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Beacon Staff

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NW alumnus experiences earthquake firsthand

BY CAMERON CARLOW

As the earthquake rolled through Haiti it damaged many things, but in the midst of it all, the devastation managed to strengthen Orange City’s community as well as Northwestern’s.

In the middle of it all
Nathan Blunck, a 2007 NW alumnus, was in Haiti during the time of the earthquake. He was part of a group helping at All God’s Children Orphanage and a deaf school in Fedja, a small town 26 miles northwest of Port-au-Prince and 40 miles from the epicenter.

After the earthquake had finished, not knowing the extent of the damage, the team gathered around a table with the Haitian translators.

“As the story was being read out loud, you could see the Haitian’s heads sink lower and lower, their hearts breaking a little more with each sentence read,” Blunck said. “To see those with us broken and unsure of what to do next was hard to bear.”

Driving to the embassy in Port-au-Prince, Blunck saw it magnified in terms of the number of people affected and the intensity of the emotion.

“We’re from Iowa; we train for tornadoes, not earthquakes,” Blunck said.

When watching people trying to get help, Blunck saw there were no lines, just mobs of people pushing to be at the front so they could be first.

“We asked a doctor walking through the rooms if he could help. See “Haitian aftershocks” on pg. 5.

Budget cuts lead to faculty, staff lay-offs

BY LEANN JOHNSON

Last November, Northwestern’s administration announced that based on the budget projection for the 2010-11 school year, NW will have a $3 million revenue shortfall. To prevent such a deficit from occurring, budget cuts—including faculty and staff lay-offs and program eliminations—will be enforced during the next fiscal year starting July 1, 2010.

President Greg Christy said he informed the faculty and staff last November that due to the projected deficit, the budget cuts for next year would have to affect personnel and not just operational budgets. Since then, the administration has been trying to decide where these cuts should take place.

“We worked on this for a few months. This is something that’s taken a lot of time and energy,” Christy said. “Because we’re dealing with people’s lives and livelihoods, we wanted to spend a lot of time and a lot of prayer to ensure that we’re making the best decisions we can for the institution.”

The Administrative Council, along with input from the Strategic Planning Committee, Dean’s Council and Budget Committee, made the budget cut decisions. Where possible, they also visited with department and division heads to hear their input.

“We tried to make the best decisions we could by involving as many people as we could in the process,” Christy said.

Personnel Cuts

Based on the administration’s findings, they decided to eliminate the position of two full-time faculty members, two adjunct faculty members, seven full-time staff members, and three part-time staff members. In addition, three faculty positions that are currently vacant will not be filled, and a staff position that will open due to a retirement will not be filled. Also, eight staff positions will be reduced from either full-time to three-quarters time or from three-quarters time to half time. Out of respect and sensitivity to the faculty and staff involved in the lay-offs, Christy chose not to release their names.

Regarding the lay-offs, Christy said, “This is a very painful thing to have to do. We have so many great people here, and these people that are going to be leaving us are people that we value and care about, so that makes it especially difficult.”

Christy said that they decided to let the laid-off and reduced-time personnel know about these changes six months in advance so they can hopefully either find new employment with NW’s help or prepare for fewer hours.

One reason Christy gave for the $3 million deficit is that while student enrollment has been down the last couple of years, the number of faculty and staff is at the highest it has ever been.

“We’ve always wanted to be between 14-to-1 and 16-to-1 in the See “Tough choices” on pg. 2.

New law has students seeing white screens

BY MEAGAN MCDOUGALL

The week after Christmas break, many Northwestern students woke up, showered and turned on their computers to check their favorite Web sites, only to get a plain white screen that said “Access Denied.” Web sites like UrbanDictionary, CollegeHumor, FMylife and TextsFromLastNight, some of the most popular Web sites for college students in the United States, are being blocked as the college tries out a new filter.

While NW has always considered what was and was not blocked on its network, federal law now requires it to regulate its network. All college campuses must block Peer-to-Peer (P2P) file sharing in their networks. P2P software is what enables the illegal sharing of music and media. NW’s network does not completely put a stop to this file-sharing, and thus they are required by law to install a new filter.

“We have to have something in place,” Harlan Jorgenson, director of Computing Services, said. “We have to try to be as frugal as possible, but also choose what takes the least amount of administration on our part.”

