Across Campus

Art Exhibit
Eric Anderson will be displaying his woodcut and wood engraving prints in the Te Paske Gallery. The show will open with a public reception Friday, February 4 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Gala Auction
Silent auction bidding will begin at 3 p.m. on February 5. Sandwiches will be served in the RSC gym beginning at 5 p.m., and the evening will end with an audible auction starting at 7 p.m.

Cashore Marionettes
A show of life-like marionette performances will take place in NWCIowa’s England Proscenium Theatre on Tuesday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Iowa Public Hearing
DES MOINES, IA—On Monday, a statewide discussion on repealing legal gay marriage legalization was held in Des Moines. Further debate will follow on the Supreme Court ruling that legalized gay marriage in Iowa in 2009. Look for further details in next week’s Beacon.

Submit Events
Submit your campus happenings and events to the Beacon for inclusion in this column. Submissions should be roughly 50 words or less and be emailed to beacon@nwciowa.edu.

Chapel

Monday
• Matthew Hulst

Tuesday
• Chapel Music Team

Wednesday
• John Hubers, Religion Professor
• Spanish Chapel

Friday
• Marit Langley ’11

BY JULIA LANTZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Russians suffer 9/11-like terrors

“Today, it feels a little bit different from 9/11. For me, it feels a little bit closer,” said Dr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson, a former member of the Peace Corps stationed in Russia.

As the faculty advisor for the Summer Study Abroad trip to Russia’s Pacific coast, opposite the country of the capital, Moscow, Josselyn-Cranson remarked, “I’ve found it to be an incredibly warm and hospitable culture. People you don’t even know will insist you come for dinner. It doesn’t even matter what time you show up, you’ll always get a full meal.”

This hospitality is remarkable considering a long and painful history of communism and forced homogeneity on the Russian people. Having long defied the orthodox geographic bounds, Russia spreads over two continents, nine time zones and eight main ethnic groups.

“Russia was very homogenous under the Soviet Union. Communism does homogeneity very well, which is why some of these non-Russian countries are reveling in having their own language and culture. It’s understandable that at the root of the bombing are these people groups, who have their own religious background, wanting to establish their independence,” said Josselyn-Cranson.

“The last time we went to Russia, everyone was so happy to see us.”
Texting vs. writing: context and convenience collide

BY KATI HENG
OPINION EDITOR

Cell phones have created a constant battle of good vs. evil. Professors ask that they be turned off in class, laws are being passed to limit their usage while driving, and now there are even reports on the health risks associated with spending too much time on the phone.

Yet the majority of our generation owns a cell phone. Parents trust their teens to use them in emergencies; employers use them to keep in touch with their workers. Some of the biggest news in the business world occurred earlier this month when Verizon announced it would now be carrying the iPhone, making the popular gadget available to a whole new group of consumers.

How does this all add up?

Ann Lundberg, an English professor at Northwestern, said that she has not noticed a drastic decline in the quality of students’ writing due to the increase of texting and cellular phones, contrary to what some reports would lead us to believe. However, she has noticed a change in students’ e-mails.

“This new age of technology has lead to a lot of students being unaware of when to use formal and when to use informal language,” said Lundberg. Although the papers are free of text shortcuts such as “u,” “c,” or “2,” she still receives e-mails full of them.

“And they’re sending me these e-mails, fully knowing I’m an English professor!” said Lundberg. Lundberg asks her students to keep cell phones off during class, and says she has not had a problem with texting during class. “But if it did happen,” she said, “I would find it extremely rude.”

Orange City resident Marilyn Bruxvoort was much quicker to voice her displeasure with the way in which she sees cell phones being used.

“We’re people are on the phones, they don’t tend to their driving,” said Bruxvoort. “They should park, and then talk. Otherwise, other people could get killed. It’s not respecting life.”

NW students are seeing the negatives of phones as well. Chantelle Reno, a junior at NW, said she is “not a big fan” of mobile devices.

“I like them for paper purposes, but I don’t like the fact that people can reach me anytime that they want,” said Reno. “Texting or talking on your phone all the time interferes with living in the moment and communicating with the people you are presently with.”

Despite how she doesn’t “like how dependent we’ve become” to how she doesn’t “like how dependent we’ve become” to phones, and “how for some people, life would cease to exist without a phone,” Kristin Treese, junior at NW, admits phones do make life simpler.

