Coly Christmas is culturally sensitive

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
SPORTS EDITOR

As the fall semester is on its last legs, the signs of Christmas break abound. Zwemer Hall tries it best to sound like h* Radio, Van Peursem Hall’s warmth becomes the closest thing to a tunnel on campus, and Colenbrander Hall begins preparation for its annual Coly Christmas Bash.

The Bash is popular throughout campus as the men of Coly decorate their wings in various Christmas themes and the spectators are led through the different worlds. At the end, attendees can vote for their favorite wing over a cup of hot chocolate.

“It’s funny to see everyone dressed up,” said junior Gretchen Sutherland. “It’s fun to see the quiet, shy guys act crazy.”

Despite the good cheer intended, last year’s edition of the spectacle featured controversy from incidents on two wings.

The first came on the east wing of second floor. Second East’s theme was giving “prospective students” a glimpse of what faculty and staff would be doing over break. The impersonations included admissions counselors, professors and maintenance staff. What caused a stir was the depiction of former business professor Ranjan George, who was being portrayed by sophomore Sam Rall.

The men of Second East painted Rall’s face black to more closely resemble George’s complexion. The painting was done to make the act more believable; similarly, other actors on the wing cut their hair or stuffed theirs with pillows to better impersonate the faculty and staff.

“I did it to make it more lifelike,” Rall said. “His skin color was neither a positive nor a negative thing to me.

It was just a part of him. We were all unaware that the whole ‘blackface’ thing could have racist connotations.”

A few resident directors and Multi-Ethnic Student Counselor Rahn Franklin were some of the first people through the dorm, and they made the decision to ask Rall to wash the paint off his body.

“The ‘blackface’ has been used in theater to depict characteristics of blacks in humorous ways,” Franklin said. “In short terms, it was a way to make fun of blacks and perpetuate a number of stereotypes.”

Rall and the others on the wing were unaware of the negative history associated with whites painting their faces to appear black. As time has passed, it has become clear the potentially offensive depiction of George was unintentional ignorance by the wing.

The other talking point from last year came from First East. The wing has long had the nickname of “The Ghetto” and has traditionally had a “Christmas in the Ghetto” theme for Coly Christmas.

Junior Micah Czirr was the resident assistant on the wing. According to him, he and his wing attempted to make light of situations found in under-resourced neighborhoods. Participants were not asked to stop the act during the performance time.

“A lot of people thought we were singing out the black people on the wing,” Czirr said. “That wasn’t the intention. We had a number of guys who had lived in or near real-life ghettos before college. For some of them the humor in it is a way to deal with that reality.”

The line of what can and cannot be done in good taste is subjective, but Franklin said the drug handouts and interracial violence can perpetuate harmful stereotypes and incidents such as the Rodney King beatings.

By Sarah Wedel

The great playwright William Shakespeare wrote his first play when he was roughly 25 years old. Senior Shelby Vander Molen has outdone him by writing her first complete play at the young age of 21.

The play is entitled “Some Five Women” and follows the stories of five women as they live and learn about life.

Vander Molen started writing the play last spring for a theater class. She said that she did it because she had to, and through the writing process the plot and the characters were invented.

“The thing that is so hard about writing a play is that it’s not like a research paper where if you get stuck you can do more research,” Vander Molen said.

“If I got stuck writing this play I just had to think of something.”

When writing a play, there is no right answer. Vander Molen said she did a lot of experimenting with different types of characters.

“You can’t get too attached to any character or scene in your play because chances are you are going to change it,” Vander Molen said.

Vander Molen followed a nontraditional writing process. She didn’t write in chronological order. Rather, she wrote many different scenes then put them in order to thread everything together.

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ALBUM REVIEW
BY KATI HENG

If Sufjan Stevens isn’t completely in love with Christmas, he’s at the very least infatuated with it. His latest album release, “Silver & Gold,” is a follow-up to 2006’s “Songs for Christmas,” containing volumes six through 10 out of who knows how many he’ll make of his signature Christmas songs. The collection, recorded between 2006 and 2011, adds another 58 songs and nearly three hours to Stevens’ holiday catalog.