However, the lack of administration has led to the extensive Web site blocking recently put in place. With the new filter, each Web site is put into a category, and the school has the ability to block categories that are seen as inappropriate.

“There are new Web sites every day,” Jorgenson said. “There is no way to block every one. Many students disagree with how intensely the blocking has increased.

“I understand that we are at a Christian college, but there is no reason why we can’t be teenagers at the same time,” sophomore Adam Liker said. “With the world we live in, it’s not like they are going to stop us from doing things, like swearing, by blocking these Web sites.”

Despite the fact that students have complained about recent Web site restrictions, as of last Friday, not one student had called the help desk to ask for a Web site to be unblocked.

“Call and ask for a Web site if you’re concerned,” Jorgenson said. He also suggested a group be formed consisting of a few faculty, staff and students who could be in charge of making Web site blocking decisions so that Websites that students feel should be allowed can be discussed.

The filter won’t be made permanent until July, but for now students should either seek entertainment elsewhere or start asking for special Web site allowances.
Tough choices impact students

CONT. FROM PG. 1

student-to-faculty ratio. Before making these decisions, we had actually fallen below 14-to-1,” Christy said.

As for deciding where to make the cuts, Christy said, “We’ve tried to make the cuts in areas where maybe we’ve had more growth in recent years and where there are other staff persons who hopefully can pick up some of the responsibilities of those who are leaving.”

Impact on Students

Although the administration’s goal was to make cuts in the areas where it would have the least impact possible on students, they recognize that some students will be more affected by the personnel cuts than others.

Effects from the cuts include the elimination of the Cinema & Digital Video major and the French minor. Adrienne Forgette, Dean of Faculty, has met with almost all of the students majoring in Cinema & Digital Video to figure out plans for them to finish their major at NW if they are close to graduating or to find ways where they can finish up here and with some other institutions if necessary.

Freshman Kaiserman DeKam is one student who is directly impacted by the program cut. He came to NW specifically for its Cinema & Digital Video major. The program being cut “definitely changes the probability of me graduating at NW because without my major, there’s no reason to stay here,” DeKam said.

Student Development will also see some changes due to personnel cuts. The orientation program will be put under different Student Development leadership, and the responsibility of the yearbook will possibly be moved from being under the auspices of Student Development. Also, the RD position for Heemstra Hall is being eliminated for next school year.

“We are reducing our RD staff by one because we can house the Heemstra students in other residence halls for next year until the new residence facility is built,” Christy said. He also said that they will look into hiring an RD for the new facility after next school year.

Financial plans

Besides the personnel cuts, the administration also cut $50,000 from both the athletics and global education departments, and they adjusted operational funds.

“I’ve asked senior level administrators, including myself, to take a pay cut for this next fiscal year,” Christy said. “We’re doing that to try to save money on the budget as well.”

In total, $2.4 million dollars have been cut from next year’s budget. The administration hopes that increasing NW’s revenue will fill the remaining $600,000 deficit.

“In spite of these very difficult present challenges, the future for the college is bright.”

- President Christy

One way they are doing this is by increasing the NW Fund by 25% and by improving the student enrollment & retention numbers. Christy said that this year NW had its highest retention rate in five years and signs are pointing to a strong enrollment this coming fall.

“There are better days ahead. In spite of these very difficult present challenges, the future for the college is bright, and that’s what we look forward to,” Christy said. “But in the meantime we still have heavy hearts for those persons whose positions have been directly impacted.”

Christy also mentioned the graciousness and professionalism of the people who have lost their jobs. “I just appreciate every one of them and what they’ve done for the institution. We will help them in any way that we can,” Christy said. “Together we will get through this.”

Obama gives hopeful message

In his commitment to push for healthcare overhaul despite several political roadblocks that hindered the momentum of that agenda, Obama once again pledged his renewed commitment to ending the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” saying, “This year, I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are.”

The president also spoke to the issue of educational affordability. He argued that his administration will fight to increase Pell Grants to college students and “give families a $10,000 tax credit for four years of college.”

The president appears to have hit the right notes: economy, middle-class angst, contrition, etc. With a declining approval rating, Obama aims to rekindle the ever-hopeful American public. He wants to an increasingly skeptical, yet ever-hopeful American public.
The Right to Reason: Gay Marriage

Persuading with Pros...