“T r e a s e r’s room mate, junior Aly Cooper, agrees.

“Whoever created cell phones did it with the best of intentions, but the society has perverted those intentions with the way we now use phones.”

Recently, magazines such as Vogue and the online Newsweek have published articles warning about the dangers of cell phone radiation. The radiation is similar, but a lower frequency, of the same waves found in microwaves and X-rays. Research has not yet found a link between cell phones and cancerous tumors, but tumors can take decades to develop — longer than the average customer has owned their devices.

So why do we continue to use cell phones?

“It’s convenient,” said Art Hielkma, an Orange City resident. After Hielkma’s wife died over a year ago, he has gotten rid of his landline and switched completely to the cell. “It’s cheaper, especially since I’m the only phone caller at home.”

Larry Korver, a former football coach at NW, gave his opinion on cell phones while spending the day with his grandchildren. Although they are young and do not have their own phones, Korver is not against his grandchildren getting phones in the future.

“They’ll be taught how and when to use them,” Korver said. “They’ll know what phones are meant to be used for.”

Maybe that’s the key—know the facts, know when to use your phone and when to turn it off, and maybe we can get back to appreciating the convenience and other benefits cell phones bring us.

Student success bigger than “A’s” and athletics

BY JULIA LANTZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The New York Times has noted that some of the schools with the best mental health programs “have been spurred by some of the worst tragedies.”

Suicides and shootings have struck the campuses of New York University, Virginia Tech and MIT, but have had positive impact on each campus’s mental health programs, mostly through the expansion of services.

This year questions the future actions of Pima Community College, the alma mater of the man charged with the Tucson shooting, Jared L. Loughner.

Pima has reported that Loughner had encounters with the campus police due to complaints about him from faculty members and students and was later asked to leave the college last September.

College officials suspected that Loughner was mentally ill, but he did not receive mental health care because Pima does not offer mental health care programs.

In response to these recent articles, Dr. Sally Edman, the head of counseling services at Northwestern, says, “Our students should take seriously how much something like a depressive episode, serious disruption in the family or the grieving of a loss can impact a person socially or academically.”

“The wellness center encourages students who don’t feel like they can deal with tough situations on their own to set up an appointment,” Edman said.

“NW NW students share what stresses them out the most.

Senior Marji Mulder finds that she especially stresses out about big assignments. When asked what relieves her stress, she replied, “I usually sleep or knit. I also try to just get the assignment done and when it is done I try to relax.”

Senior Daniel Uneks finds that he is most stressed when he has procrastinated and small tasks build up at once. He also comments, “I usually find stress to be a highly motivating force. I try to harness the extra energy it gives me and use it to get on top of things. I am most productive when stressed.”

Freshman Christa Curl finds that papers and exams cause her the most stress. Curl tries to escape stress by getting enough sleep and avoiding procrastination.

Curl is involved in women’s choir, theatre, and an intramural basketball team and to avoid becoming stressed she says, “I have to get things done ahead of time and try to plan around my activities.”

According to Edman, “Awareness about mental health is a part of the education that NW tries to offer.”

The Wellness Center provides individual and group counseling. “We have counseled roommates, couples, and other groups,” said Edman.

The Wellness Center also does campus outreach activities to create awareness about depression, eating disorders and other health-related topics.

Edman gives some last advice, stating, “When your body is sleep-deprived and you are not eating healthy foods, your body is not getting the support it needs to function. Exercise is hugely effective in regulating mood.”

Stress from activities, academics, sports and personal affairs are inevitable. Therefore, it is even more crucial to be aware of what our bodies need to be whole and well. NW provides the means and support not only for academic and intellectual success, but physical and emotional wellness as well.

54 possibly habitable planets found

BBC - Astronomers have located 68 newly discovered Earth-sized planets, 54 of which they believe may be able to support life. These new finds are credited to the Kepler Space Telescope.

New mosquito type

PARIS, France - A new subtype of the mosquito that is responsible for most of the transmission of malaria in Africa has been discovered. Scientists are still unsure what new insight this mosquito may provide into the knowledge of malaria transmission.
A proud Packer fan speaks

This Sunday will be witness to the Super Bowl XLV. Packers versus Steelers, Black and Gold vs. Green and Gold. Since I am from Green Bay, I know what it is like to live Green and Gold. Why am I a Packers fan? I think the better question is “why not?” My parents were both Packers fans and I grew up as one. Aside from just following blindly what my parents did, how could I not cheer on a team that is all about the fans? For evidence of this, just take a quick look at where Lambeau Field is located. Residential areas are to the north and south and local businesses are to the west.