As he did on “Songs for Christmas,” Stevens presents an array of tunes. There are traditional songs audiences will know and love as well as some traditional songs so twisted they’re almost unrecognizable, such as his version of “Do You Hear What I Hear,” which is over nine minutes and sounds like a conversation between two teens experiencing marijuana for the very first time — “Dude... do you feel the same things I feel?”

Then, the album has new songs written by Stevens that should become Christmas classics; songs that have nothing to do with Christmas, such as a cover of Prince’s “Alphabet St.”; and songs that are holiday themed but just plain weird.

Throughout all these songs, it’s hard to tell how Stevens really feels about the holiday. In many songs, he’s celebrating the birth of Christ in the most traditional manner and ringing the bells to celebrate the season with all its warm, fuzzy, dance-around-the-tree-in-your-toe-socks moments. Other songs are just sad. And not just sad as in beautiful, somber pieces like “Coventry Carol” or “How Shall I Fifty Meet Thee?;” but sad as in songs with titles such as “Even the Earth Will Perish and the Universe Give Way” and lyrics (from songs such as “Barcarola [You Must Be A Christmas Tree]”) such as “You said you needed me / But I know that you needed yourself to be cleansed of me.”

Stevens really feels about an almost give-up attitude towards humanity as a whole, anti-consumerism is a theme throughout the later volumes. For example, in “Christmas In The Room,” two people celebrate the holiday with “No travel bags, no shopping malls / No candy canes, no Santa Claus.” Never mind that he’ll be singing “Up On The Housetop” shortly. The contradiction suggests he knows that true Christmases need no jolly old man, but he’s still pretty fun.

It gets more confusing when looking at the packaging the songs come in. A digital booklet that comes with albums downloaded from iTunes contains two essays written by Stevens himself (the guy’s actually got an MFA in Creative Writing from The New School in NYC). The first essay bashes malls and wish lists and anyone expecting things out of life, because we’ll never really get what we want anyway. The second essay considers the Christmas tree, its past as a pagan symbol and paints it as a misplaced fertility symbol we celebrate each year. Neither essay shows Christmas spirit or even any hope for humanity, really.

For those who shell out the big bucks and buy a hard copy of the CD (which retails at $30), there is even more confusion inside. There are tattoos and stickers of gore and snowmen wielding chainsaws. There’s a poster with images of sea monsters, skeletons and a baby smoking a cigarette. There’s also a cutout and do-it-yourself origami Christmas ornament.

The guy’s obviously conflicted about the holidays. As an artist who has pumped out 100 Christmas songs, he’s become part of the analytical American, he doesn’t appear to even know if that’s a good thing.

Whatever the case, Stevens has again offered up an album. There’s a mix of the traditional and the Stevens’ originals in each volume, and it’s in these volumes that the differences in sounds and styles really come into play. Volumes range from the stripped down sixth, the sporadic seventh and the weird and electronic final three.

He ends this Christmas album with the almost-13-minute, bizarre “Christmas Unicorn,” a counter-part to The Beatles’ “I Am The Walrus” in many ways. You have no idea what Stevens is talking about when he sings “I’m a mystical apostasy/I’m a horse with a fantasy twist/Though I play all night with my magical kite/People say I don’t exist.” Eventually, we find the Unicorn to be a metaphor for all we don’t believe to exist anymore, in this case, an American who can love Christmas and all its pagan traditions while still being somehow above the holiday itself.

If you are feeling conflicted about whether or not to buy this album, that is a far easier problem to solve than the one Stevens is attempting to tackle. For die-hard fans of Sufjan Stevens, especially his “Age of Adz” and “The BQE” albums, it’s worth the money. Fans of a nice Christmas album full of classics or traditional hymns should probably stick with “Songs for Christmas,” his first Christmas collection.

RATING: ★★★★
Key Tracks: “Christmas in the Room” and “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Rihanna’s latest is a diamond

BY KARA NONNEMACHER

“Unapologetic,” Rihanna’s seventh full-length album, is a mix of genres including dubstep, electronic dance music, R&B and pop. The album is similar to her previous recordings. “Unapologetic” has already reached success, appearing in the top 10 of over 20 national charts.