BY HANNAH WATTERS

On April 3, 2009, Iowa became the third state allowing same-sex couples to wed. Despite a common disenchantment with the seemingly few attractions the state offers, its progressiveness on social issues should influence our fondness of a place some at Northwestern call home. Iowa was among the first states to legalize interracial marriages, as well as being a leader in school desegregation and allowing married women to own property.

Six same-sex couples challenged the Iowa legislatures’ amendment in 1998 that restricted marriage to a union between a man and woman. The plaintiffs argued that such a restriction was unconstitutional, because it “violates certain liberty and equality rights under the Iowa Constitution.”

A civil marriage institutes 1400 legal rights and responsibilities including: visitation and custodial rights to children, access to “family-only” services, joint adoption and foster care, tax benefits, and some 1390 more rights. According to Iowa’s Bill of Rights, equal protection under the law is an individual right that the government must uphold. Thus, at the heart of the same-sex marriage debate is the question, “How can a state premised on the constitutional principle of equal protection justify exclusion of a class of Iowans from civil marriage?”

It is necessary to recognize that the issue of same-sex marriage is not whether homosexuality is a sin, but whether it is unconstitutional to exempt a marginalized population from civil marriage. The state has not been instituted to make moral judgments, but to uphold peace, justice, order, and liberty for all people, regardless of their lifestyle and worldview. Allowing same-sex marriages does not desecrate the institution, but recognizes marriage as more reflective of the constitutional principle of equality for all people.

Beyond issues of morality, other objections raised included issues with procreation. Because same-sex couples are not able to reproduce, some argue that they should not be allowed to marry. As an adoptive child, I am not the product of my parents’ procreation, but I strongly believe that my lack of shared genes does not nullify their marriage.

Further, many heterosexual couples choose to not have children or are unable to have children, yet the state does not require heterosexual couples to produce offspring in order to get married, or even concern themselves with such matters.

Another argument questions the parenting abilities of same-sex parents. Extensive research conducted by the American Psychiatric Association, the National Association of Social Workers, and the Child Welfare League of America concluded that there is no difference between same-sex parents and heterosexual parents in their effectiveness in raising children.

Unless we abandon the constitutional principles of equal treatment for all people, it is imperative to allow same-sex couples their statutory right to wed.

Convincing with Cons...

BY BRETT BUSCH

Have you ever been stumped as to why God has not opened the floodgates of his power through your campus, your church or yourself while you were deliberately seeking his face day after day? I have. I have wondered why the Lord has not done more through my church, campus, and self. I believe Isaiah 58 and Romans 14 offer a diagnosis and a cure that will shed light and love on desperate souls.

How many Christians at NW have frowned upon people who are homosexual, people who support homosexual relationships, or people with social stigmas (smokers, drug abusers, alcoholics and flamboyant dressers, people with a strut walk, etc.) due to our conservative, rural American upbringing? I believe our frowns are trapping the light of Christ that could convert a complainer and not reflect the Christian teaching to love thy neighbor.

Now, I am asking you to take an honest evaluation of yourself. Consider your potential actions in the following scenarios. A harmless man with a skin-tight t-shirt, suffocating boot-cut jeans and limp wrist, appears lost and distressed in an area you are familiar with. Or, how would you react if you were passing by a political campaign rally and a person opposing your view of gay marriage boldly approached you and began questioning you? How would you have reacted in these situations? Personally, I would have turned a blind eye to the man who was lost and then gotten defensive with the person campaigning.

Did you come up with similar results? We have no need to panic, for the power of Christ’s blood can cover this shortcoming. However, Isaiah 58:6-7 has not awoken us to feed the starving soul of a homosexual, put a roof over the heavy head of a wandering drug addict, or illuminate the dark path of a lost crook when we mistreat these people. Not to be dismayed, Christ has offered a beautiful model of loving a person with a social stigma with the story of the woman by the well in John 4. Even though he knew her past, Jesus proceeded to offer her water that would never run out; the water of eternal life.

Those of us who have been accusing or judging those who oppose your view on gay marriage must ease tension, end judging the other opinion or our light will be diminished; love those who oppose your view, and trust that God’s truth will prevail (Romans 14:2-3). Christians, on either side of the gay marriage debate, can we pick up the stumbling block of bickering, judging and accusing and agree to disagree while seeking the truth in love on this pointed issue for those outside of the Christian faith? When we do “your light will break forth like the dawn and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard” Isaiah 58:8.

