Northwestern College

And that’s a “Bingo!”

BY TYLER LEHMANN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

One more square and you will go home a winner tonight. As each number is called, your heart leaps, and you hold your breath while others stamp their cards. Time is running out.

The next number is called, and time suddenly freezes. This surreal moment has put you in a stupor. Snapping out of it, you jump up, flailing your arms like a madman, and triumphantly shout, “Bingo!”

This could be you as Northwestern railies once again for the annual blast forward in age. Bingo Night will be held Friday, Feb. 11, at 9:30 p.m. in the Rowenhorst Student Center gym.

Students who arrive dressed as senior citizens will receive seven additional Bingo cards, so don’t forget your walkers, dentures and fanny packs.

“You’ve gotta dress for success,” junior Steve Ehlers said, member of the Student Activites Council, which is sponsoring the event.

For students wishing to sharpen their Bingo skills, keywords include: 2010, Bingo spirit and went all out for 2010. Bring your same game to Bingo Night.

Sophomores Megan Ott, Adam Van Der Stoep, Emily Peterson and Katie Raab got into the Bingo spirit and went all out for 2010. Bring your same game to Bingo Night.

Day of Learning: Wrestle with faith, life and work

BY KATE WALLIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Growing up, Weston Cutter, professor of English, wanted to be a great many things: a basketball player for Duke University, a thief, a misfit a la “Atlas Shrugged” and Bon Jovi. Bon Jovi.

“I think at age nine or so I would’ve done anything to be Jon – not be like him, but actually be him,” said Cutter.

Other members of your favorite Northwestern faculty cited other ambitions. As a lad, Dr. Laird Edman, professor of psychology, had astronomical aspirations. “I was dedicated to being the first human on Mars. I was going to be a space adventurer. It has only been the last few years when it has become clear to me that isn’t going to happen. It has been a traumatic realization.”

Some of our fearless Residence Life staff dreamed of pursuing noble professions. West RD Seth Currier dreamed of adventures as a youngster; “I always wanted to live overseas. I was really inspired by the missionaries. I had dreams of living in the jungles of Africa, the rainforests of South America or the Australian outback.”

Rebecca Alsum, RD of Stegenga Hall, wanted to write about such adventures. “I wanted to be a writer. Or a forest worker.”

In another life, Lisa Barber, Fern RD, dreamed of an illustrious cosmetology career. “I remember wanting to go to Yale to be a hairdresser. I don’t believe that’s even a major at Yale!”

And while hairdressing might not have worked out as she’d dreamt, Barber is among the presenters at this Wednesday’s Day of Learning in Community. This year’s theme – Faith at Work – aims to provide a day devoted to presentations and workshops that delve into questions of spirituality, success and satisfaction within the work world.

This week I caught up with some of the workshop presenters, all well-known faculty and staff at NW, to ask them their advice to students reimagining what it means to be a Christian in the workplace.

“I feel like our faith is connected to everything we do: moments with those that are hurting and need a listening ear and hug, moments where there is conflict or frustration and grace and mercy becomes real,” said Alsum. “These are what make up our lives and our work.”

Dr. Edman agreed, “It is clearer and dearer to me as I grow older: my faith is my life, and to try to live any part of my life disconnected from my faith, or not in concert with my faith, is to live a disintegrated life.”

When wrestling with questions of faith within the workplace, Currier suggests finding accountability and support from others. “Find a community that can support you, even if it is just one person. When you have someone with whom you can share your struggles and frustrations as well as joys it goes a long way.”

“Don’t stop wrestling,” urged Barber. “The process is important and the long term results will yield good things for you and the people you work with. Be present and open to other ideas and ways of living, Seek understanding.”

Edman pointed out that, “Our culture and our own productivity pull us toward self-absorbed lives that are focused on living ‘The American Dream.’ I think we need to seriously interrogate that tendency. God is not calling us to a life of self-obsessed mediocrity. And so to our students wrestling with this issue: please, please, keep wrestling.”

