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Holiday season debuts with annual Christmas Vespers

BY KATI HENG
OPINION EDITOR

Northwestern’s A cappella and Women's Choirs, Brass Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra will be presenting the campus and the community with the Christmas Vespers concerts on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m. in Christ Chapel. Admission is free, and all are invited to attend and enjoy in this annual Christmas tradition.

Christmas Vespers, a concert celebrating the Christmas story, has been taking place at NW for decades. Happening every year on the first weekend following Thanksgiving break, the concert provides an excellent kick-off for the Christmas season. This year’s concert theme is “Gloria.”

The concert is considered an audience favorite. Members of the audience will not only get the chance to witness beautiful choral arrangements but will also get to be a part of them. Several well-known carols will be sung, and the audience is encouraged to participate.

“I think what I enjoy most about Christmas Vespers is celebrating the Christmas story with students, with faculty and with a larger audience from the community,” Dr. Thomas Holm, director of the A cappella choir said. “The Christmas story is fundamental to who we are as Christians, and there is a great joy in inviting the audience to participate in that story with us in a musical way.”

Rev. John Hubers, who now serves as a professor in NW’s religion department, was a member of the A cappella choir while a student at NW in the 1970’s. During that time, the choir focused all their time on preparing for their spring tour and did not get the chance to give a Christmas concert.

“I love the idea of Christmas Vespers,” Rev. Hubers said. “Christmas is in danger of being completely subsumed to the commercial spirit.” Rev. Hubers appreciated the concert’s ability to introduce the audience to a broader range of Christmas music, with both songs that capture the depths of the incarnation and carols that allow the audience to participate.

Sophomores Hannah Biernacki and Andrea Hallberg, members of the Women’s Choir, are both looking forward to the Vespers concerts.

“The concert brings in the Christmas season,” Hallberg said. “The music is beautiful, the carols are fun to perform with the audience and I enjoy having so many different types of choirs and bands. I think this is a favorite concert for those who are watching and listening.”

“Singing with the huge group of both choirs and audience members in such a collective, worshipful way is probably the best part,” said Biernacki.

The program will open with a performance from the Brass Ensemble that will set the tone for the event. The Chamber Orchestra, directed by Dr. Kimberly Utke Svane, will perform an arrangement of the carol Of the Father’s Love Begotten and Steven Amundson’s Glories Ring.

The Women’s choir, directed by Dr. Linell Moss, will be performing Gloria ad modum tubae by composer Guillaume Dufay and John Rutter’s Candelight Carol. Students Kiernsen Van Wyhe, Katlyn DeVries, Sam Schouweiler and Jana Bruce will have instrumental solos in the performance of Hope for Resolution by Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory. Gloria, by the French composer Francis Poulenc, will be performed by the A cappella choir and will feature soprano solos by students Renee Ausborn, Karina Smit and Erica Bauserman. The A cappella choir will also be performing Eric Whitacre’s Lux Aurumque, with a solo from sophomore Rianna De Winkle, and Paul Christiansen’s arrangement of Infant Holy, Infant Loyal.

One Acts express talent, months of preparation

BY LINDEN FIGGIE
NEWS EDITOR

Months of hard work and preparation culminate for theater students next Wednesday, Dec. 8, as the annual One Act productions set the stage of the Allen Theatre for the annual One Act productions. The play follows the relational struggle of a young couple, Bill, played by senior Aaron Bauer, and Alicia, played by Van Gorp, as they work through the many layers of divorce.

“The process of creating this one-act has been a lot of fun, and very enjoyable for me,” Van Gorp said. It has been great to work with Greta and Aaron developing our characters and the blocking of the show.”

Seniors Aaron Bauer and Greta Hays rehearse Amicable Parting” for the Wednesday show.

Swing to spirit

SAC to host winter ball

BY KATE WALLIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

‘Twas the weeks before Christmas, when all throughout campus not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The projects were done in the late night with care, in hopes that Winter Break soon would be here.

Then, from out on the Green, there arose such a clatter that we sprang from our dorms to see what was the matter. Realizing it was time for Winter Formal, away to the RSC we flew with a flash. Trading in our normal wear, we got on our dance.

That’s right, Northwestern, close the books and put the projects on hold! This Saturday at 9:30 p.m., come boogie the night away in the RSC at NW’s annual Winter Formal.