From the Strip

Looking Forward to Getting Old

BY HOLLY LAWRENCE

In class today, I zoned out for a moment thinking about how I will be 80 years old in the year 2070. That’s a long ways away from now! I have so much life ahead of me. I used to think that since I’m almost 20 years old, I’m running out of time to do everything I want. Everyone always says that the college years are the best years of your life, but I realized today that there is still so much I get to experience; every stage of life has something unique and exciting to offer me.

Sure, college is the time for discovering who you are while having the time of your life and meeting new people, but in your 20’s you get to start a career and focus on yourself and what you want out of life. Maybe even find that special someone and find out what it really means to be in love.

In your 30’s, you’re settled in your career (and maybe even in marriage), and hangin’ with your buddies hosting parties and flying out to exotic locales with each other. Hopefully by now you’ve moved out of your basement apartment.

And then there are your 40’s! You’re over the hill; hopefully your career and marriage are going the way you want them to. You can always “blame it on the menopause,” sing along with elevator music, there’s nothing left to learn “the hard way”, and think about it: in a hostage situation, you’re most likely to be released first.

In your 50’s, you can use “midlife crisis” as an excuse to go out and buy extravagant cars, you have more life experience, you get better at crosswords, and you look so much wiser with grey hair. High school reunions are more fun, you have an excuse to be rude to your busboy at restaurants, you find out who your real friends are, Margarita Monday never sounded better, and “getting lucky” means you found your car in the parking lot.

You’re going on 60+ years now, the kids are out of your hair, and you’ve gone through so much already that you’re not afraid to take others’ advice (or dish it out yourself). Your eyesight won’t get any worse, nobody expects you to run (anymore), and you can play raucous games of Spin the Bottle of Mylanta, Musical Recliners, and Hide ‘n Forget Why You’re There.

Well, that’s all I’ve got so far. So, to everyone who isn’t looking forward to the future, here are some pretty good reasons why you should reconsider.

Quick Facts:

Civil Union Laws: 1 State

Domestic Partnership Laws: 3 States

Pending Legal Matters: 4 States

Ban Gay Marriage: 19 States

Want to write for the

BEACON?

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

iPad Takes Touch Technology to the ‘Max’
BY JORDAN GOWING
STAFF WRITER

I have a confession to make: I have a man-crush on Steve Jobs.

On Wednesday, January 27, Jobs, Apple’s CEO, confirmed rumors that had been swirling around the company for years: Apple was releasing a completely touch-screen computer, the iPad.

Calling the iPad a “computer” is a little misleading, however. Anyone looking to swap their laptop for the iPad will soon realize that, just like an iPad or iPhone, the iPad requires a computer to sync with.

While there has been much excitement about Apple’s new product, some critics opt for describing the iPad as simply a “big iPhone.” With a 9.7-inch screen, the iPad does look exactly like a giant iPhone, both in the overall design and in its software.

The iPad will have many of the features that the iPhone has, such as full use of the AppStore, iTunes, etc. Perhaps the most appealing reason to consider the iPad is its integration of iWork, the Apple equivalent of Microsoft Office. This package of programs will work on personal computers, on presentations, documents, or spreadsheets on the go. As an added feature, the iPad will have built-in Wi-fi capability, with the option of a 3G upgrade for a little price increase.

Although the iPad was officially announced last Wednesday the release date will not be until late March. The Wi-Fi-only version begins shipping at the end of March, while 3G models won’t ship until April.

A backorder is expected, so those interested in purchasing one should place a pre-order soon.

The price is one of the most appealing things about the iPad, starting at only $499 for the 16 GB Wi-Fi-only version. Even the top-end model, a 64 GB 3G-enabled model is affordable, listed at a reasonable $829.

Despite my man-crush on Steve Jobs, I’m a little leery about the iPad. While researching the iPad, I will confess that there wasn’t anything about it that impressed me to the same extreme as the iPhone at its release. Many critics are already saying that the iPad will create tons of buyer’s remorse, saying that it looks great, but doesn’t really have anything to hold its users.