“Don’t let the angel go until you get your blessing,” Edman advocated. “Even if it means you are injured. Faith and work: these are good things to wrestle with.”
Color Me Love
BY SHELBY VANDER MOLEN

Wafting smells of sausage
And egg white frying
In Omaha morning air
"Sucee me, ma'm. Where
Did you get that balloon?"
I heard her mother ask me,
As I eyed the little mass of
Purple, orange, brown,
Yellow longing,
I spun to point to the
The gray man's spot
But found it empty as
the blue latex pressed
Air pressure against my
Pale white fingertips.
Before objection could
Blacken the moment,
[Heart in my hand]
Became her heart in
Her hands, small and
Once full of yellow longing
Blue latex heart now clinched
There in green disbelief.

Are you missing a huge
hunk of man to keep you
warm at night? Has it been
an extended period of time
since cuddling up next to the
cutest guy in Coly? If so, I'm
your man. My name is Mark
Johnson. Feel free to stop by
Coly 322. I love a good
episode of 24.

Happy Almost 5 years!! Oh
yeah, and Valentine's Day,
too ; Ich Liebe Dich.
--Andrew Squire

I'm looking for a girl that
wants to date me in Coly.
I'm 19 years old, and
I'm pretty easy going.
I like to go out and have
good times.

Are you a female that
would like to hang out
with me? Let's
make some memories.

Bethany Gray - I thought you
did a wonderful job in RUSH.
You're the most a-TRACK-tive
girl I know. Hopefully we can
hang out sometime.
--Anonymous Admirer

Happy 35th anniversary!
Our love grows each day
and I thank God for you,
my husband.
Love, WOYY

Dear Jared Lee,
I hate your stinking guts. You
make me vomit. You are
scum between my toes.
Love, Alifa

Jesse - Cheese machine!
Cheese machine! Cheese
machine! Gimme the cheese,
cheese machine!
--Jordan Vermeer

My dear Meerkat,
Since you have been in Oman
my life has not been the same.
The sun does not shine as
brightly, the snow is not as
white and even the pudding
in the caf does not taste the
same. But each and every
day you are away, the jungle
of my love grows more trees.

Love Dee Dee

Dear Kelsey Leonard, I think
you're super great. I'm so glad
you're my love. Not only me,
but my friends also. My
Broncos may not have had a
good season, but
I have had a great
season. I have had
the chance to
play against
some of the best
teams in the
country.

I have
realized how
important
friendship
is, and I have
come to
realize
that you
are one
of my
closest
friends.

I love you
more than
words can
ever
express.

--K&Z"
Can’t buy me love

Valentine’s Day is a special day once a year in which we will send an estimated 1 billion cards around the world.

According to Retail Advertising and Marketing Association, an estimated $15.7 billion will be spent on Valentine’s Day gifts this year. The National Retail Federation estimates that men will spend an average of $158.71 on their special someone, while women will spend around $75.79. Over half a billion dollars will be spent on man's best friends, and roughly the same amount is estimated to be spent on children’s cards, like the ones little Jimmy will give to his third grade friends and classmates.

In all the numbers being thrown around, I seem to have missed the statistic that mentioned the very day we will send that day. It seems like a very simple, cheap and easy cop out.

Maybe The Beatles say it best:

“Tell me that you want the kind of things that money just can’t buy/I don’t care too much for money, things that money just can’t buy/I tell you that money can’t buy love.”

According to The Beatles, all you need is love. Yet, the average consumer will spend over $100 on Valentine’s gifts this year.

Ashman's, westrieve's put our lives in uncomfortable places—places we can relax and be at peace. Places where we fit in and where things make sense. It is human nature. But there is another side to this nature. Living in a stasis can only get us so far. Questioning and breaking that stasis is essential to interacting with our world and ourselves on any deeper level.

While reading Ray Bradbury’s Fahrenheit 451, I was struck by a few lines by the main character, Guy Montag. Says: “We need not to be left alone. We need to be really bothered. What is it like to lose something important, about something real?”

