Embracing inner beauty

Panel discusses the challenges of living under society's superficial definition of beauty and self-worth.

BY SAM THOMSON

This week, residents of Fern Smith Hall underwent a makeover, both inside and out. The main focus was to take the time normally spent getting ready and spend time with God instead. Through Natural Beauty Week, residents were encouraged to beautify their inner self rather than outward appearance.

“Natural beauty is when you wake up and look in the mirror to see God’s beautiful creation that He has made in His image,” said Fern discipleship intern Kiersten Van Wyhe.

Natural Beauty Week began with a time of fellowship for students in the SAC room in the RSC. Guest speakers included senior Laura Ecklund, senior Megan Ott, director of counseling services Dr. Sally Edman, and Michelle Christy. Each person shared a story that followed a common theme: the desire to perfect outward beauty is hard to overcome.

Ecklund shared her experiences in overcoming a major hurdle in the life of a young woman: not having hair.

“Laura serves as a good role model for many people,” said junior Darci Jansen. “I admire her confidence in who God has made her as well. She focuses on what’s in her heart rather than how the world views her.”

Christy also spoke about hair. During her talk, she shared her emotional struggles in dealing with past cancer treatments. After losing her hair, Christy found that she had nothing left to hide behind. She was then able to visualize the beautiful daughter that God had shaped her into.

“God was still clothing me in His most beautiful ways,” Christy said.

She had another note of encouragement for students regarding natural beauty. “Let God define what can’t be taken away,” she said.

Ott shared about the influences of a dance studio. She said she had based the worth she found in her outward appearance on the spectators who watched her perform. Insecurity was something she dealt with until a rebuttal to a classmate’s faith statement opened her eyes to how God views her on a daily basis.

During her talk, Ott challenged students, “Stop hating on God by hating on yourself,” Ott said. “Have the same respect you have for your creator as you do for His creation.”

Edman was the final speaker of the night and discussed her insecurities concerning outward appearance. Whether it was a bad hair day or a certain part of her body she didn’t appreciate, Edman said she finds entertainment in her uniqueness instead of getting caught up in flaws. She chooses to

See “Beauty” on Page 5

Theater to perform drama by popular playwright

BY PRIYANKA FERNANDO

Northwestern’s theater department will be presenting their new play, “Ah, Wilderness!” by Eugene O’Neill in the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center.

The director of the play, theater professor Karen Barker, chose the play based on the popularity of the playwright.

“O’Neill’s plays can be cumbersome—even a little depressing,” Karen said, “But the students loved them and really got them.”

Senior Abigail Bierly, an actress in the play, explained the different tone of O’Neill’s “Ah Wilderness.”

“Usually, his plays are very dark and have really sad endings,” Bierly said. “But this play, a comedy, ends with beauty and hope.”

The play is described by Karen as a tender comedy that focuses on the familial relationships, as well as love lost and love sustained.

“The family dynamics in this O’Neill play are really fascinating,” Bierly said. “There are no ‘throwaway’ characters in O’Neill plays. They all have depth and a reason to be in the play.”

The characters all show different aspects of relationships. “The audience gets to see the playful interactions of siblings,” said senior Hannah Barker. “The struggling of a couple that has been on and off for years, strong love between husband and wife, the fight between parents who just want what’s best for their children, and so much more.”

Taking a closer look at the characters, Bierly described her role in the play as “temptress Belle.”

“She is the exact opposite of what I am,” Bierly said. “So she was certainly interesting to try to figure out how to play. She knows what she wants and she knows exactly how to get it.”

Along with these strong, out-front personalities, come the behind-the-scenes aspects of the play.

“I think all the tech work is beautiful,” Bierly said. “The
Respect differences, see change

BY JODI STAHL
OPINIONS EDITOR

Everyone has become a political expert in the past few months. My Twitter feed was unbelievable on election night. Everyone had something to say about the presidential race, and the concept of respect was almost completely absent. I saw arrogant, untrue, politically incorrect, racist and rude posts.