With that being said, I think the iPad will still be a huge hit. I’m eagerly awaiting the opportunity to get my hands on one, but I don’t think I will be buying one any time soon. For those people who want an iPad, here’s my advice: pre-order now, guaranteeing you get one.

Second, put Work on it to make it more like just a big iPhone. Finally, give me a call and let me come play with it.

Student Voices Paired with Servant Hearts
BY BRETT MEYER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If Apple’s recent announcements are any indication, technology continues to expand at an incredible rate. Every year new methods of communication are springing up and becoming available to the general public.

Many classrooms at Northwestern have already incorporated these new methods into their coursework.

This semester, professor of English Richard Sowienski is teaching Audio Essay: Stories of Service, a special topics course on the English department. Overturc the course of the semester, students will gradually develop the skill necessary to use digital audio recorders, sound effects, music and oral narration to assemble audio essays.

The final project in the class involves making an essay focusing on a student service opportunity. Many students in the class will be participating in a Spring Service Project (SSP) which will be the subject of their audio essay. Other students will be creating projects about ministry organizations in their hometowns. Along with their work throughout the semester, students will record audio clips from their service sites to make an essay about the organization and the people that it serves.

Curing the Cooped-Up Blues
BY HOLLY STEWART
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you are looking to do something constructive on a weekend, keep in mind the many volunteer opportunities in the area. One example of this is Hope Haven in Rock Valley. Check out their website for a list of things that you can do to help the residents there. You can also read to children in the local public library or organize a fundraiser to help provide relief to the people of Haiti facing the aftermath of the recent disaster.

Of course, there are always good, old-fashioned games. Get some friends together and play Apples to Apples, Catch Phrase, or Rummy. See if you can get everyone in your wing to turn the lights down and play Sardines or Hide and Seek. Grab your iPod and start a random dance party. Walk over to Hospers and organize a game of 4-Square, play a game of Chess in West, or check out the rumored epic Nerf wars in the basement of Colenbrander Hall.

Don’t be the one stuck watching American Idol Recap. Grab some friends and have some fun!
**FEATURES**

**Haitian Aftershocks Reach Iowa**

*Cont. from p. 1*

anything,” Blunck said. “He couldn’t say ‘yes’ fast enough.”

The team dug for everything they could through the first aid kits they had brought: pain pills, ibuprofen, and hand sanitizer.

Blunck says that this could turn out to be the best thing for Haiti. With the corrupt Haitian government looking out for their needs over the needs of the people, this could change things.

“Hopefully the government will be filled with people that want to help,” Blunck said. “The country can find stability and the money can be shared more evenly.”

**Connecting to those in need**

Having been to Haiti six times over the last eight years, including once for a summer-of-service project through NW, senior Sarah Earleywine has gotten to know the people of Haiti very well. She started her travels through Lifeline Christian Mission under the direction of Bob and Gretchen DeVoe, who are currently in Haiti and have updated Earleywine almost daily with the state of the county and the efforts of the ministry.

“In Gretchen’s email,” said Earleywine, “she wrote ‘the people are peaceable, and they know we love them and they know God loves them and is taking care of them.’”

The devastation has brought over 160 people to know Christ in Lifeline’s refugee camp alone.

Lifeline was one of the first distributors of Kids Against Hunger, which NW has bagged food for numerous times. Currently the Kids Against Hunger campaign is raising food to help distribute among the children in Lifeline’s camp in Grand Grove, Haiti.

**How to help**

The churches around the Orange City area are helping with the relief efforts.

Trinity Reformed Church is helping in numerous ways. Besides working with the Kids Against Hunger campaign, the church is sending two groups to Haiti this summer to help with the damage. The church is also helping with United Christians International, a ministry run by NW graduates JeanJean and Kristie Mompremier.

JeanJean, originally from Haiti, and his wife help plant churches, lead devotionals, and work in medical clinics in Haiti.

Trinity also helps with HandsForHaiti, an organization that helps set up medical clinics in rural areas that now house refugees from Port-au-Prince.

“In this situation, what these agencies need most is cash,” Pastor Jon Opgenorth said. “The most precious gift I got was a check from a fourth grader who gave a month’s worth of her paper route money to help Haiti.”

Orange City resident Brad Gabel is also helping with the relief efforts. He is collecting hygiene kits for Church World Service.