The chance is a dance to dress up in your finest before finals. While many NW dances tend towards a more casual atmosphere, this event offers a merry and sophisticated setting to celebrate the upcoming holidays.

SAC member Holly Lawrence said, “The holiday spirit will be in full swing. There's going to be lots of Christmas trees and lights and cream puffs. SAC is putting a lot of work into it, and I think it'll pay off in a really fun night for everyone.”

Sophomore Charlotte Richards said, “I think people should definitely go! It’s so much fun. I love dressing up with the girls on my wing and having fun with them.”

Freshman Shannon Gier agrees. “Keep hearing how it’s an awesome bonding experience because you get to get ready with all the girls on your floor. I can’t wait! It’s an excuse to dress up, and it’s fun to dance away the stress that upcoming finals bring.”

Sophomore Tyler Zeutenhorst said, “I went last year and it was a lot of fun. I liked the formal atmosphere, and the Christmas decorations were great.”

See “Dancing” on pg. 2.
By Julia Lantz

Contributing Writer

A Christian Ministry in National Parks (ACMNP) extends the ministry of Jesus Christ to the people who live, work and vacation in national parks by offering interdenominational Sunday worship services in the parks' natural sanctuaries. ACMNP brings Christian teaching and community to people who are often isolated from contact with local churches and to millions of visitors who come to relish in God's creation.

Every year from October to April, ACMNP recruits at colleges, universities and seminaries across the country to be a part of the Ministry Staff. ACMNP has 25 national parks across the country, from Alaska to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The experience of ACMNP is best described in three words: work, wilderness and worship.

Each ministry staff member is employed by a concessionaire in the park and works as a desk clerk, housekeeper, bellhop, store clerk, wait staff or other job typical of seasonal employment and lives with co-workers in employee housing in the wilderness and worship.

ACMNP provides Regional Training Conferences each spring to prepare Staff Members for park ministry and individual responsibilities. Staff members actually start working sometime between Memorial Day and Labor Day and work for a period of 90 days or longer. Preferences for the different parks and locations may be indicated on the application form.

When not working or engaged in a ministry activity, ministry staff members may use their free time to explore the park. Each park has its own beautiful scenery that can be explored by hiking, white water rafting, running, fishing, canoeing and kayaking, rock climbing, camping, etc.

As employees of private businesses inside the parks, staff members often get discounts on boat or bus rides, tours and equipment rentals. ACMNP expects each staff member to explore the park only with the proper equipment and preparation.

The ministry of ACMNP is both formal and informal. Sunday worship services are held in amphitheaters and lodges located across the parks. Ministry Team members are expected to participate in preparing and leading worship services which consist of short sermons, prayers, responsive readings and music. All staff members have the chance to preach during some point in their time of serving at the National Park.

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Melody Kennell, an ACMNP representative, will be coming to NW on Tuesday, Dec. 7, to share more about the ministry. Additional information and applications can be found online at www.acmnp.com.

Art news from across the campus and around the world

By Tyler Lehmann

Contributing Writer

Art steps into the spotlight this week at Northwestern and around the world. Here at NW, a wide range of media from the college’s permanent collection is on display. Internationally, the discovery last week of hundreds of lost works by Picasso takes center stage.

NW will exhibit art from its permanent collection, including this 1926 mezzotint by Japanese artist Nobuo Satoh.

Dancing into the most wonderful time of year

Cont. from pg. 1

Still, two age-old questions remain: who to go with and what to wear. Like the formal events from high school eras gone-by, some suggest bringing a date, while others encourage going with a group of friends or floor mates.

Nate Johnston recalls asking his date to the last year’s formal. “I went over to where she was sitting in the Caf one night at dinner and just said, "You’re going with me to Winter Formal. And she said, ‘Um... okay. And the rest is history.’”

His advice to NW’s young men considering asking a special young lady to accompany them this Saturday, “Be bold and confident. And just ask!”

He adds, “It helps if the girl you’re asking doesn’t already have a date.”

Morgan Stahl recommends sharing and borrowing dresses among friends. “Last year, our floor was like one big closet. We had a pre-dance fashion show to figure out what dress to wear. It was a really fun way to start off the evening.”

No matter what you choose to wear or whom you choose to go with, Zeutenhorst encouraged everyone to “link arms and head over to the winter ball” to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year.