Montag is a man just starting to question and is realizing that the world he knows is not right. He begins to learn and search and obstacle overcome.

Many of these principles relate to us. Coasting through ideas and questions is easy in comfortable places. Northwestern can easily become a place of stasis. It is the familiar place. The problem arises when we stop being bothered, thinking critically, exploring, learning. Of course, Northwestern is a college with classes designed for these challenges, but often we do not engage. We become like Montag's wife, following the current answers can shatter foundations and traditions. We might even start to think differently from our parents. Learning is like a child clinging to her mother's leg. She is safe there, but is missing out on experiences the world offers. Leaving that place of comfort is difficult but necessary for discovery to begin. The fear is real, and it is challenging. Fear is the beginning of learning. We cannot let the fear be a brick wall, but rather Jell-O. It is difficult and messy to get through, but not impossible.

It took coming to Oman for me to be bothered by something real. My faith is being bothered. My ideas of Islam are being bothered. My understandings of the world are being bothered. My perceptions of people are being bothered. I needed a new physical place before I became bothered. I had to remove myself from anything comfortable and be placed in a new situation where the rules are changed.

I have a long way to go before I break out of my Jell-O questions, but I am in the Jell-O and I am being bothered. It feels good. It feels scary.

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What does your e-mail greeting say about you?

BY EMILY GOWING
FEATURES EDITOR

It seems to be that “Dear Abby” is a thing of the past. It’s true that snail mail is now more fun to get than emails just because it happens so infrequently, but do we need to keep the formal greetings of a letter when we compose an email?

The spokeswoman for US Congressman Ed Markey emailed a group of reporters and started off saying, “Hey folks.” The Wall Street Journal was taken aback by her informal greeting of people she’d never met but realized that her greeting could be the sign of an ending of the centuries-old written tradition. “Across the internet, the use of ‘dear’ is going the way of old sealing wax,” the newspaper wrote. “Dear…” is a bit too intimate and connotes a personal relationship,” spokeswoman Giselle Barry told the paper. In her career she finds it important to maintain “the utmost respect of a student as you can.”

Prof. Lundberg. “When I email my advisor or another teacher, I usually email them by their first name or nickname like, ‘Hey Scorza’ or ‘Hello Lila.’”

“I think the most common greeting I use is a simple ‘hello,’” said junior Glory Benson. “This would be used when the person I’m emailing is an authority figure, but I haven’t necessarily met them in person. Otherwise I use ‘Dear [insert name]’ which is used when there’s still some formality to the email – someone that deserves respect.”

Senior Ross Fernstrom would agree. When it’s someone he’s comfortable calling by their first name he typically uses “Professor. I just stick to what I feel offers comfort.” As an RA in the Plexes, he likes to have fun with the students he looks after and change it up every once in awhile. “I also send out emails that begin like this: ‘Dear Beloved Residents of CVS (Courtyard Village South).’ This is a more comical greeting, I use it for a change of pace for myself more than anything.”

It seems clear that we have free range with our greetings when we’re e-mailing friends or classmates, but the line between knowing professors and just meeting them for the first time becomes murky when deciding what email greeting is most appropriate.

As a rule of thumb, greet a faculty or staff in the same manner in which they have signed their e-mail. This only becomes a problem when you need to make the initial contact. In that case, we can heed the advice of etiquette guru Jean Broke-Smith. She said, “Introducing an e-mail is a lot like arriving at a party. Better to be overdressed. Then you can always take off the pearls.”

Be cautious of all of your word choices in emails you send, whether it is greetings, body or sign-offs. Broke-Smith admitted that “we are losing the art of letter writing. E-mails are becoming like texts. If we don’t get a handle on it, future generations won’t be able to spell at all.”

Take opportunities of communication to impress your professors rather than upset them.

H ow to:

| How to: 
| avoid late-night freak-outs |

1. Use online backup.
Online backup programs like SugarSync are instant and secure ways of protecting your PC, Mac or mobile device. There’s a 30-day free trial with 30 GB of storage. After the first month it’s $4.99 a month.