The single “Diamonds,” released in September, has received recognition, topping the US Billboard Hot 100, as well as the charts in 12 other countries. Like the majority of her songs, “Diamonds” is about love and mixes soul and electronic tones with an orchestral accompaniment. Other singles include “Nobody’s Business,” which features Rihanna’s rapper ex-boyfriend Chris Brown, who many critics believe was her inspiration for this album.

Other well-known artists featured in “Unapologetic” are Mikky Ekko, David Guetta, Future and Eminem.

Rihanna also conforms to the now-popular dubstep style, most prevalent in “Jump.” This is a new sound for her, but the dubstep does contribute to the club-like style that makes her songs so popular. Throughout the album, Rihanna shows off her talent by reaching all the highs and lows. “Love Song” her voice drops low, but in “Diamonds,” she wow’s listeners with her ability to hit the high notes.

The variety of sounds heard in “Unapologetic” is Rihanna’s strongest asset in the album. Ultimately, she will continue to have commercial success because of the way her album reaches a variety of audiences.

RATING: ★★★★★
Key Tracks: “Diamonds” and “Nobody’s Business”

“I wish they were thick mints so they would fill me up better.”
-Senior Corinne Muszkens on thin mints.

“We were fed soup out of Campbell’s cans for lunch... and pea soup out of no-name cans for supper... by three old Dutch women who may or may not have been the Fates.”
-Professor Sam Martin on his college cafeteria.

Send your Campus Quotes, with context, to beacon@nwciowa.edu
Van Der Stoep records to raise money and spirits

BY KALI WALKOW

"Some people have to walk a rougher path for reasons they cannot explain. / It’s not like they choose to, / it’s just that they get used to not having an umbrella when they’re standing in the rain. / For some people, it’s been raining for a long time. / But the Lord will guide you and carry you home. Live for the Lord and live on faith alone. / But there is always an outstretched umbrella.”

Sometimes this umbrella of hope comes in the form of music.

Adam Van Der Stoep, a Northwestern senior, is releasing an album, which he has chosen to leave untitled, of 11 songs as a fundraiser for his upcoming trip to Israel through the NWC study abroad program, but the album is more than just a way to fund his trip.

It is an album filled with songs about life, faith and the combination of the two.

“There are some things that might make you laugh or cry, some things that are pretty light-hearted and things that are a little more serious,” Van Der Stoep said.

“Either way, I hope they’re things people can connect and relate to.”

While Van Der Stoep’s new recording might help to change his financial situation, it also has the potential to change those who listen to it.

The music is inspired by the people and experiences surrounding Van Der Stoep. His songs and genres vary in character just as the people in his world do. The wide variety of music on his CD helps make it relatable.

“There is a song that I wrote and sang at my brother’s wedding,” Van Der Stoep said.

“There are a few tracks about faith, and there is even one that is only acoustic, so hopefully there is something on the CD that everyone will enjoy.”

Van Der Stoep is a self-taught guitarist. He said he learned how play in his sophomore year of high school and has been “addicted” ever since.

As for singing, “I practiced singing in my car when nobody was around,” he said. “I was in high school choir, but I held back because I didn’t want to sound stupid. But I really cut loose flying down the highways with the windows down.”

Neither Van Der Stoep’s need for funds nor confidence were what spurred him into finally making this CD. Rather, it was the dogged persistence of the people who inspire his songs in the first place:

“My friends and family have been bounting me to do this for quite a few years now,” Van Der Stoep said.

“The timing just seemed right. What is unknown will always be unknown unless you jump out in faith.”

Van Der Stoep is traveling to Israel. He will be surrounded by history and stories about the faith of Christians who served with everything they had. Israel is an unknown for Van Der Stoep. Releasing an album is equally unknown. He is taking a leap of faith in both.

This CD might enrapture you. It might tickle your funny bone or tug at your heartstrings. It might make you think or help you believe. But no matter what, it will help a fellow Northwestern student travel to another country to experience wonderful and exciting new things.

At the very least, it will provide you some good music and the opportunity to gain some of that road-trip-inspired courage to belt out the lyrics while you fly down the highway.