The organization just sent about 10,000 hygiene kits to Haiti and is looking to replenish its stock for more shipments.

“This is something I’m really passionate about, along with my son and wife,” said Gabel. “It’s kind of a life lesson for us to show our concerns and prayers in a practical way to help Haiti.”

All donations for Church World Service are being taken at Hands Around the World in downtown Orange City.

**Dirty Jobs of Sioux County: Tackling the Snow**

*BY SARA ADAMS  
STAFF-WRITER*

Snow: you cannot avoid it. If you want to eat, you have to walk through it. If you want to get to the classes that you paid big bucks for, you encounter it again. If you want to attend chapel so that you know we love you, hard working men and women currently taking some time off in the not-so-snowy Caribbean region.

暴风雪是不可避免的。幸运的是，学生在校园内，我们的遭遇与寒冷的天气是相当短暂的，主要的小路从建筑物到建筑物。其他人，如David Egdorf，有更多的关系与雪的天气。

Egdorf and Iowa snow have been in a committed relationship for quite some time. Egdorf works for Hiemstra LawnCare, a landscaping company in Orange City whose services also include snow removal. Removing snow is not exactly a walk in the park, especially when it involves getting up at 2 a.m., when the city workers begin working.

The abnormally large amount of snow flakes that have fallen lately has made his job even more taxing. During one of the large storms around Christmas, Egdorf worked 40 hours in three days, despite his part-time employee status. However, Egdorf does not see his job as a burden and divulges that he actually enjoys the work that he does.

For most people, shoveling snow is anything but a luxury. Egdorf sees it as a way to bless and help others. He enjoys it so much that when he is done with his official work and he sees someone struggling when shoveling their driveway, he stops to help them out.

While the long hours and difficult conditions may make this job less than ideal, there are some perks. While most of us have to endure the biting cold elements while shoveling, Egdorf enjoys a heated cab that protects him from the cruel frosts that accompany winter weather. It is also worth noting that Egdorf and his wife are currently taking some time off in the not-so-snowy Caribbean region.

“Snow removal is a difficult job, but someone has to do it,” Egdorf says. “We salute you, hard working men and women who sacrifice much-needed sleep for the good of those around you.

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Tennis great Agassi opens up

BY GREG WHITE

Andre Agassi is considered to be one of the greatest male tennis players ever. He had a Career Grand Slam (winning all four Grand Slam tournaments: Wimbledon, Australian Open, French Open, and the U.S. Open), and he’s the only male player to ever win a Career Golden Slam (all four Grand Slam tournaments and an Olympic Gold Medal). He was ranked No. 1 in 1995. He played professional tennis for 20 years. And to top it all off, he is happily married Steffi Graf, who is widely considered to be the greatest female tennis player ever.

But behind all the medals, money, fame, criticism, and media, and his atrocious dirty blond two foot long mullet, Agassi hid one incredible secret: he hated tennis. He always hated it. And he hated it for good reason. In the crib, his father duct-taped a ping-pong paddle to his hand and built him a ping-pong ball mobile so that he could start his illustrious tennis career as an infant. Agassi’s father also built what Andre refers to as “the Dragon.” The Dragon was a customized tennis ball shooter that shot balls out at 120 miles per hour. Andre had to return those suckers when he was seven.

The pressure from his dad to play tennis made him hate the sport, and himself. His dad forced him to go to a tennis boarding school in Florida, where Andre rebelled by getting piercings, doing drugs and growing a mullet. (You gotta remember it was the eighties.) After going pro in 1986, Agassi’s career really took off.

Open is labeled as an autobiography, and it is beautifully written. The book is in first-person and definitely carries Agassi’s consciousness, but J.R. Moehringer was the ghost-writer. He is a Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist who has done work for the New York Times. The prose is poetic, filled with tennis terms as metaphors for life. He talks about the four surfaces of tennis as the four seasons of the year, since they correspond (hardcourt/winter, clay/spring, grass/summer, DecoTurf/fall). After playing on clay, players are usually brown. Each type of court has its own way of messing with the spin of the ball and shoe traction, and with Agassi’s mind.

The book is about Agassi’s search for meaning and for himself. He had his “tears” who travelled with him, loved him and trained him. Even so, Agassi says that “In tennis you’re on an island…(it’s) the closest thing to solitary confinement.”