People got so wrapped up in the buzz and instantaneous nature of social media that they forgot what election night in America is all about. America’s democratic process works because of our right to vote and our right to free speech. Along with these rights comes the responsibility to respect the differences that we are allowed as American citizens.

I don’t think America’s founding fathers would consider most of the things I read on election night “free speech.” Using 140 characters to say things that would never be said face-to-face is ignorant and cowardly.

Respect that people have different opinions than your own. Respect that both candidates had the courage to put their families’ lives under a microscope for the media to tear apart. Respect that almost half of the country is happy with the results of the election, and the other half of the country is disappointed.

By all means, share your opinion. But do your research. Use the right to free speech to grow and learn. Most importantly, remember that your neighbor has the same right to free speech that you have.

If we start respecting our differences, we can start working together for that change we were promised four years ago.

Loving the people requires loving the language

BY LEAH WIELENGA
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

LUPENI, Romania — I decided to go for a run the Sunday before our final week of homestays.

My host family had been invited to attend two birthday parties in town that day. I woke up early to take advantage of any free hour leading up to a long day of broken conversation in what I’ve come to affectionately call “Romenglish.”

I diligently crammed phrases into my head before the run, scanning page upon page of jumbled notes from my language class.

Heading back later, I saw an elderly couple approaching. Of course they were already looking at me. They’re always looking.

I threw out a polite “Niata,” (a shortened form for “morning”) with a halway smile. Right away, the woman of the pair took it upon herself to engage this strange person.

As usual, she fired a string of Romanian words that meant absolutely nothing to my comprehension of the language. I stumbled out the phrase “I’m sorry, I know a little Romanian” in her native tongue, followed by the disclaiming phrase: “Sunt American.”

I tried my best to answer their questions with a genuine effort and engagement, and did what we’ve all learned to do so well here: celebrate the little victories within ourselves when we can just barely follow along.

Matthew 5:47 notes, “And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others?” The language barrier here can often feel like a much thicker curtain than it really is, but disconnect can happen anywhere.

After realizing how many people have squeezed their way into my heart despite this, I am often astounding and convicting. The familiar is always easiest, but “brothers” don’t become so unless we have the desire for family. To intentionally engage others anywhere in loving community — new and awkward community — requires a deep humbling of the self.

When we see that our oldest of relationships at one point took the same starting effort, we realize how different we can grow to be by expanding the family.
Arts & Culture

‘Halo 4’ is imperfect as a whole, but entertaining

BY MICHAEL GUTSCHE

“Halo 4” is fanfiction. Good fanfiction, but fanfiction nonetheless.

Everything about the game reeks of “wouldn’t it be cool if?” propositions without consideration as to why those propositions were never made in the first place. Wouldn’t it be cool to find out more about the Forerunners? Wouldn’t it be cool if we got to see Master Chief as a kid? Wouldn’t it be cool to have a giant mech-suit?

Frankly, yes. Yes it would. But cool isn’t necessarily good.

The failures of “Halo 4” are more philosophical meta-failures, not game-level failures. The design is mostly solid. It has a fine setting and campaign.

Mostly compelling vehicles, caves, etc. Not necessarily good.

The guns feel, for the most part, well-balanced, mostly solid. It has a fine level failures. The design is mostly solid. It has a fine setting and campaign.

“If Frosty has discovered that existence until now. So maintaining their hidden Forerunners!”

Admittedly, in most respects, the game’s cut itself a high notch. Everything controls the way it should, flies the way it should or explodes the way it should. It’s a romp. A dramatic romp, but a romp.

Perhaps the vivacity of the game is reduced a bit by the slightly desaturated palette—at least in comparison with previous “Halo” titles, which have generally been something of an avatar for bright colors in first-person shooters. Still, it at least manages to render the color green, which is more than can be said for almost every other FPS out there these days.

“Halo” has also always had a reputation for sounding absolutely phenomenal, and that is a standard that is more or less met. The music actually manages to sound like proper music, and while the overtures and main theme are not nearly as iconic or memorable as “Halo’s” older soundtracks, it is a huge relief to have swells of strings and mysterious, mournful brass powering the big moments of the game instead of tired military dubstep nonsense that gets spewed by “Call of Duty” and its ilk.