Van Der Stoep will have his CDs available at 9 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30, in the Hub. CDs will sell for $10, and they can be shipped for $11.

Van Der Stoep hopes to encourage others through his music and its lyrics.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Senior Adam Van Der Stoep hopes to encourage others through his music and its lyrics.

‘Twilight’ conclusion delivers exactly what viewers expect

MOVIE REVIEW

BY MATT LATCHAW

14-year-old girls’ favorite group of vampires and werewolves are back for one last hurrah with the conclusion of the Twilight Saga, “Breaking Dawn: Part 2.” It is probably the best of the series, but that distinction means different things to different people.

“Part 2” picks up the story of Bella, Edward, Jacob and friends right where “Breaking Dawn: Part 1” left off. The film begins with Bella’s eyes as a “newborn” vampire. Edward helps her become acclimated to her new condition, and it doesn’t take long for her to fit in with her new family and discover new abilities and strengths.

Bella finally meets her new daughter, Renesmee, and it quickly becomes apparent that something is special about her. Before long, Renesmee is seen by an outsider of the family who believes the child is an immortal child — it’s a crime to create such a creature in the vampire community, and the Volturiare notified. These legalistic pharisees of the vampire world plot to kill the child and the rest of her family as the Cullens and their friends try to find a way to protect the Volturi that Renesmee will not bring harm to any vampire.

Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner all reprise their leading roles, but their acting is among the worst of the cast. Bland and unemotional deliveries amplify the poor scriptwriting. Scenes that should be gripping and touching fall flat, and the lead actors have their most convincing emotional performances for scenes that haven’t been set up to be very evocative. The best acting in the movie has to go to the leader of the Volturi, Aro (Michael Sheen), but even his powerful delivery slips into overacted melodrama at times.

The pacing is very fast. Viewers are introduced to an overwhelming number of new characters, concepts and events in a very abrupt and curt manner. The story is frequently carried along by Bella’s film noir style narration, which becomes rather distracting, yet necessary due to the film’s relatively dense plot and quick pace.

One redeeming factor comes from the cinematography and visual effects department. The CGI is harmoniously integrated and usually does not divert attention from the scene. The overall aesthetic of the film is enchanting and beautiful. Rich bright colors pop out in every environment, and the composition is always bold and stunning.

Vampires and the lore behind them have been done better in many other films, and romance has been done better in untold numbers of movies. Without some prior attachment to the series and the characters, the film leaves much to be desired.

The evidence for racism: The premise of the movie is that the United States has been invaded by North Korea, and one marine (Chris Hemsworth of “Thor”) and a group of plucky high school kids take to the hills to conduct guerrilla warfare against the evil invaders.

The best thing that can be said about “Red Dawn” is that the pace isn’t lazy. Indeed, the movie moves along at a dizzy, disorienting speed. The worst thing that can be said is that the gaping plot holes are made less noticeable by the pace and the overriding question, “Is this entire movie racist?”

The evidence for racism: The premise of the movie is that the United States has been invaded by North Korea. That means that every evil character (with the exception of one enormous Russian) is Asian. The black mayor sells out to the Koreans early on while the white sheriff stands for his morals. Every major good character is white. The only black character that isn’t either dead or a coward ends up left in the woods while the remaining white characters drive away.

The evidence against: There’s an Asian marine who shows up to help.

Plot holes and racism aside, “Red Dawn” only has one redeeming feature in Chris Hemsworth himself. In one scene, Hemsworth’s character sits on a bridge with his love interest, Toni (Adrienne Palicki), talking about their past lives. The dialogue is awkwardly written and should have been uncomfortable, but it wasn’t.

Hemsworth’s smiles and charisma carry him through the scene and somehow turn the awkward conversation into something resembling poignancy.

Unfortunately, an action movie can only dedicate a small amount of time to a talented actor, and “Red Dawn” quickly fills its quota and returns to the action. With fewer racial undertones and better writing, it could be a successful TV show. A show could have stretched out the areas that “Red Dawn” is forced to skip over. It could take the time to get rid of the subtle (and perhaps accidental) racism. The concept of post-invasion American life has been done before, but it remains a compelling possibility.

But as a movie? Don’t waste your time.