With Lambeau so close to the fans, they never cease to support the Pack at home games. Fans start tailgating hours before games, no matter how bad the weather. Over 50,000 attended the Ice Bowl where the temperature was double digits below zero. The 2007 NFC Championship (Favre’s last game with the Pack) brought in over 72,500 people, despite temperatures hovering near zero.

BY SETH HERNING

There is no lack of desire to watch a game in person. I got put on the waiting list for season tickets in 2000. I’m still somewhere in the 40,000s. And it’s not just at home that the fans make their presence known. They will flock to support their team all over the nation. Two great teams will clash on the gridiron for the ultimate prize in football. Who do I expect to win? I obviously hope the Packers will, but I also have reasons for thinking they will.

The road to Dallas has been difficult one for them. In the middle of December, they were 8-6 after a hard-fought battle and a Rodger-less loss to the Lions. It appeared that the season was over. Backed up against the wall, the Pack had two home games left against the Giants, who were looking for redemption after an embarrassment against the Eagles. The other game was against the Bears, who had secured the second seed but were as always looking for a win against their hated rivals to the north. The game against the Giants was easily won. The one against the Bears was much harder fought. In the closing seconds, Nick Collins provided the game-saving interception to propel the Pack to the playoffs for the second year in a row.

The next week’s game against the Eagles proved just as difficult but ended with a pick in the end zone, this time by Tramon Williams, sending the Packers to face the No. 1 seed in the NFC. The game against Atlanta was arguably also decided by an interception that was provided again by Tramon Williams, who brought it back for six, put Green Bay up 28-14 at the half and no doubt took all the life out of Atlanta. Two more interceptions against the Bears propelled the Packers into the Super Bowl. A pick-six by B.J. Raji and one more in the closing minute by the rookie Sam Shields secured the victory.

The Steelers, on the other hand, haven’t scored since the second quarter against the Jets and nearly gave the game to them, allowing 19 unanswered points. The last two games of the regular season were indeed wins, but they came against the Browns and Panthers, who had a combined seven wins. The Giants and Bears had more than three times that amount. The Packers have momentum on their side. Five straight wins have given them an edge that will carry them to their sixth straight win on Sunday.

The Vince Lombardi Trophy is coming home.

They’re nothing but a pack of chumps

This coming Sunday, we will be watching a final game of some importance to those who concern themselves with such things. The champion of the American Football League, the Pittsburgh Steelers will face off against the champion of the National Football League, the...um...well the other team. Being a Minnesota Vikings fan, feeling the bitter... bitter, bitter... disappointment of yet another lost opportunity is crushing. It was a tough year for us all.

However, in the spirit of goodwill and sportsmanship, I am letting go the stubborn pride of team spirit which insists that the Vikings must be victorious, even if that’s not even possible. It really doesn’t matter to me whether or not the Steelers win or lose this year. But the Packers must lose. Now I know what some of you are going to say. Oh, he’s just a disgruntled Vikings fan who can’t accept that one of their most intense historical rivals has made it to the Super Bowl. Not true. Well, maybe a little true. But the important thing to remember is that the Packers truly are the most contempuble team in the NFL.

For starters, the Packers are completely anti-American. In an age when every other team has graciously acquiesced to ownership by any one of America’s most successful entrepreneurs, Wisconsin of all places? The city has barely over 100,000 residents. There are probably more badgers than people. Move to a real city.

Second, the Packers just aren’t that good. 10-6 in the regular season is lackluster to say the least for a Super Bowl contender; with the exception of the Seahawks, they had the worst record of the final eight teams between both conferences.

They have the 24th-ranked rushing game in the League, which is sad for a team that’s supposed to be the best in the NFC. Just goes to show that the Packers put too much stock in the arm of Aaron Rodgers. The quarterback, incidentally, has been doing way too well these past few games. I suspect a deal with devil is involved...

But perhaps the most offensive thing to any decent person about the Green Bay Packers is the fans. Packer fans bring shamelessness to a whole new level. I mean, come on, they wear cheese on their heads. Cheese! Most people would lay you out cold for calling them a ‘cheesehead’ but they wear the insult like a badge of honor.