Agassi confesses all his faults: the mullet, gambling, drugs, and even his own propensity towards bitterness and hate. However, Agassi finds that he’s way more motivated to play with a wife he loves, two kids, and his charity/ school. His story of despair, loss, and ultimately, redemption, puts readers in Agassi’s shoes, out there on the court, with all the sweat and hate, and yet, love.

If you want a glimpse into the pressured, crowded celebrity/professional athlete lifestyle, Open is the place to start. I’d love to see a similar confess-all autobiography from a standout from another professional sport. Maybe a professional football player (Vick, Brady, Reggie Bush)?
Beach House and Vampire Weekend: music you can sink your teeth into

BY JORDAN LANGER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Beach House: Teen Dream
The Brooklyn duo has been traveling with Grizzly Bear on and off over the last couple of years, and it’s appropriate. Beach House’s music is just as sleepy, but is likewise composed and deliberate. What results is the first essential listen of the decade.

Because the record is so delicate, it’s a hard one to describe. It’s hazy. Make out music, as vocalist Victoria Legrand has elsewhere deemed it. And that’s something she can’t presume because her voice is very sexy, somewhere between Kate Bush and Nico. Meanwhile, Scally’s guitar slides and resonates, giving a thick but easy sonic texture.

Together, the musicians make a lush dream-pop still imaginative over a surprisingly varied fifty minutes. Some might not detect the improvements over their first two releases. There’s, of course, the same Mazzy Star comparisons that can be drawn here. But this release brings out the likes of 70’s AM radio (i.e. Fleetwood Mac), and 50’s soul (especially on “Real Love”). Standouts like “Zebra” and “Norway” benefit from a faster pace. Some might not detect the improvements over their first two releases. There’s, of course, the same Mazzy Star comparisons that can be drawn here. But this release brings out the likes of 70’s AM radio (i.e. Fleetwood Mac), and 50’s soul (especially on “Real Love”). Standouts like “Zebra” and “Norway” benefit from a faster pace.

Vampire Weekend: Contra
In early 2007, a blue CD-R circulated and Vampire Weekend became a blog sensation before the packaged debut even reached major distribution. Three years later, their sophomore album’s achieved the top spot in national sales and is, ironically, as indie as ever.

It’s not as immediate as the debut, but repeated listens are rewarding. There’s still the Afro-pop riffs, the ska influence, the harpsichord, and Ezra Koenig’s light, naïve voice. But the songs are more dense and complicated this time: M.I.A. samples and Nintendo textures (“Diplomat’s Son”), autotune (“California English”), and synths that recall the R&B of bandmate’s recent side project. They’ve also sped things up a bit with “California English” and punky first single, “Cousins.” The latter makes past singles “Oxford Comma” and “Mansard Roof” feel like elevator music.

Even with the added complexities, the tracks never feel bloated or gimmicky. Tracks like “Horchata” and “White Sky” retain the precise, sumneshy spirit of their debut. Even their meeker tracks (“Taxi Cab” and “I Think Ur a Contra”) go down easy.

Not-so-Lovely Bones
In fact, the film has already been getting “Oscar buzz,” and has won several awards. So what is it that is making this film so irresistible? Director Peter Jackson, best known for his work in the Lord of the Rings trilogy, is not one known to create apathetic exhibitions in his films. His abstract imagery in “The Lovely Bones,” is something that is still impressive, no matter how strange the content may be.

Jackson probably could have concentrated a little less on the “dazzling” imagery of this film, and focused more time into creating a better structure. In my personal opinion, the life of the film died when the audience to be completely and utterly disturbed by the end of the two and a half hour film, which I’m convinced it was, then I would give his performance an A+. The contrast between the depressing majority of the movie, and the strange yet blissful imagery of “heaven,” made this film’s transitions confusing and choppy, to put it plainly. I don’t even blame the couple in front of me for leaving the theater to go see “Alvin and the Chipmunks 2: The Squeakquel,” and that says a lot right there.

“eduction” was used in other ways here—namely, in synthesizing even more influences. Even if you can’t take it all at once, it’s for good reason. They’ve expanded. And that’s the sort of effort you want in a follow-up.
Wrestlers dominate MN West CC

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT

The Red Raider wrestling team came out with a dominating performance against Minnesota West Community College, scoring all six points possible in all but two weight classes.