‘Red Dawn’ might reflect hidden racisms

MOVIE REVIEW

BY TOM WESTERHOLM

The premise of “Red Dawn,” a remake of the 1984 cult classic, is that the United States has been invaded by North Korea, and one marine (Chris Hemsworth of “Thor”) and a group of plucky high school kids take to the hills to conduct guerrilla warfare against the evil invaders.

Chris Hemsworth almost redeems “Red Dawn.”

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Ratings ★ ★ ★★★★★
Students lead production

FROM PAGE 1

Last summer Vander Molen sent copies of the script to some of her friends including, student director of the play junior Megan Weidner.

Weidner said she wanted to direct the play because she had directed a one-act of Vander Molen’s last year and really enjoyed the experience.

The thing that sets “Some Five Women” apart is that it is a completely student-initiated project. This means there were no professors from the theater department involved in casting, production or practices.

Weidner said one of the fun things about directing this play was working with community members. Three of the five characters are not students at Northwestern. However, this element of the play presented some challenges.

“It’s a completely different challenge directing people who don’t really know each other as opposed to directing peers,” Weidner said.

Weidner said that despite the many challenges that come with directing, she loves it because she gets to work with a cast and make the script come to life through the different characters.

Vander Molen and Weidner’s goal was to develop characters who seem real and are able to communicate the ideas in the play to the audience. “Some Five Women” tries to unveil the raw humanity under each character’s struggle with the pressures of society or families.

“This play is about coming into your own element and finding yourself and realizing it’s OK to be who you are,” Weidner said.

This play has no main character; rather the five characters have a group voice. Everyone who comes to the play will relate to a different character because the characters have universal stories that have all happened to people at some point in their lives.

Vander Molen is very excited because “Some Five Women” has been nominated to be a participant in the upcoming Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Lincoln, Neb. Vander Molen will find out within the next few months if her play will have the honor of being performed in the festival.

Overall, Vander Molen and Weidner said they are very pleased with how “Some Five Women” has turned out and the message it sends.

“A good play makes you think, and ‘Some Five Women’ does just that,” Weidner said.

“Some Five Women” will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30, and at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1, in the England Theatre of the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center. Admission is free, and seating is first-come, first-served.

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

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8 1 3 | 5 | 4 3 7
5 4 2 6 | 1 7 9 | 5 4
3 4 6 9 | 4 8 | 5 6 8 3
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Difficulty: ★★★★★

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PHOTO BY EMILIE BERRY

Freshman Jana Latchaw plays a teenager in the play “Some Five Women,” written by Shelby Vander Molen and directed by Megan Weidner.

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NW student has rare allergy to cold

BY KAITLIN FLOERCHINGER

Iowa college students know to expect a brisk winter every year. But for senior Mario Garcia, brisk winter took on a new meaning after a curious diagnosis this past June.

Garcia, a Colorado native, has cold urticaria, an allergy to cold temperatures. Whether it be cold water, air, or even a snowball on bare skin, Garcia runs the risk of an allergic reaction.

He first noticed this unusual condition while working at Advanced Wilderness First-Aid.

“I went to the restroom and washed my hands, and on my way back, I felt my hands get red and itchy,” Garcia said. “They kind of hurt and swelled up, and I couldn’t bend my fingers all the way because they were all swollen.”

The reaction went away after an hour, and he assumed he was allergic to the soap.

After a few more minor reactions on his hands, the worst reaction almost killed him. While training to be a wilderness trip leader in Canada, Garcia volunteered to flip his canoe to practice canoe rescues.

“All went as planned until he and his partner were rowing back to shore. “When we got back in the canoe, I could feel I was getting really lightheaded, and my skin was really red. I looked badly sunburnt,” Garcia said. “I could feel my lungs start to constrict and my throat start to close up.”

When Garcia reached shore, his co-workers removed his wet shirt, wrapped him in blankets, and fed him hot chocolate and sugar to help him recover. Garcia blacked out twice and lost his hearing for a few minutes, and the others were startled to see the extent of the reaction.

“They said they looked at my back and they could see the outline of my lungs in white like two white spots that mirrored each other,” Garcia said. “It was just really, really bad.”