Plus, in a lapse of foresight unprecedented in human history, they built an open-air stadium for a winter sport in Wisconsin. And Packers fans still show up without half their clothes! In December!

Then again, only a mass of people completely off their collective rocker would consistently paint that hideous combination of colors (Green and yellow?) all over their bodies. The extent to which Packers fans exceed the limits of sanity cannot be expressed with a finite number system.

With the overwhelming evidence against the Packers, it’s surprising that anyone can love them. Yet some people still do...I suppose that’s to be expected in a fallen world. I encourage you to follow the advice of Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:22: ‘Abstain from every form of evil.’

Do not root for the Packers this Sunday.

In the editor’s words

“Mon? You actually believed she left this semester because she had mono?”

“That’s not why I heard he left...” Gossip: that ugly word nobody wants to talk about. Yet, the latest and juiciest gossip is what people love to talk about. Funny how we love to do it, but we hate to admit that.

We make different names for it: secret sharing. Thoughts between friends. We try to pass it off as something else, like discussion, or a genuine concern for others. When we overhear a secret, we say it was their fault for talking loudly and not our fault for having excellent hearing. When someone tries to keep information a secret from public knowledge, we speculate and assume the unknown “facts” for ourselves.

It’s human, it’s ugly, it’s wrong and we know it. Maybe we are forgetting that it’s not wrong only because it’s another one of those behaviors good Christians should avoid, such as mowing the lawn on Sundays.

Gossip is wrong because it hurts. It hurts those who are innocent of the rumors we are spreading just as much as it hurts those who were guilty. And when gossip becomes our first choice of conversation, it can even hurt our reputations. After all, who tells personal things to someone who is known to share secrets?

So before you tell your friend that fascinating tidbit you picked up from some guy who knows a guy whose brother overheard... stop and think.

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Saving the best for last? Maybe think twice

BY EMILY GOWING
FEATURES EDITOR

There are few things more intimidating than being the lone freshman in a class full of seniors. However, few things are more disconcerting than being the lone senior in a room full of freshmen, a common sight in several general education class rooms.

Being a liberal arts school, it's a no-brainer that you'll be spending many of your credit hours on classes that don't directly apply to your major. For some, such as senior Heidi Hildebrandt, the general education requirement was extremely helpful in determining which field of study she wanted to major in. Now that it's her final semester she's not taking any gen ed classes until his senior year either, but he gave some insight as to why some seniors might. “I think one reason that seniors would wait this long is so that they can have an easy last semester and focus on things like getting a job next year instead of having to worry about upper-level classes pertaining to their majors.”

Senior Kristen Neth agrees with Butler. She said, “I waited because I wanted to take all of my credits for my major completed. By taking all of the classes in my major first, I feel more prepared as I start the job search.” Although these seem like reasons for finishing out your college career sitting in lower-level gen ed classes, some professors who teach the classes think the thought process is a bit backwards. One-fourth of Mitch Kinsinger's theology students are seniors — and, to him, this is a little “disappointing.”

“I think there is something particularly troubling with the number of seniors who take Intro to Theology. We want to foster the integration of faith and learning to Theology until they are on the cusp of graduation, they miss out on the integration they could have done had they the class closer to the end of their academic career.” As the Chair of the Gen Ed Task Force, Kinsinger is hoping to increase the number of students who leave faith-based gen eds until their final year. But what does a senior theology student have to say about this? Alex Menning is currently taking theology and chose to save the class for his senior year because he wanted “to get more grounded in my faith and what I believe.”

Geology education classes range from religion to math, science to history, fine arts to philosophy. Philosophy professor Randy Jensen has 11 graduating seniors out of a total of 86 students in his gen ed classes. “Some put off philosophy for as long as possible, to be sure! But a few may have waited for the particular class they wanted to take.”

Kevin Wallace can testify to that. He said, “I'm still taking gen eds: namely my philosophy requirement. I decided to wait because I'd heard great things about the class I'm in (Philosophy and Science Fiction) from some Heemstra guys who'd taken it two years ago. Since it's only offered every other year I had to wait until my senior year, which has turned out to be a huge blessing. Since gen eds are lower level classes (in general) that means that I can relax a bit more with my school work and focus on hanging out with the guys before I'm gone.”

