to patch up a roof that had been damaged by a fallen tree. Fueled by enthusiasm, they finished the job in a single day.

The group spent two and a half days removing and replacing shingles and felt paper at their final site. Though the work they could accomplish was limited by the length of their stay, the group was happy to make a difference. “I am grateful for how hard the students worked and how cheerful they were even when roofing was new, difficult and tiring,” remarked Mike Kugler. “They were a lovely and generous group.”

In addition to their hard work, Kugler also appreciated the team’s sense of humor and the inside jokes and bonding moments they shared. “Dan and I told Chelsey that the ghost of a small, dark-haired boy—Beetle—haunted the bathrooms of the church where we stayed in Beaumont,” he recalled. “Beetle became the cause of every strange or irritating event that occurred that week. Chelsey was really frightened when we mentioned Beetle; she would cover her ears and sing until we stopped.”

For others, the personal interaction is what really made the trip. Caffey reported that getting to see how the team’s work positively affected the homeowners was truly a blessing. “They all seemed very grateful as they looked at the work accomplished,” she said. “Many hugs and tearful thanks came our way, which was beautiful and very rewarding.”

Caffey also mentioned the team’s interactions with members of the church at which they stayed. “The last night in Beaumont we had a dinner at the pastor’s house and people came and shared with us about Hurricane Ike and the damage done. They encouraged us to spread the word that work is still needed in Texas as well as New Orleans.”

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Sports

Volleyball advances to NAIA national quarterfinals for second straight year

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT
SPORTS EDITOR

Northwestern advanced to the quarterfinal round of the NAIA national volleyball tournament for the second year in a row, finishing the season with a 30-9 record. Reflecting on the season, junior Randa Hulstein said, “We had really good team chemistry. It was nice coming to practice every day knowing that everyone was working hard toward the same goals.” Her sister freshman Rylee Hulstein added, “I think that our biggest strength was that we all got along and enjoyed our time on and off the court together. I really enjoyed my first season with all the people I got to play with.”

NW 3, Olivet Nazarene 0

The Tigers grabbed an early lead over the Raiders in the first three sets of the opening round of the national tournament, but NW battled back to win all three, with scores of 25-17, 25-23 and 26-24.

The Raiders outhit the Tigers 27 to 126 in the match. Sophomore Hillary Hanno had 17 kills and hit .275 to lead NW. Randa Hulstein added nine kills, two blocks and 12 digs, while Rylee Hulstein added six hits. Sophomore Kaiflin Beaver lofted up 40 assists and had one ace serve; Junior Kristin Kooima added three ace serves and junior Janna Bloemendaal added 11 digs.

NW 3, Walsh 2

The Raiders won in a nail-biting five-game match over Walsh after coming back from a 0-2 deficit, securing their place in the top 12 single elimination tournament.

Walsh took the first two sets with a score of 25-19 in both. NW fought back and took the third set, 25-12. The fourth set was closer, as the Raiders won 25-20 before taking the fifth set 15-11. Randa Hulstein led NW with 22 kills and six blocks. Hanno had 15 kills, while Buyert added 11 kills and four blocks.

NW 0, Concordia 3

Third-ranked Concordia (CA) defeated NW in three games in the final round of pool play with game scores of 25-22, 25-11 and 25-17.

Concordia hit .262 for the match while the Raiders hit .084. Rylee Hulstein had eight kills and ten digs, while Hanno added seven kills. Randa Hulstein had five kills, five blocks and six digs while Beaver lofted up 21 assists and had three digs.

NW 3, Bellevue 1

NW advanced to the quarterfinal round of the national tournament for the second straight year with a 3-1 close win over fourth-seeded Bellevue.

The teams battled back and forth in the first set, which featured five lead changes and 13 ties, including a tie at 23 before the Raiders scored two to take the set 25-23.

NW took an 18-10 lead in the second set until Bellevue battled back and closed the gap to 20-17. The Raiders recovered to finish with another win, 25-20.

The third set was also very close, with ten ties, but the Bruins pulled away and then held off a potential NW comeback to take the third set 25-23. The Raiders took control right away in the fourth set, taking a 7-2 lead and rolling to a 25-13 victory to win the match.

Hanno excelled with 28 kills, hitting .433 and adding one block and one ace serve. Randa Hulstein contributed 17 kills, seven blocks and 16 digs, hitting .366. Rylee Hulstein added 11 kills, 19 digs and four blocks, while Buyert had eight kills and four blocks. Beaver also had an impressive game, lofting up 61 assists and adding three kills, two blocks and 13 digs. Bloemendaal chipped in with 11 digs.

NW 0, Biola 3

The tenth-ranked Raiders lost to second-ranked Biola, Calif. in the quarterfinals of the national tournament to end their run. Game scores were 25-18, 25-14 and 25-17.