It took nearly two and a half hours for him to recover due to the exhaustion and weakness that had flooded his body.

The following Monday, a visit to the doctor yielded a diagnosis of cold urticaria. A doctor gave him an EpiPen and instructions for combating the condition, and Garcia is now learning to adapt as an Iowa winter bears down.

Layering in the standard coat, hat, gloves and pants is one defense. Another is having an accountability partner, so to speak.

“If I’m walking somewhere alone, like to class or something, I’ll have someone that I’ll text to say that I made it to my destination,” Garcia said. “And if I don’t, then they’ll need to go look for me so I’m not suffocating.”

The senior does his best to put a humorous twist on his new way of life. One tweet he posted was, “I really don’t want it to snow at all. I’m TooYoungToDie,” and when asked to go out and be active in the cold, his response is simple and funny.

“People say, ‘Oh let’s go do that’ and I just respond with, ‘Uh I can’t. I’ll die,’” said Garcia. “It’s all about staying creative with this.”

As of now, it seems cold urticaria will be with Garcia for the rest of his life, but the long-term adjustments might not be all bad.

“I was thinking of living in Puerto Rico for the warmth so I don’t have to worry about it,” Garcia said.
LGBTs shouldn’t expect parade of acceptance

BY ANN CALSBEER

I was excited to see an article about LEAP and the LGBT community in the Beacon. The opportunity to address these issues and discuss them out in the open is something our campus can greatly benefit from.

I would like to begin by thanking those who are brave enough to come out on this campus. Although I do not know how difficult it was (and is) to be in your position, I do know that this community is highly conservative and exclusive at times. I personally support an individual’s right to love whomever they want, and I know many others on this campus hold the same opinion.

I am disappointed that the entire LGBT community on campus, which I know many people do not approve of the LGBT community on campus, is generalized into a group of “haters” who, simply because we attend NW, are viewed as anti-gay or anti-lesbian. I feel as though the judgment has turned 180 degrees or anti-lesbian. I feel as though the judgment has turned 180 degrees at times.

One quote from the article, “people” at NW. How would the homoseual community like to be acknowledged on this campus? I accept you for who you are and hope that others agree with me, but what else can I do for you? Is there some sort of expected special treatment? Some of us do not wish to sweep your sexuality under the rug but feel no need to parade our acceptance of it wherever we go. You want recognition but complain about even indirect persecution. I don’t think there is a perfect balance between the two, especially in a conservative community like NW.

Again, thank you for your bravery, and I hope that our student body can be seen as a group of loving, accepting people, not simply a nameless and faceless crowd full of prejudice and hate.

Beacon Abroad

Embracing the American identity abroad

SEVILLE, Spain — “I never would have guessed that foreign country for the remainder of your life and foreign country for the remainder of your life and about that identity and doing my best to show others what this American is like.

I felt a strong sense of disconnect. I was surrounded by areas. After about a month of trying to blend in, however, I soon realized, however, that I was throwing aside my responsibility to teach them about American culture.

Learning to deal with differences is a foundational part of studying abroad. You are called upon to live in a different culture for several months and share experiences with people from different parts of the world. However, no matter how hard you try, you will still carry the baggage of your own culture. Unless you plan to stay in that foreign country for the remainder of your life and sever all ties back home, you will still be an American who will soon return to live in America.

I told myself that I was in Spain to become more Spanish and immerse myself in the culture. I did not want to be targeted or singled out as the rich American student studying abroad. Dumping my cultural baggage was harder than I expected. I got tired of trying to blend in, and I started asking myself why I was not proud to be an American overseas.

I came to Spain ready to learn from the Spaniards and take in everything I could learn from another way exchange. My mentality was to not waste my time trying to change a stereotype that was already set in the mind of Spaniards. I soon realized, however, that I was throwing aside my responsibility to to teach them about American culture.

Everyone has to claim their cultural identity at some point. My Spanish friends show me why they claim their identity, and it is my responsibility to show them why I claim mine. I have learned that this means being open about that identity and doing my best to show others what this American is like.
BY JORDAN DYKSTRA

No. 8 in the country Northwestern claimed a 65-51 road victory over Mount Marty Wednesday night in women’s basketball. It put them at 6-3 overall, 2-2 in the GPAC.