2. Save when you start.
Save the document before you even type the first word. That way, in case of a crash, Microsoft Word can automatically recover your file.

3. Work with a friend.
If you’ve got to stay up late working on an assignment, find someone on your wing or in your dorm that is up also. This way, you can keep each other motivated and, if computer problems occur, you’ll be able to think more rationally than if you were alone in your room at 3 a.m.

4. Send to e-mail or use a school computer.
This gives you the opportunity to access your paper or homework from any computer. Plus, your dorm’s computer lounge is an incredible place to be in the middle of the night.

5. Avoid late nights.
If at all possible, get your homework done early so the “late-night freak-out” isn’t even a possible problem. As Chaplain Van Oort said, “There’s a problem with lack of sleep on this campus.” Be as responsible of a student as you can.

Ask for help before it’s too late.

Alex Price was writing a paper for Basic Writing. She’d been experiencing those beloved “technical difficulties” but kept working until her computer had just had enough. It shut down on her and she lost most of what she’d written. What she found when her computer started up “was definitely not my finished paper. I had to put more time and effort into it to finishing it – not something I was planning on doing that night.”

Although Price knew that her computer was acting up, she took the chance of using it for homework and ended up kicking herself for it in the end. The lessons she learned were save, save, save. And if your computer doesn’t work, switch to one that does.

Frustrations were rising but she knew technology wasn’t an excuse for not completing her assignment. Her advice sounds simple but it’s something to take into consideration. “If a computer is broken, you should get it fixed.”

Computing Services is open each weekend until midnight. Brace yourself for the bitter walk over and get some computer help if you need it.
From ministry to minestrone: the Keiths care for the campus

BY ALYSSA CURRIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“It’s like a love story on ice.”

Jenni Kahanic slips on her ice skates for the first time in over a year to try out the make-shift campus rink. Memories flood over her as she thinks, “this is how it used to be.” For Kahanic, ice skating is more than just a casual winter activity, it represents nine years of her life. Kahanic began skating at age nine. “I started because all of my other friends could stand up on the ice but I couldn’t,” she remembers.

What started as group lessons for hobby's sake became a passion. Within a year, Kahanic passed out of the eight beginning levels of basic skills, and, seeing her natural abilities, her coach advised her to pursue further lessons.

Soon, Kahanic was spending 2-5 hours a day on skates, training at the Sioux City and Sioux Center rinks. Except for weekends when her “body needed a rest,” skates became second nature for Kahanic as her days were filled with home schooling and training.

“Stop skating now and walk when I’m thirty or keep training and pushing myself and risk some serious injuries,” Kahanic chose the first option.

Looking back now, Kahanic remembers being really lost. “When I quit, I was just about piquing in my competitive career. The USFSA was going to send me to a different country to compete against other kids. It was very hard to have that possibilité taken away from me.”

Just a few years later, however, she says it really doesn’t cross her mind anymore. In some ways, she says it’s nice to “not have pressure to be on top of my game every day.” She’s even appreciated being free to find herself outside of the pressure to train and compete. “I’m Jenni regardless of the sport or activity I’m in. My relationships to others and to God define me, not my placement at some competition,” Kahanic said.

But that’s not to say Kahanic will ever forget. As she flips channels and pauses to watch a figure skating competition, she said “I’m right back there.” But the difference today is that “in the end, I turn off the TV, and I’m right back here.”

Though her competition days are over and life has moved on to new and different seasons, Kahanic still remembers. “It’s like a love story on the ice. It’s just you and the ice, and nothing else matters.

Features | 5

By Shelby Vander Molen
Staff Writer

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Triple toe loops, jumps, camel spins and double axles became part of Kahanic’s daily routine. By age 16, Kahanic was competing with her freestyle and short programs at 5-7 competitions per year. Beginning her competitive season each January, Kahanic said the goal was to “pique by regionals in the fall.” Competitions took her and her three sisters across the Midwest to Detroit, Chicago, Dallas, Denver and Colorado Springs.