The multiplayer component is strong as ever. The designers made mostly sensible decisions. The guns feel, for the most part, well-balanced, and the maps simply run another rehashing of “Halo” level design principles — large, vertical, vehicles, caves, etc. Not bad. Just reasonable for what one might expect from a “Halo” game.

The best metaphor for this game is “plastic surgery.” Yeah, technically it’s appealing, but there’s just a nagging holowness about the whole endeavor, and it robs the true joy that a new “Halo” game might’ve warranted. “Halo 4” fails not in the gameplay, not in the balance, not in the mechanics but in the heart. However, those failures are both subjective and debatable, so remember this if nothing else: the game meets one of the most grand “Halo” traditions. It is incredible to play. A triumphant game in an important and welcomed revival of a beloved series. Sometimes, that is all that counts. Sometimes.

Want more reviews? Visit our website for student opinions on “Wreck-It Ralph” and “Music From Another Dimension” by Aerosmith.

‘Chasing Mavericks’ is too predictable

MOVIE REVIEW

BY MATT LATCHAW

“Chasing Mavericks” is technically a good movie. The movie has a good story, well-defined setting, characters, conflict, plot and themes. Furthermore, effective cinematography, sound design, editing and presentation show professionalism and skill.

But something is missing.

The movie is based on the true story of teenage superstar surfer Jay Moriarity (played by newcomer Jonny Weston) from Santa Cruz, California. In the movie, 8-year-old Jay is swept away by a strong wave only to be saved by veteran surfer “Frosty” Hesson (played by Gerard Butler). This begins a meaningful father-son type relationship between the two. Jay, whose own father left the family, idolizes Frosty and becomes one of the best young surfers in the area in a year-old. Eventually, Jay learns that Frosty has discovered that legendary waves crash onto the shore only miles from his home. Jay begs Frosty to train him to ride a so-called Maverick, and Frosty reluctantly agrees.

The best parts of the movie are the beautiful shots of the ominous waves. Awe-inspiring aerial shots and imposing sound design remind the viewer just how deadly these waves are. The surfing sequences are also very tastefully executed.

Unfortunately, the written material is not of the same caliber as the acting. Despite solid acting execution, the characters in the story simply do not have much depth. Cookie-cutter characters and a cliché script plague this otherwise inspirational family sports film.

There’s the perfect protagonist who always serves with a smile despite his terrible circumstances, the hesitant teacher, the childhood bully, the protagonist’s long-time crush and more. These tried and true characters may be effective at telling a story and conveying emotions, but their lack of originality nullifies many potentially moving moments.

But it’s important to remember the intended audience. “Chasing Mavericks” is a family film, and its main theme is that of overcoming obstacles. However, unless the surfing element is the big draw, many other similar sports movies like “Rocky” can achieve the same things with much more style.

Rating: ★★
FROZEN FASHION

Dress for the chilly without looking silly

BY KAITLIN FLOERCHINGER

With winter about to rear its wooly, windy head, the coats, scarves, hats and gloves are beginning to emerge from their months under the bed.

Bundling up is no easy task. It causes an issue for every student on campus as they question the most effective way to combat the cold.

“I'm sure I'll probably dress in multiple layers and overdress to stay warm since I'm that kid from California who hasn't had a real winter,” said Tanner Nissen, a freshman from Sacramento. “But if it means I'm staying warm, then I'm OK with it.”

Staying warm has its fashion drawbacks, especially when it comes to hat hair. A beanie, earmuffs or a hood are valuable items, but the cost of looking funny deters some students from wearing them.

“I usually don’t do anything, because I go inside right away,” said freshman Courtney Pattison. “If it’s for an extended period of time, my hair would be down.”

There also remains an issue of looking fashionable while keeping cozy. Junior Layce Johnson strives to incorporate individual pieces into her outfits.

“I try to accent my warm clothes with some fashionable accessories such as a beanie with a cute crochet flower or sparkly leg warmers under my boots,” the California native said.