The Raiders led 36-26 at halftime but Mount Marty had a 14-2 run to start the second half, giving them a 40-37 edge. Senior post Kendra De Jong and junior guard Mackenzie Small made consecutive baskets for the Raiders, regaining the lead, and they never looked back.

Stifling defense down the stretch kept Mount Marty from scoring a field goal for over four minutes.


“When things got tough for us we pushed through,” Dunkelberger said. “Our focus was on ourselves and what we needed to do to get better, and we executed those things well tonight.”

The Raiders hosted longtime rival Morningside College on Nov. 20 in what proved to be another classic game. Morningside prevailed and edged the Raiders out in a 72-70 victory in a game that was tied on twelve separate occasions.

Late in the fourth quarter and tied up at 68, junior post Samantha Kleinsasser hit a baseline jump shot to put the Raiders up 70-68. On the ensuing Morningside possession, the Mustangs hit a layup to tie the game up.

Dunkelberger and Small failed to score on their next possessions, Morningside hit a shot from the left corner to put them up 72-70 with only four seconds remaining. De Jong failed to convert on a jump shot to tie the game on the final Raider possession.

The game was just as close in the box score as it was on the scoreboard. The Raiders shot 46 percent from the field and 25 percent from beyond the arc compared to the Mustangs hitting 43 percent from the field and also 25 percent from three point land.

Morningside had a slim edge in rebounding, out-grabbing the Raiders 34-32 and 12-9 on offensive boards. The Mustangs used those boards to their advantage, outscoring the Raiders 16-5 on second-chance points.

Leading the Raiders in scoring was Kleinsasser with 23 points and six rebounds. De Jong chipped in with 15 points and nine rebounds. Dunkelberger and Small each had eight points.

“We have some important conference games coming up, so it will be important for us to take one game at a time,” Kleinsasser said. “Our focus will be continuing to improve every time we step in the gym.”

BY KORAY KARAKAS

Northwestern’s Red Raiders took on Marian University’s Knights in the NAIA Football Championship Series First Round on Saturday and suffered a 32-42 defeat in what was a fierce encounter between the two sides.

The No. 12 Raiders, playing their first post-season game since 2006, faced a tough midday battle against strong opposition in the No.5 Knights in Indianapolis, Ind. The first ever match-up between the two teams saw the Knights come out on top in what started off as a scrappy affair and developed into a memorable game.

The game started slowly, with both the Raiders and Knights failing to score their first two possessions. Marian broke the deadlock first on a nine-yard touchdown with six minutes left in the first quarter of play. NW followed suit with a big play of their own, scoring their first touchdown from a kick return of the season on the resulting kickoff.

Sophomore receiver Jordan Micalet scored on a 99-yard kick-off return to tie the game at 7-7.

Marian scored twice through the air to gain a 21-7 lead. NW’s defense then came up with an impressive 75-yard drive.

The finishing play was junior quarterback Davis Bloemendaal throwing a touchdown to junior receiver Brice Byker to make it 21-13 at the half.

The Raiders started the second half with a 36-yard field goal by senior Mike O’Brien to bring the score to 21-16. The Raider defense came up with stops on successive drives against the Knights’ offense, stopping them at their own 18-yard line on a fourth-and-one fake punt attempt.

The Raider offense capitalized on their great position, with senior running back Brandon Smith scoring the rushing touchdown, and Bloemendaal converting the two-point conversion to complete a fantastic comeback by the Raiders and give them a 24-21 lead.

The Knights then added another two touchdowns to end any hopes of a second Raider comeback, taking the score to 42-24. Bloemendaal found junior running back Theo Bartman for a five-yard touchdown pass with two minutes left on the clock. Bartman then pounded in the two-point conversion on the ground.

NW attempted an onside kick after scoring. Junior cornerback Jermaine Ambrose came out of the pile with the ball, but the officials ruled that the Marian player had originally caught the ball in a downed position.

NW gained a total of 336 yards on offense, with 162 yards in the air and 199 rushing. Bartman led the Raiders with 20 carries for 124 yards and also led the team with five catches for 32 yards and a touchdown.