By this time, Kahanic had just tested into and begun competing at the junior level, only one level from that of Olympic-caliber figure skaters. Anticipating a trip to California for a big competition and soon an international assignment, Kahanic had high hopes for the future.

About a month before she turned seventeen, however, everything changed. Prone to over train and battling a torn Achilles tendon and a stress fracture on the opposite foot, Kahanic “ended up on crutches for the second time because of skating.”

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The Packers won the game but the commercials won your heart

BY HOLLY STEWART & EMILY GOWING
STAFF WRITER & FEATURES EDITOR

For many Americans, the commercials aired during the Super Bowl are just as enjoyable as the game itself. In the case of Super Bowl XLV, many Northwestern students were passive about the game, cheering for Green Bay only because it was the "lesser of two evils." With the two teams not spurring many students on to outlandish actions, the commercials may have been what drew viewers in the first place.

Maybe you were disappointed by the results of the game, the halftime show because it meant that you didn't have to listen to the Black Eyed Peas anymore." A commercial isn't very memorable if it's only liked to clear your mind of something else, but according to other students on campus, there were some very memorable commercials throughout the game.

Sophomore Felicia Maas and junior Samantha Mahler said that the Doritos commercial entitled "The Best Part" stuck out to them as memorable and funny. A FoxNews reporter stated, "With a creepy finger-licker, a resurrected grandpa and a puppy getting the best of a bad man, Doritos was the clear fan out of many advertisements."

Doritos won three spots in the Top Ten commercials, but each commercial appealed to adults more than younger viewers. The one commercial that seems to have stuck out that most – and that appealed to viewers of all ages – was the Volkswagen commercial entitled, "The Imperial March" which featured a little boy dressed in a Darth Vader costume who tried to "use the force" on many household items.

In talking about Volkswagen's commercial, however, junior Nate Fischer said, "I think the commercials in general weren't that funny. They were just kind of cute." They may not have pulled viewers off their seats in hysterics, but they were memorable. A reporter from Media Life Magazine explains why. "The ads that seem to resonate most with viewers were those that were able to connect a truth about the brand to a human truth. In other words, the ads that were able to strike a chord with the viewers were the most well-received. For example, anyone that has ever been around kids could completely relate to Volkswagen's ad."

Some even called for an explanation or statement of apology from their company. Why is it that some TV advertisements just don't work? "Advertising is like story-telling. You must have strong characters and a well-developed plotline. And since you only have 30 or 60 seconds to do so, that can be a very challenging task," explained Media Life Magazine. Since simplicity is the key to making

THE BEST COMMERCIAL? Professor Weston Cutter put it best: "The kid, obviously."
Just when you’re building a fortress, the zombie elephants attack

BY MICHAEL GUTSCH
STAFF WRITER

Dwarf Fortress is a very old game. Dwarf Fortress is a very new game. I don’t really know what Dwarf Fortress is. It’s kind of a simulation, like The Sims, but in a deep, horrible underground city where every one of the characters is an insane Tolkien-esque dwarf. It’s like Sim City, but instead of natural disasters and tax rates, you deal with massive, bloodthirsty orches and randomly generated mega-beasts.

Dwarf Fortress is an extraordinarily complicated game, and has little in the way of graphics or audio, which keeps a lot of people from ever getting into the thing. However, what a thing it is.

The first task that the game undertakes is to generate an entire world. It first creates terrain and geographical features, and then fills out the biomes with appropriate flora and fauna - which could mean anything from rampaging skeleton elk to bloodthirsty carp.

Various natural anomalies, such as bottomless chasms and volcanoes, populate the world. The continents and natural world, now complete, are filled in with various civilizations, from the traditional fantasy humans, dwarfs and elves to more bizarre ratmen and mer-people. They fight wars, rise to power and fall from it; heroes and legends are born and extinguished. Sometimes giant, monstrous creatures lead entire countries on crusades for their own interests only to abandon them later. This is all before you even start playing the game. An entire world, complete with history, legends and myths is generated for the player.