NW was tied with Biola at ten in the first set and grabbed a 13-11 lead before the Eagles went on a 5-0 run to take the lead and kept it for the rest of the set.

The Raiders had an early lead in the second set until Biola went on an 11-3 run to pull ahead and take another set.

NW jumped to an early lead in the third set but Biola rallied and stole the lead. The Raiders were within two, 16-18, before Biola scored seven of the next eight points to win the match.

The Eagles held NW to .093 while hitting .354 in the match. Hanno had nine kills and Rylee Hulstein added eight to lead the Raider attack. Randa Hulstein added four kills and Buyert had four blocks. Bloemendaal had 13 digs and Beaver lofted up 26 assists.

Beaver is grateful for the opportunities that volleyball has given the team to show their faith with others. “Our passion for the game and glorifying God with the talents that he has given us have been some of our biggest strengths this season. Even at the national tournament people came up to us and said there was something different and special about the way we played. “We play to glorify God with our gifts and truly enjoy each other and what we are doing. In that way it is a great way to minister to the fans even if we do not actually talk to them.”

The Raiders, who return 20 of 22 players next year “are going to work on getting stronger and overall just to continuing to improve,” said Hanno. “I can’t wait for next year!”

Postseason Honors

Three Red Raiders were named All-Americans for the 2008 volleyball season.

Middle hitter Randa Hulstein, who earned first-team honors, averaged 3.45 kills per set and hit .311 to lead NW. Hulstein, the GPAC player-of-the-year, averaged 1.3 blocks and 3.1 digs per set, along with hitting 31 ace serves. She was also named the player-of-the-year for the West Central region by the AVCA.

Beaver earned third-team honors, averaging 8.3 assists, 1.1 kills and 2.1 digs per set. She also tallied 79 blocks and 53 ace serves for the season. Beaver was named to the first team all-GPAC for the second year and was picked for the all-region team by the AVCA.

Hanno was named honorable mention All-American after having 3.7 kills per set and hitting .266 in the 2008 season. She served 90 percent and had 30 aces, along with 58 blocks and an average of 2.3 digs per set. Hanno stepped it up at the national tournament to hit 4.9 kills per set, the second highest in the tournament, to earn a spot on the national all-tournament team. She was also named to the all-region team by the AVCA.

Senior Kayla DeGeest and junior Delainey Harderson were named NAIA Scholar athletes. Scholar athletes, who are nominated by each college’s head coach, must maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA and achieve junior status to be eligible for the award. Both students are elementary education majors.

Head Coach Kyle Van Den Bosch also received postseason honors and he was named the West-Central Region Coach-of-the-Year by the AVCA.

Sports

Five game winning-streak for men’s basketball

BY CAMERON CARLOW
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“You can get beat every night,” said men’s basketball head coach Kris Korver going into the game against Mount Marty. Northwestern, however, managed to put up a 79-57 victory to win their fifth straight game on Wednesday night.

NW 79, Briar Cliff 62

Briar Cliff, who was looking to continue on its nine game win streak, jumped out to an early 7-0 start last Wednesday, but the Raiders battled back to have a 39-29 lead at halftime.

Senior Kale Wiertzema put up 10 points for NW, along with 10 points each from junior Michael Jiskoot, freshman Alex Huiskens and junior Brent Dunkelberger.

“We had great team play and close to 20 points off our bench,” Korver said.

The team also had great post play and won the free throw and rebounding battle.

The team shot 52 percent from the field while handing Briar Cliff its fourth loss of the year and second in the GPAC.

NW 79, Mount Marty 57

The Raiders followed that performance by shooting 49 percent against Mount Marty.

“You can’t always control how you will shoot and how well you control the ball,” Korver said. “We just have to trust each other.”

The Raiders extended their record to 12-7 overall and 7-2 in the GPAC with the victory over Mount Marty. Dunkelberger scored 25 points and pulled in six rebounds. Wiertzema put up 10 points. In just 15 minutes of playing time, Jiskoot was able to put up some impressive numbers with eight points, five rebounds, adding a career-high five assists. Every NW player saw the court in the second half and 11 scored points.

The Raiders are looking to continue the rest of the season and make their 11th straight National Tournament. “Nothing is going to be given to us or easy,” Korver said. “We just need to take care of our own business.”

The Raiders will continue basketball action next week with a game at 4 p.m. at Nebraska Wesleyan on Jan. 24 and at Dordt on Jan. 28 at 8 p.m.
By Heidi Hildebrandt

Wrestlers improve at National Duels

BY CAMERON CARLOW

The Northwestern wrestling team competed in the National Duels on Jan. 10 and in a dual at Briar Cliff on Jan. 20. After losing their first two matches in the National Duels, the Raiders had a revelation.