Freshman Angelo Quintana came out quick in the 125-pound weight class, pinning his opponent in 4:05. Fellow freshmen Pedro Ruiz (141 pounds) and Jerod Flores (149) followed up with wins by fall as well, pinning their opponents in 5:37 and 0:51, respectively. MN West gave up forfeits in the 133, 157 and 165-pound weight classes, and the 174-pound class was open for both teams.

Northwestern continued rolling in the 184-pound weight class with freshman Luke Evjen recording a fall over his opponent in 2:16. The only decision of the weight came from freshman Stanley Fleming, who won a 5-0 decision at 197-pounds. Junior Brad Hughes finished with a fall in 2:59, as NW won 51-0.

The Raider wrestlers will compete in the GPAC Championships on Saturday in Sioux City at 9:00 a.m.

Track and Field Teams Compete at Graphic Edge Invite

BY HILLARY AEIKENS

On Saturday, Jan. 23, the Raiders competed at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion against nine other teams, many of which were conference opponents. Despite the negative weather forecast, Northwestern showed up ready to perform after coming out of a strong season debut on Jan. 16.

A number of the team’s athletes placed in the top five in the DakodaDome. Similar to last Saturday, junior Stacey Dietrich and sophomore Shannon Bowar were second and third, respectively, in the 60-meter hurdles. Dietrich ran a time of 9.79 seconds and Bowar had a time of 10.31.

In the men’s division, senior Kyle Sauter and freshman Brandon Hammerschmidt performed their top-five performances as well. Sauter took first place in the 60-meter hurdles running at 8.32, which qualified him for nationals. Hammerschmidt came in second in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.22.

Other members of the team finishing in the top five included senior Ingrid Carlson who ran the 5000-meter run in 19:27.4, placing her third overall. The women’s 4x400-meter team also sprinted into third place with a time of 4:16.51. Taking fourth place in the women’s pole vault was sophomore Jackie Brooks, leaping to a height of 9’8”.

The men’s 4x400-meter team finished second with a time of 3:32.03.

Head coach Nate Wolf was pleased with the Raiders and stated, “The team performed well. We took a small portion of the squad due to entry limits at the meet. It was a good second place for us. We competed well against some bigger NCAA Division I schools like University of North Dakota, South Dakota State, and University of South Dakota, along with Division II schools like Augustana.”

Next Saturday, Jan. 30, the Raiders will compete at the MSU Open in Mankato, MN.

PLAYER PROFILE

Curtis Bomgaars

BY KRISTIN KOOMA

Curtis Bomgaars grew up with baseball. He watched his dad play fast pitch, his sister play softball, and his brother play baseball. After that, it just seemed natural.

In his words, “when it saturates both your genes and your environment that much, I guess it’s what you end up doing.”

Two summers ago, Bomgaars had the chance to(92,830),(910,991)

“I’ll wait on that change-up to simply put it in play...until I can feel God taking control of my swing again, and he hits that home run I’ve been waiting so long for.”

away, to Eastern Europe, and see the impact of former Northwestern baseball players and know that we were leaving our mark with them.”

Baseball, for Bomgaars, is more than just a game. It is an act of worship. “When a batter’s timing is on, and he successfully anticipates what type of pitch is being thrown, there is no greater feeling in the world. It’s like I’m not even in control. It’s a divine experience.” Baseball is all about rhythm and timing. If one doesn’t have his timing down, there is really no chance for success. When that timing is off, a player gets in a slump. One slump, in particular, sticks out in Bomgaars’ mind. When he was a sophomore he didn’t get a hit in what seemed to be 20 games. It got so bad, his mom Googled “how to get out of a slump” and printed out pages for him to look at. “Thanks mom,” said Bomgaars.

Well, Bomgaars eventually came out of his slump, like all baseball players do. But, he learned something from it. He found himself searching inward and looking back to where he started before the slump began, trying to find that rhythm back. It’s like faith. “I’ll drive that inside curve ball foul, fight off that high fastball, and wait on that change-up to simply put it in play until I get my rhythm back, until I can feel God taking control of my swing again, and he hits that home run I’ve been waiting so long for.”

Bomgaars is a senior from Orange City and a Business Administration major with a concentration in Finance. Upon graduation he plans to dominate the job market and travel the world.