You scroll through the map and choose a site that looks fitting for a fortress - lots of trees nearby, not too many wild animals, plenty of natural resources, a supply of water, that sort of thing. Then you pick seven dwarfs and go try to survive.

Your dwarfs are dumped unceremoniously into the wilderness, given meager resources and little organization. It is up to the player to ensure their survival by delegating certain tasks to be completed like mining out areas to live, chopping down trees, or planting farms - tasks left to dwarfs of an appropriate skill set or professions.

The dwarfs themselves are no simpletons, either, as each one has a complicated set of relationships, religions, habits, likes, dislikes, personality quirks and sometimes pets or objects to which they feel attached. They may enjoy a certain food or drink and will be unhappy if they go without it for a long time. It’s all very mind-boggling at first. You’ve got some dwarfs. Gotta build something. Something that resembles a fortress, hopefully.

Oh, sorry, were you trying to figure out how to make your dwarfs dig a hole in the side of a mountain so they could live in it? Too bad, zombie elephants have destroyed everything.

Now armed with the knowledge from the Dwarf Fortress Wiki’s Beginners Guide, you begin again. (Why is there no tutorial for this game?) New world, new fortress, new dwarfs. Another chance. You’ve dug out a decent area in the hillside - bedrooms, workshops, farming areas - and suddenly 14 new dwarfs arrive from the mountaintop. Three of them have absolutely no skills whatsoever. Followed by an invasion force of 50 goblins, mostly armed with whips.

So everything’s dead again. New fortress, and you’re going to actually train an army this time! Those SkëM goblins ain’t nothing but a thang for your battle-hardened axe-dwarfs. You survive for a while, drawbridges and guard dogs preventing the goblin invasions from having too much of an effect.

You’ve then several waves of immigrants, and your fortress is flourishing. You’ve been trading with the notoriously tree-loving elves, and you’re making quite a name for your little fort. Wait. Why are there all these red exclamation marks on the screen? Why are all the dwarfs running around and screaming things?

Congratulations, you’ve had a tantrum spiral. One dwarf did something or saw something that made him really upset, and now he’s gone and broken the status of his favorite table forever. Now that dwarf is mad as bricks, too, and is smashing other dwarfs’ things. It goes on and on and everyone’s mad forever and nothing gets done, and oh, here come the goblins again.

That’s Dwarf Fortress in a nutshell. You’re confused and panicking trying to figure out how to survive, and some crazy nonsensical randomly-generated beast from beyond time and space arrives and destroys all your work. Sometimes you’ll make it further than others.

The harshness of the world and the incredible complexity with which it is simulated are charming enough to keep a lot of people hooked on the game, with some players putting multiple people in charge of the fortress for set amounts of time. It makes for some great stories, both epic and hilarious.

Due to its relative insanity and sometimes ridiculous levels of player failure, Dwarf Fortress has a motto - losing is fun. And it’s true. The first time you get a Tantrum Spiral or a catastrophon (an infamous and much-feared situation when cats breed out of control and the dwarfs are too busy loving and cuddling them to get anything done), you panic and try to save your fortress, but most of the time it’s all for naught.

Booho, go generate a new world or try to reclaim the fortress. Start again; learn from your mistakes. Dwarf Fortress teaches us a valuable lesson in dealing with our failures, because you will fail. And fail again.

It’s free, so try it out. It’s cruel, but losing is fun.

Fashion: vintage prints and the tailored look

GRETA FLODING
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At first glance it might be the ugliest thing you have ever seen, or at least a little outdated, but there’s something hot about the vintage print trend.

A throwback to the forties, it’s all very mind-boggling. Why like it? Not only is it a great alternative to stripes, it gives your wardrobe a fresh-fun look. Besides that, those patterns are usually used in dresses that are tailored to flatter any body type.