Admission is three dollars and a free photo booth is provided.
Romanian Ruminations
Musings by Marian Langley

Maybe Good Ol’ Saint Nick is not so good

BY ZACHARY VAUL

The allure of magic can cause many parents to teach their children about Santa Claus. Our society expects and, in many ways, exploits this. Santa has become a conduit for the vices of our society, a weight problem, materialism, corporate greed and, for some, has become domination by the media.

His weight problem is not seen as an issue by many people and yet, by looking up to his respected and beloved image, he encourages children to gain weight. He gives out sweats, which by their nature can cause weight gain.

Santa Claus is a symbol for materialism. Good Ol’ Saint Nick actively promotes children to ask for things that they feel that they cannot get. This can distract from the meaning of the season - peace, love, goodwill and hope - replacing it instead with envy, gluttony and impatience.

With corporate greed and the media domination tied together, it is unfortunate Santa has fallen into their marketing hands. Santa is used in many advertising campaigns, including his appearances for Mac, M&Ms, and of course the immortal Coca-Cola Santa. These ads fill our televisions, newspapers and store displays from the middle of October through the end of December. They can cause weight gain.

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Santa is part of the magical Christmas season
BY DANI MAURER

There’s something about Christmastime that raises spirits and lifts a hopeful sentiment deep in the soul. Shimmering snowflakes cascade down on city streets where paper snowflakes are strung from ceilings. The sustained scent of sugar cookies, rolled out, cut into characters of the Christmas tradition, baked and iced by small, pudgy hands. A magical essence swoops all over creation during this season and children are especially graced by untainted joy.

A jolly old man that radiates cheer lives up at the North Pole and makes it his life’s mission to spread merriment to all of the children of the world. All year he prepares presents for the children, and on one special silent night he flies all over the globe to every child’s home, climbs down the chimney and fills the red and green stockings hanging over the fireplace.

Parents and children getting together and making Christmas treats for Santa or carefully hanging stockings make family traditions and promote family bonding time. Families can and should spend time together preparing for the arrival of Santa and his reindeer. This also allows everyone to take a break from the hectic holiday schedules to do something enjoyable.

Santa also promotes charity, an important standard to pass along to children at this young, impressionable age. His life is filled with giving and not expecting anything in return. He has a selfless character that children should emulate in their lives. By giving Santa a new idea, parents can cause children to lose their faith. They can cause children to gravitate toward these products even if they didn’t care about the product itself.

The media domination goes a step further with the flood of Christmas specials. Starting after Thanksgiving, it is nearly impossible to turn the television on and not see a random Christmas special, most likely from the 1970s.

Children oftentimes see Christmas as the time that Santa visits their house and leaves them presents and forget about the religious reasons for the season (i.e. the birth of Christ). I can personally attest to the fact that the Christmas Eve service at my church was torturous to my young mind since it was at midnight and I was worried that Santa wouldn’t come to my house because I wasn’t asleep.

When the Santa myth is broken, a child’s entire world view can be shattered. The explanation of Jesus’ miracle relies on a level of magic that once Santa isn’t real can become questioned. From my experiences with childhood friends, this can even cause them to lose their faith. They started questioning everything that their parents told them.

Even when they approached it from their own angle, they couldn’t regain the faith they had before. They became the very thing that in the years before they hated: a cold and cynical person.

Giving your children the dream of Santa can be a good thing. That I won’t deny. However, the negative side of the story is what happens when they lose the magic of it. Many people are perfectly fine, but there are those children that you need to watch out for. These children can have lasting damage. That is something that parents need to gauge on a case-by-case basis.

Santa is part of the magical Christmas season
It’s the day Americans go crazy; annually

The Thanksgiving holiday can look vastly different from family to family but a scene at least relatively similar to this probably took place in your cozy home or the home of one of your relatives. Another scene by now is all too familiar is that of overly eager shoppers waiting in line outside of retail stores early in the morning on one of the best days for America’s consumerist economy – Black Friday. (The day after Thanksgiving has been given the name “Black Friday” because retailer’s profits go from red to black.)

If you’re from a small town, Wal-Mart, Target and a few hometown stores might be your only options for the busiest—and craziest—shopping-day of the year. But oftentimes those big-name chain stores are the ones with the best economy – Black Friday. (The day in the morning on one of the best scenes of overly eager shoppers waiting in line outside of retail stores early in the morning for the busiest—and craziest—shopping-day of the year. But oftentimes those big-name chain stores are the ones with the best profit margins. It’s the day Americans go crazy; annually.