Some students think waiting is best, but others were happy to be done after their sophomore year. Professors acknowledge that although they see the importance in establishing the liberal arts education early on, sometimes waiting for the class you want to take is better than sitting through one you won't be as interested in.

Information provided about Northwestern's general education requirement tells prospective students to “start with a foundation,” and perhaps that's why Kinsinger apologetically states, “it's not [the students'] fault; the college is the one who has said it is acceptable [to wait].” In order to prepare students early on, “this is something I hope we can change in the future.”

West Slide Story set to dance into the sunset with final show

BY ALYSSA CURRIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For the past month, dance has owned the lives of nearly half the student body as they’ve prepared and performed for RUSH.

Choreographers have been working on their pieces since Christmas. But for senior Alex Menning, dance has been going on for a lot longer than that. Menning first fell in love with dance when he performed on a co-ed RUSH team his freshman year of college. The next year, he helped orchestrate one of the most popular NWC events, Northwestern's Best Dance Crew. It was this competition that led to the creation of the most famous dance crew on campus, West Slide Story.

“I used to watch America’s Best Dance Crew, so I got some guys together from West and told them we could probably dominate this thing, I choreographed and we won. Then we won the next year, and now we're a featured performance in this year’s RUSH,” said Menning.

West Slide Story has six members: Menning, seniors Ed Rodriguez and Dan Laird and juniors Joel Hegeman, Aaron Bauer and Dan Sikkema. “My favorite performance ever was probably NBDC this year. We did some really cool stunts that I didn’t think we could pull off, but we did,” said Menning.

Menning said his choreography is inspired by a combination of High School Musical, Step Up 2 and West Slide Story will perform for the last time ever at Saturday's ten-o’clock RUSH. The tears in Menning’s eyes showed how truly invested he has become in this group when he admitted he is “pretty sad” that this will be their last time dancing together.

In response to rumors that a group of girls may be conspiring to put together an “East Slide Story” next year, Menning said, “If that’s true, those girls are probably from Fern because they copy everything West does. Hopefully, they just don’t scare anyone.”

As Menning and the other senior members of his crew get set for graduation, he plans to go to med school in the fall. However, his part in West Slide Story will not be soon forgotten.

“He’s made a dynasty of dance,” said senior mentor Phil Hegeman.

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NWC Alumni Association invites you to the

GAL AUCTION 2011

Saturday, February 5
Rowenhorst Student Center
3:30 p.m. Silent Auction begins
5:15 p.m. Family Friendly Meal
7:00 p.m. Audible Auction

Free refreshments!

Childcare provided by NWC students going on Spring Service Projects.

Browse and bid online at www.nwciowa.edu/auction

Trip & Getaways: Fainting Okapi; Omaha; Northern Minnesota; Logandale; Sea World; Rainbow Trout Ranch; Archie’s Park

Entertainment: Year long movie passes, Adventureland Package, Wine Water West; Henry Doorly Zoo; Great Plain Zoo & Museum; Bridges Bay Package; Minnestoa Twins; Basketball/Volleyball Camps; Aquatic Center passes; Sioux City packages

Golf: Landshower, Sioux Golf, Nebraska; Diehard Golf, Whispering Creek; Two Rivers Golf, Sun Mountain golf bag

Electronics/Tools: HDTV; iPod Touch; TomTom GPS; Kindles; Ullmamaster garage door opener; Black & Decker drill

Other exciting items: Green Bay Packers helmet; Rod Diedrich autographed baseball; Orange City family pool pass; golf clubs; dance classes; pet bed; free trimming; girl’s bike; glider rocker; Heemstra Hall brocks/blocks; leather recliner; lots of NW clothes and keepsakes

Several years after starting Northwestern’s Best Dance Crew and dancing together numerous times, West Slide Story will give their final performance at this Saturday's RUSH show. Members of West Slide Story from left to right, senior Alex Menning, senior Dan Laird, junior Dan Sikkema, junior Joel Hegeman, senior Ed Rodriguez and junior Aaron Bauer.
Brandon Ogren, a senior at NW, had mono last spring. He was sick for the first week. He then made an appointment at the wellness center where he got an MRI and X-ray. Erin Ogden, a sophomore at NW, was playing golf last year when she twisted her back. Later that day, she jumped out of her bed and herniated a disk. West came to the emergency room, but they were not sure what happened, so she returned to her room in Fern and tried to deal with the pain.