Don’t get me wrong, I love a good sheath dress or shirt, but when you have clothes that have a built-in waist, it makes you look like you have, in fact, a waist. The rest of your curves follow suit and show up nicely, but if you don’t have any it creates a nice illusion.

Another great thing about this style: you don’t have to match it with everything; red shoes with a blue dress are great! Red shoes with red dress? Not as great. Contrasting accessories are wonderful, especially metallics.

If you decide to embark on this fashion adventure not just any print will do; have fun with this. Create some contrast with your hair and skin tone. Also, look at your body type. Do you have a full figure? Get a smaller print so that people aren’t fully afforded by the large flowers. If you are petite, maybe try a dress with ruffles.

And for goodness sakes, don’t try a crew neck with this kind of print unless you are going for an Amish, choked by fabric look. Your collar bones are lovely, show them off, and by doing that you will draw attention to your face.

One more thing that we can glean from our ancestors: shoulder pads. This might have you reeling back in horror, but shoulder pads on a good dress can give your body structure.

Clean lines. An hour glass figure. It’s basic science really; if your shoulders are wider, other parts of you look narrow, plus they look sweet in a blazer. Gone are the days when you could only wear dresses to church and when jeans were considered casual. Clothes are meant to be fun, so have fun.

If you are a person who says to yourself “I could never pull that off,” get rid of that idea. Right now. Pulling something off is just a matter of putting something on and going with it.

If you are a male feeling like this is a gender biased column, here is my advice to you. You might be thinking that flower print in a flow-y type Hawaiian shirt might now be acceptable since it’s in for the women folk. No. It’s not.
Pulitzer-prize winning author visits Sioux Center

BY ALENA SCHUESSLER
STAFF WRITER

Pulitzer Prize: PEN/Hemingway Award. Orange Prize for fiction. National Book Critics Circle Award. Ambassador Book Award. With three superb novels and three solid works of nonfiction under her belt, Marilynne Robinson has proven a talented author. Her numerous awards are certainly nothing to sneeze at. Not only does she write, but she also teaches at the University of Iowa’s nationally-renowned Writers’ Workshop. So when I heard she was coming to speak in Sioux Center, I was elated.

Marilynne gave two lectures at Dordt College on Monday. Though I couldn’t make it to the first lecture, I did have the chance to attend a special dinner at which Marilynne was the guest of honor. Though she is brilliant and could be intimidating, Marilynne has a way of putting a group at ease with her charming disposition.

When asked about her favorite authors, Marilynne said, “My tastes are severely classic. I like Melville, Faulkner, Hawthorne and Dickens.” She also commented that when she has her students read classics like “The Sound and the Fury,” they seem resistant. Marilynne doesn’t know why this is, but she feels it may be the changing American culture. “I wrote a piece for Harper’s [magazine], and they edited out the word ‘matrix.’ Matrix! If the word is slightly unrecognizable by the general public, they’ll omit it. We’ve impoverished our culture’s vocabulary.”

Marilynne’s two most famous novels, “Gilead” and “Home” are being woven together into a movie. If they are anonymous, Marilynne says it works well, because they’re not worrying about how they as writers sound. “Then you say, ‘This is good, and they feel accomplished about their writing. It seems to work very well.”

When asked how she got the ideas for characters in her novels, Marilynne said, “I have to assume they’re pieces of people I’ve known.” Fiction writers often unintentionally take small things from reality or imitate styles of previous authors, she says. “Any educated author can’t help but echo those who came before.” It happened to the classic authors, too, but now we just have a lot more literature out there.” She explained that when she writes, she always has something for the reader to “view.” “If this isn’t a scene, it often a landscape or a setting. ‘If there isn’t anything in front of the reader, the style becomes more essayistic.”

Marilynne grew up in Sandpoint, Idaho before she went to college on the East Coast. She moved to location to location before she settled down in Iowa City, where she’s been for the past 21 years. “Sometimes I wonder what it would be like if I had stayed in Idaho.” I might not have written a manuscript that might not have been sent to a publisher, and probably three of my books would not have happened. I’d probably be just as happy.” Marilynne said with a smile.