It’s the day Americans go crazy; annually.

**Season’s fleeting**

Since the from Thanksgiving break, students have been serenaded by the Christmas music wafting from Zwemer Hall. But even though the Christmas spirit may seem to be pushed upon us, not all students are feeling in tune with the spirit of the season.

“I think that I’ve been too busy to even think about Christmas at this point. This is said because Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year, the workload and pressure of finals is taking away my spirit for Christmas this season,” said freshman Aaron DeBoer.

Sophomore Keely Wright agreed that Christmas music should not be played during the day after Thanksgiving. While I do love Christmas music, I feel that listening to it on the radio takes my attention away from spending time appreciating the meaning behind the Thanksgiving holiday,” said senior Michelle Kraayenbrink.

“My philosophy is, listen to whatever music makes you happy. If that happens to be Christmas music in the middle of spring, then so be it,” said sophomore Michelle Kraayenbrink.

The transition from the gratitude of Thanksgiving and the greediness of Christmas is quick and sometimes we get caught up in the business of the Christmas season. “Focus on giving and not getting and on the true reason for the season, our Savior’s birth,” advised sophomore Jennifer Angus.

“I think about all of the people who can’t celebrate Christmas the way that I can, and it helps me not to get caught up in the greediness,” added sophomore Erin Ogden.

“I donate all of my gently used things to people who I know need it. If I get double of something for Christmas, I give it to someone who can’t celebrate Christmas the way I do. It’s better to give than to receive,” said senior Michelle Mether.

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FEATURES

Holiday traditions aren’t so traditional at NW

SHELBY VANDER MOLEN
STAFF WRITER

If you venture into Pam Vlieger’s nook of the Zwemer basement, you’re sure to find a smile and greeting, a bit of music bopping out from the radio on the back counter and a piece of candy from the bowl on her desk as you go. But besides her warm personality, Vlieger’s expertise has illuminated the printing services office for years.

Every day, Vlieger can be found copying tests and booklets and fulfilling general classroom needs for various professors. Each morning, she handles UPS deliveries and distributes morning mail to faculty and staff. She works with graphics in Microsoft Publisher or Adobe Illustrator and scans materials to be converted to PDF.

But Pam has made this job into more than paper and text. She especially values her daily interactions with a variety of people. “A lot of the professors and staff, I don’t view as just professors and staff. They are my friends and colleagues. We laugh together and cry together. They are like an extended family to me.”

Though she mainly works with faculty, her services are also available to students. Vlieger says students are often unaware that they can utilize the printing services but she is more than willing to print color copies or make transparencies among other projects, especially if given at least a day to complete them.

With technology, Vlieger’s job has continually changed, specifically in the last 3-5 years. In past years, her office contained a giant press. Since then it has been replaced by electronics like copiers and scanners, and Vlieger says this has helped cut costs while making her work more efficient, clean and contained. “I do kind of like puzzles, so it keeps me interested in my job to figure out different ways to do things,” she says of learning new technology and methods.

But Vlieger has been more than printing extraordinaire at NWC over the years. After completing two years towards her degree in business administration, Vlieger began work in the admissions office doing clerical work in 1982. She then transferred to the printing office, her original goal, and began her first stint at the printing office that lasted about seven years. She then completed her degree and became manager of the bookstore for about five years. Now, back at the printing office, she is soon to reach her 30th year at NW.

Wife to Harold, a Sioux county farmer and businessman for self-initiated Verity Farms, as well as mother to three and an avid cook and gardener, Vlieger has enjoyed being on ¾ time status for many of those years. This has enabled her to keep family as a priority. “That’s one of the reasons I’ve stayed so long. It’s very family friendly,” Vlieger says.

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

ANNA HENKE
STAFF WRITER

As the holidays draw near, we are burdened by finals as we watch the snow fall. We slip on the ice outside VPH. We freeze shuffling to the caf every day. All we want to do is be at home, next to a lit-up Christmas tree, free at last.

Unfortunately, the end of the semester is no time to relax. The last few weeks are always crazy. Papers and tests and project deadlines threaten to crush the seasonal joy. But we start our own traditions during these college years. The first time we celebrate holidays with our friends in our own dorms and apartments is something special.

So how does NW celebrate?

We deck the halls of our apartment. We hang twinkle lights and buy a tiny tree from the cheap aisle at Wal-Mart. Ugly, mismatched, probably handknitted stockings are hung from pushpins on living room walls. Sparkly red and gold Christmasbulbs hung from the top of windowsills add nice finishing touches to any dorm or apartment.