It can be more than you think

With Tamara’s office in De Vries Cottage and Keith’s in Granberg, even their two boys, 11-year-old Kit and 9-year-old Gideon, end up staying out on campus. Tamara says that managing childcare and two full-time jobs is a challenge, but the flexibility of working nearby helps. “We tag team and work around his classes,” she explains.

Tamara remembers when the couple lived in DeKalb, Illinois. She completed her masters and then worked full time as Keith worked on his Ph.D. Work days took away a lot of together time. “We kind of take this for granted now, but then, we kind of led our own lives during the day,” Keith agrees. “For a working couple, we see an awful lot of each other. It’s really nice for us.”

With work being such a major part of the couple’s lives, the Fynaardts say it’s nice to be a part of the same thing and not have to catch up on so many things once they get to spend time at home. They also say that since many faculty don’t have family in the area, the campus community truly becomes like an extended family, and it’s nice that they can be a part of that together.

The downside, however, is that since they work at the same place, it is easy “to talk shop at home” when sometimes it’s nicer to be able to leave work at work, says Keith. However, like Tamara points out, “It helps a marriage when you both really like what you do. We both have jobs that we both really like and they happen to be in the same place.” Because reading and writing are so integral to their identities, at least when the work comes home, “it’s all stuff that we like anyway,” says Tamara.

Sometimes at home she has to remind him, “You can drop the professor voice now. I don’t need you to conduct a class with me,” Tamara says with a smile. Whether it’s coffee in the mornings, lunch dates at noon, or simply sharing the fulfillment of working together at a place that shares their values, for the Fynaardts, working at NWC has been a blessing. Like Keith said, “It really suits us.”
'Swan’ a dark, graceful thriller

BY BETSY DE GLOPPER  CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When I heard that Darren Aronofsky was working on a new project, my mind instantly recalled some of his past films, which were rich with dark storylines, thrilling plot twists and superb acting. Aronofsky, who directed films like "Requiem for a Dream" and "The Wrestler," has produced arguably his best work yet in "Black Swan," starring Natalie Portman, Mila Kunis and Vincent Cassel.

"Black Swan" follows the story of Nina (Portman), a dedicated and passionate ballerina in a New York City ballet company. When the company’s director, Thomas Leroy (Cassel), decides to go in a new direction for this season’s production of Swan Lake, Nina is his first choice in replacing the washed-up, former top ballerina Beth Macintyre (Winona Ryder).

The lead role of Swan Lake requires a kind of double identity: that of the technically precise White Swan, at which Nina is a natural, as well as the more abstract, somewhat headdless Black Swan, which Nina is not. Bad-girl Lily (Kunis) is the Black Swan to Nina’s White, and soon their competition for the lead role consumes Nina’s life. The intensity of rehearsals and life outside of the ballet turns Nina’s passion into obsession, and as her Black Swan starts to immerge, it threatens to consume her life. The intensity of rehearsals and life outside of the ballet turns Nina’s passion into obsession, and as her Black Swan starts to immerge, it threatens to consume her life.

Portman’s performance has several sources viewing her as the frontrunner for Best Actress at this year’s Academy Awards. While Portman is not a newcomer to the Oscar scene (she received a Best Supporting Actress nomination for her role in 2004’s “Closer”), this will be her first time up for Best Actress. Portman underwent months of training and dieting to get in shape for the role, and it shows. The film, made for a reported $13 million, has already grossed over $90 million at the box office, and has been a top contender throughout the awards season. To go along with Portman’s Best Actress nod, the film has also received Academy Award nominations for Cinematography, Directing, Film Editing and the coveted Best Picture.

Aronofsky is a seasoned veteran when it comes to creating dark atmospheres and playing with emotions. He is known for shooting on 16mm film, which is smaller than the normal 35mm film that most filmmakers use today. He used a combination of this and small handheld digital cameras in the filming of “Black Swan.” This smaller approach allows for a lot more freedom to explore camera angles and movement. For example, all of the rehearsal scenes were shot with handheld cameras, allowing the cinematographer, Matthew Libatique, to immerse himself in the action, bringing the audience into a first-person view of the ballet world instead of viewing it from the usual third-person point of view.

Ask anyone of Northwestern’s viewers and you’re sure to get mixed reviews. The film is provocative, thrilling and will probably make you squirm. It is not an innocent movie about nice ballerinas, but it is a masterpiece that blurs the lines of reality and dream. Aronofsky delivers on one of his best, if not best, works of art to date.