“'I'm that kid from California who hasn’t had a real winter.”
—Tanner Nissen

Fashionable functionality is a clever trick, especially when used for protection against the ravaging winds.

“If you get a jacket with a hood with a fur lining on the inside, that fur lining will actually prevent wind from blowing in,” said Canadian junior Josiah Veurink. “And fur is in, but not real fur, because that would be cruel.”

And then there's always one of those guys—the type who wears shorts, no matter what the forecast declares. Senior Jacey Hoegh decides for himself what makes it cold enough for anything other than shorts.

“If it's 30 degrees with snow on the ground, but no wind, then yes I'll wear shorts,” he said. “I'll even try to match if I'm feeling ambitious.”

Top 5 tips for winter clothes

1. Dress in layers. If the temperature warms up throughout the day, you can remove extra clothing.
2. Wear long underwear or tights underneath your pants to insulate your legs.
3. Put on a hat. Up to 60 percent of your body’s heat can escape from an uncovered head.
4. Choose mittens over gloves. They’re warmer because they keep your fingers together.
5. Don’t overdo it. Dressing too warmly can cause sweating, and the moisture gets cold on your skin.
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**DWTS: Dancing with the students**

**BY SARAH WEDEL**

Northwestern junior Brooke Johnson has expanded students’ options for weekend entertainment with her Saturday night dances.

When most students think of a dance, they think of a dark room with colorful lights, music blaring and a large crowd of people doing whatever dance moves they desire. Johnson’s Saturday night dances are a little different.

Swing is the style Johnson prefers. She learned this dance during her years of homeschooling, when her mother joined with mothers of other homeschoolers to teach swing dancing to their children as a social activity.

After Johnson learned how to swing dance, she began attending community swing dances with friends.

It was at these dances that Johnson picked up the waltz, the jitterbug and the Lindy Hop. Her passion for dance grew, and she attended Camp Jitterbug in Seattle, where she took dance lessons and went to late night dances with live bands.

After enrolling at NW, Johnson began missing these dance styles. Thus, Saturday night dances were born.

“Attending these dances is a great chance to learn something different,” Johnson said. “It’s a great way to be social, get exercise and listen to cool music all at the same time.”

Not knowing how to swing dance, jitterbug, waltz or Lindy hop is no excuse for not attending. Johnson teaches attendees the steps to each dance.

Johnson also encourages attendees to dress up. This means girls wear dresses and guys wear a tie.

“It’s more fun when people dress up because it seems like we are back in the ’40s and ’50s,” Johnson said.

Johnson said she loves hosting the dances because they give students the opportunity to see their friends in a new context.

“You get to see your friends outside of the cafeteria,” she said.

Johnson’s goals for her dances are for students to have fun, get to know each other and learn a new style of dancing.

“My favorite part of the dances is looking around and seeing that others are having fun,” Johnson said. “I especially love seeing that moment when the dance clicks for them and they begin to love it.”

So far this semester, Johnson had hosted one dance with plans to continue the activity. The dances will be held Saturdays at 9 p.m. in the lobby of Hospers Hall. Those attending should wear comfortable clothes that allow free movement.

Promoting inner beauty

Residents of Fern Smith Hall gather to hear senior Laura Ecklund speak during Natural Beauty Week, which is a week dedicated to focusing on inner beauty.

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love her body the way God made it and continues to look for the benefits of her shape.

Freshman Mary Beth Horstman found Edman’s advice to be uplifting.

“Stop hating on God by hating on yourself.”

—Megan Ott

“The main thing is we all have the choice to accept who we are and how we’re made,” Horstman said.

“[Edman] taught me to love and be more content with myself and to share that with others.”

Natural Beauty Week has been a time for both reflection and celebration.

“Fern is full of beautiful ladies,” said senior Rachel Lynn. “There is nothing better than taking a week to celebrate and appreciate God’s creation in all of us.”
Veterans on roster full of national expectations

BY JORDAN DYKSTRA

Last season was a return to success for the men’s basketball program. The Raiders boasted a 26-7 overall record as well as capturing the GPAC title against conference rival heavyweight Dordt.