Additionally, a mixed CD of Christmas songs is almost a must for those who like to sing in the shower. “It’s the most wonderful time of the year…”

Here at Northwestern, dorm celebrations take many forms. Stegenga and Fern both celebrate Christmas morning sometime in early December. This is a delightful ritual which involves surprises for the freshmen and breakfast in pajamas with the entire hall. Last year in Steggy, there was an appearance by Santa—and he read them a Christmas story.

West Hall sets up a living room every holiday season in the front entryway. It’s very cozy—with living room furniture and a TV permanently set to the fireside log channel. It’s a great center for community, which characterizes the spirit of West Hall.

This year will be the 19th annual Coly Christmas—a tradition that has been going on since 1992. Each wing chooses a theme and transforms their hallway. Some themes from the past include Northwestern Christmas, State School Christmas, A Christmas Catastrophe, and Heemstra Christmas. (Ironically enough, A Heemstra Christmas was previously put on by 3rd year students.) The Coly guys go all out, “taking on the roles of actor, singer, dancer, tour guide, Santa, animals, famous people and even Northwestern “celebrities.” Kathy Meendering from the caf even made a cameo appearance last year,” said Coly RD Ryan Anderson. She no doubt sealed the deal for 2nd North, who won the vote last year with “Caf Christmas.”

Anderson says, “One of my favorite aspects of the Bash from an RD standpoint is it achieves both wing and dorm unity.” While much of the work is done with wingmates, I think when the night is over, the guys walk away feeling proud to be a part of Colenbrander Hall. “He assures me that “once again, the guys are dreaming up some good themes so the 2010 Bash is sure to be another good one.”

With such a short time on campus between Thanksgiving and Christmas break, be sure to dive right in to the decorating. Be sure to celebrate but also be sure to study so you can continue to enjoy NW traditions year after year.

PHOTO BY ANDREA OSMER

Printing pride is a positive part of Pam’s power

PHOTO BY ANDREA OSMER

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

PHOTO BY ANDREA OSMER

PHOTO BY ANDREA OSMER
Disney lets down its hair, finds gold in old conventions

Disney’s “Tangled” shows the studio’s knack for the magical.

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The trend of overhyped, underachieving 3-D CGI films has been broken, and it took the classic Disney recipe to do it. Their latest princess film, “Tangled,” displays a fresh take on the classic story of Rapunzel and her first journey outside her keep.

Following the underperforming, though wonderful, hand-drawn “Princess and the Frog,” Disney once again conforms to modern movie-making trends. As much as I enjoyed the classic feel to their previous film, the 3-D CGI effects created a brilliantly painted world and enticing effects, which impress even those, such as me, who remain opposed to the trend of the added “dimension.”

What really gives the film an edge on their more recent works is their return to the characteristic Disney formula. The company used to be associated with dramatic, musically-invigorating fairytales filled with action, adventure and an unrealistic, sappy love story that inspired all ages.

“Tangled” unexpectedly fulfills that brilliant formula. The simple, fun songs and strong character development keeps their tradition of animated brilliance alive, adding Rapunzel to the ranks of the elite Disney princesses.

If I had to make a complaint, however, it would be that I wanted more of the same. The catchy tunes, primarily sung by Rapunzel, played by Mandy Moore, were mostly toward the front of the film and left me longing for more dramatic, show-stopping tunes to keep up the warm pace.

To add to the nostalgic journey, the orphaned Flynn Rider’s love affair with the restless princess who longs for the outside world, albeit from a lone keep rather than a palace, drew constant comparisons to Aladdin. Aided by music from Alan Menken (“Aladdin,” “Beauty and the Beast”) and an Abu-esque chameleon, the characters and antics were wonderfully familiar. Still, “Tangled” is much more than just characters plugged into an equation; the lighthearted film carried me through, entertaining and lifting my spirits from beginning to end.

One of the movie’s largest strengths is Disney’s handling of scary material. Most ‘children’s’ movies are either devoid of danger, magical or overproduced and too frightening for their intended audience (Disney’s “Christmas Carol,” “Megamind,” “Cars”). Though admittedly not needed in all kid flicks, the inevitable victory of good over evil is played out with poise and suspense, thrilling without succumbing to the pointlessness of many recent animated epics (the recent 3-D flop “The Nutcracker,” for example).