What wins an Oscar?

BY ANDREW LOVGREN  EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

“The Dark Knight” wasn’t even nominated for Best Picture in 2009, despite its gross revenue of over $1 billion and widespread critical accolades. Were the nominations wrong?

“Avatar,” a record-setting sci-fi film that grossed $2.72 billion, lost out to “Hurt Locker,” a lesser-known story of a soldier’s recovery. A movie that made more money than twice the GDP of Liberia wasn’t the best picture of the year?

While many moviegoers cry foul, it’s important to look at what the Academy Awards are and, perhaps even more importantly, what they are not. Now in its 83rd year, the Oscars have a long tradition of recognizing quality storytelling, but it is true that they have had their share of snubs in the past.

“2001: A Space Odyssey,” though widely thought to be one of the best science fiction films of all time, HAL was unable to win a Best Picture. "Vertigo," acclaimed as "Scorsese's greatest achievement" with a one-and-a-half hour running time, lost out to "Gone With the Wind," which was 结果都还行。
Iron & Wine’s funky new sound

BY JORDAN LANGER
Assistant Editor

Sam Beam’s now decade-old, home-recorded “The Creek That Drank the Cradle” nestled a stripped-down sound of Americana with his bearded, bookish meekness. His became the crooning voice of the well-worn, of intimate human stories and of a soft-stated Gnosticism. It was raw, real, a herald to the ubiquitous folk vogue and eventually to the Heemstra everyman of the last five years or so.

Each release after his debut gave an invigorating add-on to this base sound, chorus-less and melody heavy: “Our Endless Numbered Days” cleaned up some of the horns and low-tempo electric all have a sense of timing and place. But these make up the whole of the album’s pure charms. Other tracks gloss up mediocre melody structures (“Walking Far From Home”), or else feel so reminiscent of old material that any would-be sentiment feels set up, no longer a spontaneous, memory-filled narrative (see “Tree By the River,” “Godless Brother In Love”). But my biggest complaint is that his digital-age embellishments, even when cool, don’t add much to the types of stories he sets out to tell.

That’s all backdrop to “Kiss Each Other Clean,” which also tinkers more esoteric, mystic range. That Drank the Cradle” nestled a texture (“Walking Far From Home” and “Your Fake Name Is Good Enough”), and a funky horn section that can get a little too rambunctious at times (especially “Big Burned Hand”). The parts aren’t always integrated as patiently as they should be—in the context of the album as a whole, but even within certain songs.

Essentially, this works better as a collection of stand-alone songs—the arch from track-to-track gets a bit disjointed. Thankfully there are some standouts, “Rabbit Will Run” has an earthy, barbaric feel, with hollow cuckoo chirps at the center about, and its energy does not feel as contrived as it does at other places: the vocal accompaniment, the horns and low-tempo electric all have a sense of timing and place.

And the closing track, “Your Fake Name Is Good Enough For Me,” beeps dissonant at keyboard. It’s just as twisted up as it sounds on paper. “Glad Men Singing” is that perfectly feel-good Fleetwood Mac song that he set out to make, and has me convinced that he could go for a more weightless pop variety in the future.

Iron & Wine iteration. It has all the charm, faux Faulkner lyricism, and nice subtlety to make it affecting or boring in equal measures—like the band itself. Beam will always be a raw, real, a herald to the future.

“Life In Motion”

BY ALENA SCHUESSLER
Staff Writer

A unique art form is scheduled to be on display next week at Northwestern. The Cashore Marionettes, a show consisting entirely of lifelike puppets, will perform at the England Proscenium Theatre on Tuesday, February 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Creator of the Cashore Marionettes is Joseph Cashore, winner of a Henderson Foundation Grant and a Pew Fellowship for Performance Art for artistic accomplishment. Cashore has been designing and performing with marionettes for over 30 years.

The show, called “Life in Motion,” consists of a sequence of vignettes portraying daily life. Scenes range from a child doing schoolwork to a horse galloping across a field to a mother comforting her baby. The scenes are set to Beethoven, Copland, Vivaldi, Strauss and other composers. Each marionette is intricately designed to move from head to toe. Past audience members of the touring show have described it as “exquisite.”