“It was a turning point for our season,” said head coach Rik Dahl. “We started off 0-2 and it was frustrating but I was pleased with how we wrestled in the end.”

After falling 3-40 to Great Falls, NW traveled to Vermillion, S.D., last Saturday to kick off their indoor track season at the John Dalton Invitational. Northwestern started well, as two athletes met the national provisional qualifying mark, another broke the school record and 23 Raiders placed in the top ten.

“We competed well and had some good start of the season performances, commented Coach Nate Wolf. “This is a great group of athletes to work with. They work hard and because of that we should have a good year ahead of us.”

Senior Tom Eaton finished 2-1 in the national duels on Jan. 10. Eaton wrestles for NW against the University of Sioux Falls earlier this season. Eaton added six more points for the Raiders to end the night with a 14.96 meters to win the event. He also placed seventh in the weight throw with 13.12 meters. Junior Kyle Sauter placed second in the 60 meter hurdles with 8.54. Junior Lee Stover ran a 2:45.31 in the 100 meter run to place sixth and sophomore Jordan Langer ran to seventh place in the 60 meter dash with 7.33. Senior Ben Brown added an eighth place finish in the 400 meter dash with 53.07. Freshman Adam Verhoef and junior Nathan Lichter finished the 1000 meter run in ninth and tenth place, running 2:54.52 and 2:59.85, respectively. Junior Luke Hofmeyer and sophomore Nick Bray each added tenth place finishes. Bray ran 2:57.1 in the 800 meter run and Hofmeyer ran 23.84 in the 200 meter dash.

Midland Lutheran Half-Marathon

Six Red Raider athletes competed in a half-marathon in Fremont, Neb. on Dec. 6. The race was a qualifying event for the outdoor national marathon on May 21-23, and all four NW women met the standard. Leading the way and qualifying automatically was sophomore Stephanie Powell, who finished sixth overall with a time of 1:30:19. Powell was closely followed by sophomore Breann Rozeboom, who placed ninth with 1:30:23 and Carlson, who placed ninth with 1:30:29. Junior Angela Wiggins met the provisional qualifying mark, running a time of 1:34:27.

Two men from NW also competed in the half-marathon. Seniors Ryan Dembeck and Jack Peterson ran together, placing 35th and 36th, respectively.

A small group of athletes will compete in the 5K race at the Graphic Edge Open in Vermillion, S.D. on Saturday. The rest of the team will resume competition on Saturday, Jan. 31 at the Buena Vista Open in Storm Lake.

Track teams compete at USD; Miles, Ogden meet national provisional qualifying mark

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT

The Red Raider track team traveled to Vermillion, S.D., last Saturday to kick off their indoor track season at the John Dalton Invitational. Northwestern recorded a 69-60 win over Mt. Marty in the GPAC women’s basketball played in Yankton, S.D. this past Wednesday evening. The fifth-ranked Raiders improved to 8-1 in the GPAC, 14-5 overall.

NW 69, Mt. Marty 60

During the first game of the Raider three-game road trip, the Raiders struggled for control, which included seven ties and four lead changes. The Raiders quickly trailed behind the Lancers in the second half. Sophomore Becca Hurley, junior Anna Anderson and freshman Kами Kuhlmann each scored five points to regain a Raider lead, helping to seal the final win.

“‘This team has really developed a great team dynamic,’” said Head Coach Earl Woudstra. “‘This is one of the most unselfish teams I have ever had the opportunity to coach. Road games make you a little bit tougher, without a lot of fan support you really need to learn to depend on each other. For a really young team, I am impressed with the way we have played on the road so far this season.”

NW 78, Briar Cliff 71

At last week’s win over Briar Cliff, the Raiders began strong, never allowing BCU to control the board during the first half. The second half brought the first BCU lead. Freshmen Katie Niewoyna was able to put the Raiders back on the leading path. The last 20 seconds

Men’s Track

The Raider men also had a provisional qualifier, as sophomore Logan Ogden threw the shot-put 14.96 meters to win the event. He also placed seventh in the weight throw with 13.12 meters. Junior Kyle Sauter placed second in the 60 meter hurdles with 8.54. Junior Lee Stover ran a 2:45.31 in the 100 meter run to place sixth and sophomore Jordan Langer ran to seventh place in the 60 meter dash with 7.33. Senior Ben Brown added an eighth place finish in the 400 meter dash with 53.07. Freshman Adam Verhoef and junior Nathan Lichter finished the 1000 meter run in ninth and tenth place, running 2:54.52 and 2:59.85, respectively. Junior Luke Hofmeyer and sophomore Nick Bray each added tenth place finishes. Bray ran 2:57.1 in the 800 meter run and Hofmeyer ran 23.84 in the 200 meter dash.