As with any quality Disney villain, Rapunzel’s kidnapper is a menacing, despicable being, able only to be loathed. Greedy, selfish and disturbing to look upon, her darkness is well-known and prevalent, yet emphasized just enough to create depth rather than terrifying intensity. Also in true Disney fashion, evil is conquered in their trademark, dramatic manner that may cause children, and a college student or two, to loosen their grip on the popcorn.

Although we would all love to have the hand-drawn excellence of our childhood back, the animated powerhouse has sent a reminder to the likes of Pixar and Dreamworks as to just who is in charge of the fairytales. Rather than succumbing to using dramatic visuals to cover up a sub-par plot, their most recent animated epic implements music, story and character development with engaging effects to capture the audience. This holiday season, amid other animated flops and disappointments, students should wrap themselves up in “Tangled” and rekindle their imaginations with Disney’s continued brilliance.

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Christmas Lights: Sioux Falls’ “Winter Wonderland”

If you’re looking to get into the holiday spirit with a significant other, this date night title to boot I’ll admit it, I judged the cover with a silly, pulpy-sounding title in Swedish translates “Men Who Hate Women.” Supposedly, Laurie Penny notes that one of its themes is that “misogynist violence implied by its vivid descriptions. Reviewer Laurie Penny notes that one of its themes is that “misogynist violence against women, and is therefore required to show its enemy in its true form.

As a detective novel, none are more interestingly plotted. If you have the stomach for some horrific imagery and are able to trust that the author is not leading you in the wrong direction, then “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” is well worth looking past its gaudy, distracting cover.
Consumer expectations keep games bland

BY MICHAEL GUTSCHE

One of the greatest problems facing the games industry today is the expectations of the consumer. For instance, a game’s visuals are expected to be realistic more than they’re expected to be communicative. Games must both not contain any filler to pad their length, but must also be at least 10 hours long. Each game must have some sort of in-game incentive to replay it, whether it be unlocks, branching story paths, or a levelling up mechanic. And it must have a multiplayer. If you can’t compete with others, if you can’t win, there must be something terribly wrong with the game. It’s a game, isn’t it?

So suddenly we have a rut in which to sprawn our mind-ankles: video games are games, and games are for playing. And “play” assumes a few things: a complete knowledge of the environment that is participated in, wherein the goals is almost inevitably to perform better than another in a given challenge or by some arbitrary measurement of success. In other words, to win is its only goal.

This all gets pretty technical, but it’s these pre-conceived notions that consumers need to re-evaluate if the medium is ever to achieve something truly groundbreaking. In the meantime, it’s the popular games that dictate what’s good and what’s a failure. With long-standing series like “Halo,” “Call of Duty” and “Mario” holding most of the market, it can be difficult to approach anything but what is familiar without dismissing it as bad or strange. And even when a game is released as a standalone title—now part of a series’ story and environment—it is still pitted against the precedent of other games in its so-called genre.

Take graphics, for instance. Some games don’t have a photorealistic look, or even attempt to—whether the reason be a chosen artistic style, the developer’s budget, or even just a different priority within the game. Even so, this visual criteria is almost always the basis for instant judgment. This is probably because we gather information fastest through our eyes. Altogether, it leads to something you’ve heard before: “Those graphics suck, dude!” And then the game is written off as bad based on this butter-thin point.

With expectations so blandly defined, we get exactly what we ask for: very few games, made on fabulously large budgets by armies of developers, focus-tested to death, and marketed to as broad of an audience as possible, thus making oceans of money. It’s a repeat cycle. The value we place on things like photorealistic graphics can discourage those developers from making anything but a brown and grey first person shooter. After all, Call of Duty made a tidy pile of money, didn’t it? It’s sitting up there on that pile in its money-throne, wearing clothes sewn from currency, twirling it’s money-stache, eating soup. And it thinks it’s better than you.

When expectation rules what we will accept as valuable, bad things are a’ happening. Video games are still in their relative infancy, and if they become too machined, too precise, then they may collapse on themselves. And that’d be terrible.
**SPORTS**

**Miles ends career at national meet**

**BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT**

Senior Charity Miles finished an impressive collegiate career at the NAIA National Championship meet in Vancouver, Wash., on Saturday, Nov. 20. Miles placed 79th in the race with a five-kilometer time of 19:11. She was the fifth runner from the Great Plains Athletic Conference to cross the finish line. Michelle Steiger from Dordt earned All-American honors with a 21st place finish. Kara Nelson and Jessica Hudelson from Morningside and Ashley Unruh from USF finished in the top 50.