However, the team fell short of their national championship goal by losing in the second round of the national tournament.

With 12 years of experience as Northwestern’s Head Coach, Kris Korver realizes that nothing comes without effort in the GPAC.

“We need to expect nothing to be easy,” Korver said. “Nothing will be handed to us. There will be no easy games. We need to expect it to be hard and prepare each and every day in practice and as we journey through the season, to do the little things better than everyone else.”

With a mostly seasoned and battle-tested roster, the Raiders know it is now or never to achieve their lofty championship goals.

“The expectations for this season are simple,” said senior post Stu Goslinga. “We need to find a way down to the national tournament in Branson and once we get there, we need to find a way to win and keep advancing. We have to take it one game at a time and play to our potential.”

“We need to expect nothing to be easy. We need to expect it to be hard.”

- Coach Kris Korver

The Raiders return senior forward and four-year starter Daniel Van Kalsbeek to the lineup this season. Van Kalsbeek averaged 10.9 points per game for the Raiders last season and led the team with 21 blocked shots.

Van Kalsbeek entered the 1,000 point club last season and has two NAIA All-American honorable mentions in his career.

Goslinga also adds years of starting experience to the frontcourt duo. Goslinga’s aggressive style of play contributed to averaging 11.9 points per game as well as 7.3 rebounds per game last season. Goslinga earned GPAC honorable mentions for his play.

“Dan and Stu are two post players who command attention,” Korver said. “When they play with toughness, physicality and are in attack mode, they can be a handful for opponents.”

The backcourt also provides a veteran presence. Senior shooting guard Ben Miller averaged 13.6 points per game last season as well as leading the team in rebounding with 7.7 per game. Miller earned first team All-GPAC honors as well as third team All-American honors last season.

Returning starting guard Zack Leeper also provides veteran experience. Leeper averaged 12 points and 3.5 rebounds per game and earned GPAC honorable mention honors last season.

Senior guard Josh Vander Plaats and forward Jacey Hoegh also return with three years of varsity experience under their belts. Sophomore forwards Will Hieber and Levi Ettleman also return with a varsity letter and hope to contribute more this season.

“We have players like Miller, Leeper and Vander Plaats who have been in a lot of big games,” Korversaid. “These returning players need to play well early in the season as we come together as a unit.”

The Raiders will rely on junior transfer Rob Gill, junior Ian Mozeleski and freshman Joey Habtemariam to fill the point guard void.

“We need to see this group find their roles and blossom in those roles,” Korver said. “Leadership will be a huge key. Unselfishness will be another key. It will be rewarding to see this group put team above self and compete like crazy each and every day.”

The Raiders host the Raider Classic this weekend, playing at 8 p.m. tonight and 4 p.m. tomorrow afternoon.

Raiders roll over Hastings; playoff hopes still alive

BY JORDAN DYKSTRA

The Raiders prevailed in dominating fashion Saturday afternoon against Hastings with a final score of 45-6. Fueled by a balanced offense and a stingy defense, the Raiders continued their playoff quest and moved up four rankings in the NAIA national rankings.

With five minutes left in the third quarter, Smith rushed for his second touchdown of the day from seven yards out. O’Brien connected on the extra point and the Raiders extended their lead to 38-6.

After a Hastings punt, the Raiders methodically drove down the field. Bloemendaal connected with junior receiver Bryce Byker on a 21-yard strike to finish the day’s scoring. Smith topped the century mark in rushing for the 20th time in his career, rushing for 122 yards and two touchdowns.

The Raiders finished out the day with 525 total yards on offense while only surrendering 236 on defense. The Raiders also held the edge in time of possession with 32 minutes and 21 seconds over the opposing 18 minutes and 46 seconds.

Defensively, senior safety Dillon Green led the charge with 6.5 stops and Zylstra with five. Senior defensive end Stan Fleming had a sack and forced fumble. Sophomore linebacker Court Eckland and senior defensive end Ethan Lensch also notched a quarterback takeaway.