Junior linebacker led the defense with eight tackles. Senior linebacker Aaron Jansen had seven stops, two for loss and the lone Raider sack.

Junior Jermaine Ambrose had an interception in the secondary.

Senior Brandon Smith ended his final game for the Red Raiders with 19 carries for 64 yards and a touchdown, capping a wonderful playing career and cementing his place in the Raider history books. He sits third all-time with 4,202 rushing yards and second all-time with 57 touchdowns.

The Raiders ended their season with a 9-3 record. Marian won their quarterfinal matchup and will be playing in the national semifinal game on Saturday.
NW students make legal residency accessible

BY KATE WALLIN
This past June, a ray of hope broke through the overcast skies of the immigration battle that has been long clouded by complex policy and gridlocked partisan politics.

For an estimated 2.1 million youth living in the U.S. without documents, the release of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program marked a step toward legal residency.

From the perspective of many people within Northwestern’s social work department, the DACA program is relevant to Orange City.

“The area we live in has such a growing number of Hispanics,” said senior Pedro Ruiz.

When the Community Development class was approached by local Nonprofit Center for Assistance, Service and Advocacy (CASA) with the idea of organizing and hosting a DACA clinic, they agreed to take on the project.

“They didn’t have anyone to organize and set it up,” Ruiz said. “We were just in the right place at the right time.”

The upcoming DACA clinic is hosted by NW’s senior social work majors in conjunction with CASA and Iowa Justice for Our Neighbors.

The program allows for youth brought without documents to the U.S. before they were 16 to apply for a temporary residence.

Eligibility hinges on a number of stipulations and has a hefty application fee but provides documentation for work authorization. That work authorization does not provide federal aid for undocumented students but will allow them to work and use their diploma or degree.

“We called high school principals and churches,” said senior Angie Sas. “There are a lot of high school students who will qualify.”

The clinic is an attempt to close the gap between the DACA program and the reality of the legal process.

“If they didn’t have anything and set it up,” Ruiz said. “We were just in the right place at the right time.”

The students faced other challenges when advertising in the community.

“Some stores wouldn’t let us hang up signs,” said senior Katie Raab.

After Luanne Keith sent a campus email to the community, students responded en masse to help with the event.

“I seriously got 23 emails in one day and 10 the next,” Sas said.

The class was encouraged by the response of the student body.

“This is something that really affects people’s lives,” Raab said.

In the end, the goal is for the clinic to meet an underserved need in our local community.

“We want to help as many people as possible,” said senior Sean Guthmiller.

“But even if just one comes in, we’ve still helped one person. That’s important.”

Organizing the clinic has proved to be a rewarding challenge for the group.

“If Romney was elected, there was fear that he would use or make public the lists [of DACA applicants],” Ruiz said. “Now that the election is over, there is a lot less fear. It won’t be taken away.”

Lingered fear has caused applications for the clinic to stream in slowly.

“Fear was a big deal before the election,” said senior Taylor Kelly. “We want more applicants.”

The students faced other challenges when advertising in the community.

“One store wouldn’t let us hang up signs,” said senior Katie Raab.

After Luanne Keith sent a zzz-student email to the campus body, students responded en masse to help with the event.

“We have to think about the ripple effect and the impact we are having on the people who see it,” Franklin said. “Especially in an event like this that is open to the community, we have to be aware of how we are depicting [NW’s] community to others.”

Coly’s resident director, Ryan Anderson, said he doesn’t believe last year’s trouble has taken anything away from the event. He has talked to the resident assistants about the greater understanding that has come from it and encouraged dorm leaders to be more thoughtful in theme choice this year.

“We’re trying to be more sensitive in how we choose themes,” Anderson said. “We have to take responsibility for our actions and be more thoughtful in the acts we choose.”

The Coly Christmas Bash will take place on Monday, Dec. 3. Doors will open at 9 p.m. and close at 11 p.m. Admission is $1, and hot chocolate will be available in the game room while students vote following their trip through the dorm.

“I just think it’s important that this event is a space for everyone,” Anderson said.

One of the events is a wedding during last year’s Coly Christmas.