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Photo: JENNI SYBESMA

Sophomore Kristin Neth handles the ball against Briar Cliff defenders last week.
Spidahl without pretense: senior art show on display

BY TEDI SWANSON
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Following the exhibition of senior Jason Sithhideth, senior Kristin Spidahl will have her artwork displayed for her senior art show in the Te Paske Gallery, located in the Korver Visual Arts Center, from Jan. 24 through Jan. 30.

Senior art shows are part of the requirements for the completion of a B.A. in Art at Northwestern. Each student prepares art for a week-long exhibition in the Te Paske Gallery.

Spidahl’s theme, Without Pretense, is a “statement about the complexity of individuals,” said Spidahl, “there is so much we miss if we quickly make assumptions.” According to Spidahl, part of her art is to encourage people to see beyond the surface level of a person. People are one of the major inspirations for her work.

“I find it very engaging to experiment with new materials and find creative ways to express ideas, feelings or evoke an emotion through a visual source,” said Spidahl. She says that with experience comes appreciation and the realization of the time and difficulties that go hand in hand with a finished project.

Spidahl’s exhibition consists of functional ceramics, portraits done as prints, oil and acrylic paintings and charcoal and oil pastel drawings. Spidahl has been preparing for her art show her entire college career, as some of the pieces displayed were created in various NW classes.

NW staff explains declining enrollment

BY LEANN JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

The halls and dormitories of Northwestern may seem a little emptier this semester due to the number of students who left NW for Christmas break and did not return for the second semester.

Currently, NW has 1,132 students, which is a 7.6 percent loss from the 1,225 students who attended NW last year and a 0.8 percent increase from the 2006-2007 school year.

Pinpointing the exact reasons why students leave is difficult to do, but Charlie Couch, director of institutional research, said, “The primary reason campus feels smaller is because of the two smaller freshmen classes the last two years.”

Couch also pointed out that NW had 48 students graduate at semester, which is about ten more than average. As the number of freshmen who come in to NW with college credit continues to grow, Couch believes this will have a “profound effect” on the number of students who will be able to graduate early, which in turn affects the retention rate from the fall to spring semester.

As for the effect that the lower number of students has on NW, Truesdell said the college is making sure tuition does not rise. Instead, NW is making budget cuts and increasing its fundraising.

Due to the struggling economy and NW’s desire to help students with financial aid, Financial Services and NW’s desire to help students with financial aid is also making changes to the way merit-based scholarships are given out so that students have the opportunity to receive more money than the normal amount allotted to certain scholarship earners.

On the positive side, Truesdell is confident that students are not leaving NW due to a lack of academic support. In fact, despite the lower number of students on campus, Tutoring Services is just as busy as ever.

“There’s always been a strong tradition of tutoring at NW,” said Truesdell. “We’re not a remedial center, and our center is successful because we help students at all levels.”

In response to the lower number of students on campus, Truesdell said NW’s Enrollment Management Team is concentrating on “being efficient and effective in admissions” to help prospective students see if NW is the fit for them. They are also looking for ways to improve the retention rate.

Currently they are “in the process of coming up with a more effective system that can track why students leave NW early. We want to retain students for their benefit and from an institutional standpoint.”

Check out this week’s theme, Obama’s Inauguration, on the new photo essay at http://beacon.nwciowa.edu

Next Week’s Theme: Dressing for the Weather

Ice skating into a New Year

BY SARA CURRY
CONTRIBUTOR

To kick-off the new semester the International Club will be hosting an ice skating party. Originally scheduled for Friday, Jan 24, it will now occur next Friday, Jan 30, in Sioux City. According to Jason Ho, the president of I-club, this party serves as an opportunity for students to come together after Christmas break.

“This party is designed for students to have fun together with friends and share about what they did over break,” said Ho.

After hosting the International dance party last semester, I-Club hopes to open the spring semester with a bang. I held annually for the past eight years, this event provides a great opportunity for students to meet new people in a fun environment. It also offers a positive cultural experience for students. With over 100 students involved in I-Club, students can learn a great deal about cultural differences around the world.

“I’ve been excited for American students to get to know International students on campus, and the opposite as well,” said Ho.

By hosting this event, Ho hopes to show that International students are interested in including rather than excluding themselves from the rest of the student body.

“We don’t want to be seen as just close-minded International students,” said Ho.

Christine Ann Roy, a freshman 1-clubmember from Bahrain, is also very excited for this event and its benefits for campus.

“With the help of these events,” said Roy, “even we as the minority feel more comfortable and welcomed if everyone comes.”

Due to scheduling conflicts, the ice skating party has been moved and is now planned to the IBP Ice Center next Friday. Costs include 5 dollars for admission and 2 dollars for skate rentals. Rides to Sioux City will be available and will be leaving from the RSC at 6:30 p.m. Any students interested in attending please RSVP with Jason Ho.