Justyna Mudy from Shorter University won her second consecutive national championship with a time of 17:42. The team from USF finished in the top 50.

Charity Miles runs to 79th place at nationals.

**Wrestlers take down Wayne State, wrestle at Auggie Open**

**BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT**

The Northwestern wrestlers defeated Wayne State on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 31-13. Sophomore Diego Quintana pinned his opponent in 2:46 at 285 pounds to kick off the night. Freshman JL Mayo won by majority decision, 18-7, at 141. Sophomore Jerod Flores won by decision at 149, 12-10, and at 157, freshman Mark Evjen won by fall in 5:11. Freshman Jesse McCann beat his opponent by decision, 11-9, at 165. Junior Alex Miller won by fall in 5:11.

The Raiders took advantage of Dordt’s 33 turnovers to win 88-60 on Wednesday. Dec. 1. Charity Miles ran to 79th place at nationals.

**Women’s basketball dominates the court**

**BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT**

Northwestern women’s basketball team defeated Central and William Penn in the Pizza Ranch Classic on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 26-27.

The Red Raiders dominated Central, 90-52. The beginning of the game was tight, but after Central tied the score at 33, NW went on a 13-0 run to take a 46-33 halftime lead. The Raiders held the Dutch’s offense to 18 percent shooting from the field in the second half to seal the deal. The Raiders shot 49 percent for the game, 32 percent behind the three-point line. Four Raiders scored in double figures, led by sophomore Kendra De Jong with 18 points. Senior Becca Hurley and junior Kami Kuhlman, who was one of the top 53, scored 17 and 15, respectively, and senior Allison Hulst scored 10 off the bench. NW had the rebounding advantage, 43-39. De Jong pulled down nine rebounds and Hulst had seven, while De Jong and Hurley dished out eight and seven assists, respectively.

NW defeated the Statesman 88-64. Hurley scored a career-high 36 points, shooting 10 of 17 from the field and 13 of 14 from the free throw line. De Jong followed with 22 points, while Kuhlman had a season-high 20. NW shot 33 percent from the field and held the Statesmen to 34 percent.

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**PLAYER PROFILE**

**Kristin Neth**

**BY ANDREA OCHSNER**

Kristin Neth has been playing basketball since she was in fifth grade. “The first year I played, I was awful and super clumsy. I just loved it. I practiced all the time in the summer and got good.”

Despite a rough start, basketball has become a huge part of her life. “It was a big part of my decision to come to Northwestern, because I wanted to play basketball, but it wasn’t the full reason because there were a lot of schools in the GPAC that were recruiting me. I had a full ride to go to Mount Marty, but I wanted to come to NW because it had more of the authentic Christian aspect, and it wasn’t just a title of the school.”

Neth will be graduating in the spring with a degree in Exercise Science. “I originally started going for Physical Therapy, but decided I wasn’t as passionate about it.” After switching to an Exercise Science major, Neth discovered a field within it known as Wellness Coaching. “My sophomore year, I became a D-group leader and became really passionate about discipling women. I’m really excited to be able to sit down with people who are really struggling with something and helping them find that deeper wellness. I want to be able to partner with women and disciple them.”

In her time at NW, Neth has learned to accept God’s plan and leave the control up to Him. “Basketball is something that I hope God will use to refine me. I’ve learned a lot through basketball. The biggest thing I’ve learned is how to work my butt off and give up control and just trust God in His plans. His plan is beautiful, and I need to trust that and not make my own plans. There’s only so much you can control.”

Neth leaves NW with this piece of advice: “Matthew 6:33, ‘Seek first His Kingdom.” This verse is also the team’s theme for the year. “No matter what you do, no matter what you spend your time doing, make sure to keep your focus on what’s important and that’s seeking Him first. We struggle to find life in the things that aren’t going to give us life, when Christ is really going to give us life and enjoyment in all those other things.”

After graduating in May, Neth is scheduled to exchange vows with Tyler Tigges, former NW student, on May 29th. They plan to do a ministry trip together to Israel with Athletes in Action for their honeymoon. Neth also plans to take a wellness class and get certified in Wellness Coaching while starting her life with her new husband.