“We came out of the gate more physical than Hastings and we put a lot of pressure on their quarterback,” Green said. “Those were both reasons our defense had a lot of success.”

The Raiders finished out the day with 525 total yards on offense while only surrendering 236 on defense. The Raiders also held the edge in time of possession with 32 minutes and 21 seconds over the opposing 18 minutes and 46 seconds.

As the Raiders hope for a playoff bid, next week’s matchup versus rival Dordt becomes even more important.

“They have a new offense that relies heavily on the run game, so we definitely have to be prepared to stop that,” Green said.

Northwestern will host on senior day tomorrow at 1 p.m. against Dordt.
Personal bests set across squad at conference meet

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
SPORTS EDITOR

In the final race of the year for the Northwestern cross country squads, a total of 15 runners ran their personal bests at the GPAC Championships at McCook Lake, S.D. on Saturday morning.

The women’s team finished seventh overall with 162 points, and the men’s side posted a sixth place finish at 163 points.

In the 5K women’s race, Sophomore Amber Sandbulte was also in the pack, and finished in 45th place in 19:23.

All four runners set new personal marks. Junior Janet Pitsenberger (19:41) and Jackie Niewenhuis (19:48) and sophomore Sarah Wittenberg (19:58) also packed together to earn personal bests for NW.

Sophomore Sarah Jong was right behind her with times of 19:18.

Sophomore Logan Howland earned 24th place in 26:06.

Next across the tape was junior Zach Wittenberg in 39th (26:40), sophomore Anthony Epp in 40th (26:41), freshman Caleb VanderBaan in 46th (26:51) and freshman Kyle Anderson in 50th (26:55).

Junior Taylor Bodin rounded out the lineup by placing 57th in 27:16.

The top seven men’s runners set personal bests this meet.

The Warriors would not be denied on their home court though, and sniffed the rally for the win.

“We didn’t pass well,” Jacobs said. “Our serving wasn’t aggressive and our passing wasn’t where it needed to be. [Midland] did both those things better than us.”

Sophomore hitter Kaiflin Floerchinger had 10 kills and 14 assists for NW. Freshman hitter Karlie Schut added nine kills as well.

Sophomore libero Alexis Bart had 15 digs, and freshman setter Madeline Hanson also had 14 assists.

This concludes the career of seniors Heather Goehring, Danie Floerchinger, Jennie Jansen and Jaci Moret.

“The seniors were our vocal leaders,” Jacobs said. “A lot of people lead in more quiet ways, but the seniors were obviously the leaders for us.”

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
SPORTS EDITOR

The top seven men’s runners set personal bests at the GPAC Championships on Saturday. He finished in 39th place.

The start of the match was a sign of things to come for NW, who gave up a serving ace on the first point and committed an illegal set on the second.

The Raiders looked to stay with the Warriors after gaining the serve at 15-12, but Midland capitalized on NW’s passing mistakes to cruise to game point at 24-15.

The Raiders scrambled to stop the bleeding behind the serving of junior Claire Roeener, but fell 25-20. They had three service errors and were aces three times in the first set alone.

The second set was evenly contested all the way up to a 16-16 tie. The Raiders were working on a three-point run at the time.

A service error from NW catapulted a 9-3 run by Midland to close out the second game and put the Raiders on the brink of elimination going into the locker room.

Just like the first two sets, the Raiders went down early. Midland looked for the knockout punch when they were up 19-13, but NW rallied five points back to make it a game at 19-18.

Senior Kendra De Jong has an open look on Friday night against Valley City State. De Jong is the leading returning scorer for NW this year. She earned All-American honors last season for the second time.

Yawn a veteran scoring threat off the bench.

Running the point to begin the year will be sophomore Paige O’Neal, who was sidelined for the majority of last year’s campaign. Freshman guard Cassidy Breon has also appeared significant minutes in the early part of the season.

“The biggest thing right now is learning how to play together as a team and being able to trust each other,” Cunard said.

“We have talent, it’s just a matter of using it together. Instead of having one go-to scorer, it’s going to be more spread out.”