Tickets purchased before February 8 are $8 for adults and $6 for students. If tickets are purchased on February 8, they are $10 for adults and $8 for students. The show is sponsored by the NW theatre department and the Orange City Arts Council. To reserve tickets, call the Orange City Arts Council at 712-707-4885 or email ocarts@orangecityiowa.com.

Check Out

Book: “J.D. Salinger: A Life”
The withdrawn author of “The Catcher in the Rye” did not put out much material. Even so, he managed to be a dominant literary figure in the last century.

Music: James Blake’s Self-Titled Debut
After a cover of Feist’s “Limit To Your Love” went viral, it became that Blake’s minimal sound (think The XX) would again redefine UK dub.

Movie: David Russell’s “The Fighter”
Christian Bale underwent a dramatic physical transformation to prepare for his Oscar nominated role. Go see him in Sioux Center.
Kramer hits buzzer-beater, Bultman Center erupts

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK

In yet another episode of the Dordt/Northwestern rivalry, junior Jon Kramer hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to down the Defenders 85-82 Saturday night. NW improved to 18-5 overall and 11-2 in the conference. Dordt fell to 13-8 and 6-5 in the GPAC.

The Raiders started out cold from the field, not scoring a field goal for the first six minutes, but still keeping Dordt in sight with a score of 7-12. Dordt stayed in control of the lead and were up by as much as 13 until the Raiders began their charge on a four-point play by junior Walker Seim. The Dordt Defenders took a 45-35 lead into halftime.

Sophomore Daniel Van Kalsbeek’s lay-up with 6:39 to go gave NW its first lead of the game, 65-64. With 17 seconds left to play, Kramer went to the line and sank two free throws to put the Raiders up 82-79. Dordt sophomore Cliff Warner drained an equalizing, and sophomore Kendra De Jong added 10. Kramer dropped a career high 13 off the bench. Sophomore Stu Gostlinga ripped down 10 boards on the night. With the win, the Raiders remain alone atop the conference. Dordt fell to 13-8 and 6-5 in the GPAC.

Kramer hits buzzer-beater, Bultman Center erupts

BY NATASHA FERNANDO

It was a great weekend for Raider wrestling at the conference meet in Hastings, Neb. Senior Luke Evjen and Sophomore Jerod Flores brought home GPAC championship titles as the Raiders finished fourth overall at the meet.

Flores added two more falls on the year and an injury default, ending the season 28-10 with 13 falls. In the finals match up he challenged Concordia’s Starkey and pinned him in five minutes. This is Flores’ first title this year and second GPAC conference champion honor.

Evjen earned his second tournament championship (first in the York Open) and secured the conference championship in the semi final match by major decision fall. He went on to win the final 11-10 against Morningside when he worked for a reversal with time running out. Evjen ended the season 19-7 with six falls.

Raiders finish 4th at Conference

BY NATASHA FERNANDO

The Northwestern women (22-1, 13-0) continued their GPAC dominance with a 75-60 win over rival Dordt (13-8, 4-7) at the Bultman Center Saturday afternoon.

The Raiders were down 19-13 before going on a 12-0 run to take the lead back for good. They led by as much as 20 in the second half. The Raiders’ press trap forced 26 Dordt turnovers on the afternoon.

Sophomore Kendra De Jong put in 21 points and grabbed 11 boards to lead the Raiders in both categories. Senior Becca Hurley contributed 20 points and junior Kam Kuhlmann added 16. Senior Allison Hulst dished out six assists and scored five points.

Northwestern also defeated the men, high jumper Matt Huseman placed first and qualified for nationals. Huseman won with a height of 6-08 1/4 while teammate Mark Mineart finished third at 6-04 3/4. Shot-putter Kiley Murra placed first and qualified for nationals with a throw of 51-05 3/4, while Logan Ogden and Paul Lundgren finished second and third in the event.

The men’s runners were led by first- and second-place finishes in the 55m by sophomore Brandon Hammack and freshman Jesse Selegby. Hammack took first and broke the school record with a time of 5:13.7. Among the women, there were 12 other top five finishes.

For the men, high jumper Matt Huseman placed first and qualified for nationals. Huseman won with a height of 6-08 1/4 while teammate Mark Mineart finished third at 6-04 3/4. Shot-putter Kiley Murra placed first and qualified for nationals with a throw of 51-05 3/4, while Logan Ogden and Paul Lundgren finished second and third in the event.

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Women stay undefeated in GPAC