The chemistry NW hopes to build will not come overnight, and the team’s mentality is to try to improve in some way each day, whether at practice or in games.

“We want to become as good as we can possibly become, and we do that one day at a time,” Yaw said. “We aren’t trying to meet anyone else’s expectations.”

Everyone else’s expectations are running high all around the GPAC. No. 1 Concordia, No. 5 Morningside, No. 8 Briar Cliff and No. 18 Hastings all received recognition in the preseason poll, which means there will be no easy road for NW to reclaim the GPAC crown. (Despite the NAIA title, NW finished third in the GPAC last season.)

Such stiff competition is seen as an opportunity by Yaw to improve in the day-by-day fashion he and the coaching staff emphasize.

“Is it possible to be so accustomed to excellence that it becomes boring and mundane to witness?”

Fans of the Northwestern women’s basketball team would certainly know as the 2012-2013 season begins with the Raiders as three-time defending national champions.

In fact, no returning member of the team knows what it is like to not win the last game of the season.

The success of the program is a testament to the continual development of the recruited talent. That development will be tested this year as the Raiders, who were the No. 2 team in the preseason poll, will be missing some familiar faces.

There are voids to be filled from the graduation of three starters: post and defensive specialist Mel Babcock, shooter Val Kleinjan and catalyst scorer Kami Kuhlman. Head coach Chris Yaw is not ignorant of the impact of their absences but is not looking for replacements.

“There’s a phrase about ‘how do you replace a player,’ and you don’t,” Yaw said. “I don’t think it’s a fair statement to those who have left and those still playing — to try and mold them into what someone else was. There are gaps and voids when people graduate, but we try to develop as people and as a team, and we will absorb the gaps. We don’t insert someone into a mold.”

Yaw certainly is not working with an empty cupboard. Senior forward Kendra De Jong returns for her fourth year as a starter.

She is a two-time NAIA All-American and is the reigning GPAC Player of the Year after averaging 18.6 points and 9.2 rebounds.

Junior forwards Sam Kleinasser and Ali Dunkelberger have each earned starts in previous years and will provide height and scoring ability from all parts of the floor.

Sophomore guard Karen Hutson provides a dynamic and slashing scoring threat, and junior guard Kenzie Small will look to bring defensive intensity.

Senior guard Mal Cunard shot 44 percent from behind the arc last season and gives
Symphonic band plays ‘epic melodies’

BY JEB RACH

Northwestern’s symphonic band is preparing to perform for students and community members during their upcoming concert in Christ Chapel.

According to Dr. Tim McGarvey, director of the symphonic band, concertgoers should expect a “huge variety in kinds of music.”

The first half of the concert is comprised of songs inspired by the American West. The pieces themselves come from a large variety of sources. The song “End Title” comes from the film Silverado, “The Twittering Machine” was inspired by a painting of four birds perched on a crank shaft and “Yosemite Autumn” was inspired by a vacation in Yosemite.

According to McGarvey, the music of the second half of the concert is harder to categorize. For example, the march that will be performed is not a typical style of march. It was inspired by the military bands that the composer encountered during basic training. Throughout the piece, conflicts can be heard. For instance, some of the instrumentation is made to sound like bombs are exploding.

Some band members are looking forward to playing “End Title.” Junior Aaron Sundet is particularly excited for what he calls the “epic melodies” in this piece. Sophomore Aaron Norman is also excited for this number.

“It’s a really good piece overall,” Norman said.

According to Sundet, NW’s symphonic band is of a higher caliber than an average high school band. Because of this, they are able to play some music that an average high school simply cannot perform.

“A lot of gifted students are performing in band,” Norman said. “As performers, we put countless hours in to be prepared to play for the students, staff and residents of Orange City.”

According to McGarvey, recordings cannot compare to the experience of listening to live music. He contends that recordings miss the personal interaction between band and the audience that live music offers.

“Everyone will find something in the concert and say, ‘Wow, that’s really cool,’” McGarvey said.

McGarvey encouraged all students to attend the concert because it is an experience that cannot be duplicated.

The symphonic band will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 9 in Christ Chapel.