At her evening lecture, Marilynne spoke about writing as a Christian. Her Calvinistic upbringing and her faith, and people will accept it.”

Environment” that Christian writers may not be able to write about, because they feel like they’ve been shamed or judge for, or ‘Jack is my uncle,’ or ‘Jack is my brother.’ And they’re so relieved because they feel like they’ve been given permission to love someone. Judge not, but perceive, perceive, perceive.”

Marilynne offered words of advice to other Christian writers. She encouraged writers to put elements of their faith in their writing, not worrying about to the “secular environment” that Christian writers seem to fret about. “Write in good faith, and people will accept it.”

A sad man in seventy scenes

BY AARON BAUER

STAFF WRITER

On a typical day, I would not sympathize with someone who carried themselves with extreme self-centeredness and cynicism beyond my own high levels.

Then I met a middle-aged man from Oakland named Wilson. He’s unemployed, without a family (except for his dog), and in search of a connection with his ex-wife. His language is sometimes offensive, blatant and childish, but it is always funny.

As is his witty character in general, which serves well Clowes’ intent of embodying a downbeat social commentary.

Naturally, then, I have mixed feelings about Wilson’s character. For example, the first thing he tells us is, “I love people! I’m a people person!” My first thought was “Okay, maybe he’s a good guy,” but he promptly shows otherwise by yelling at a woman for talking too much.

In reality, Wilson could simply be labeled a jerk; he only looks out for himself and his dog, turns everything into a personal pitty-fest, and desires an attention that sometimes made me want to shut the book and stop listening to him. His is definitely a strong personality, and a well-presented one at that. This novel consists of 70 one-page vignettes that at first feel like a collection of Sunday comic strips. After about 10 pages, you can start to see the entire work as a full story with inventive techniques in storytelling.

One of my favorites is the art. The first page is very realistic, but as you move through the story, every page becomes a new style of artwork. This ranges from monochromatic colors to cartoon-esque to complete caricatures. I couldn’t find a common theme of pages that were in similar art forms, but the change between pages was quite refreshing.

Eventually, the “hate” began to dwindle between Wilson and me. He got older, had some life-changing events occur, and finally makes a realization about his life. Now, I’m not sure if Clowes was writing in a specific ending to this novel, but I also can’t say he wants to leave room for interpretation either. Nonetheless, the final page, in my opinion, was the start of something beautiful for Wilson that you will definitely have to see for yourself.

“Wilson” represents Daniel Clowes’ latest full-length graphic novel since “Ghost World,” which was widely praised, and was adapted into an Oscar-nominated screenplay for the 2001 film of the same name.

Wilson,” selected among Time Magazine’s Top 10 Fiction books of 2010, is also set to be adapted; Fox Searchlights has already purchased the rights, and it will probably be directed by the Alexander Payne (“About Schmidt,” “Sideways”). It’s a good match, as the two use a very similar brand of pessimistic, dark humor.

In the meantime, the printed story of this peculiar character is worth a look for anybody who’s willing to laugh at the repulsive and tender parts of an idiosyncratic personality—one that may not embody a generation, but who also causes one to consider the strange ways in which we all interact.
Of all we know about Hitler, there is one initial reel of data, one profile picture in our minds when we think of his character: at the podium with his vigorous gestures and his charismatic diction of the already assertive Germanic tongue.

It was a time in media where political address was, more or less, the only real viral. In the radio days, when young, draft-qualified men, their sweethearts and mommas and hard-working fathers, all clustered before a cracking stereo to hear, over the wavelength, what it would mean to be virtuous, where one could find hope and how each of them would come to define themselves under the circumstances.

It's into this era, where politicians became performers of the people's conviction, that the stammer-prone George VI—impromptu heir to the English crown and to an empire that, at the time, accounted for a quarter of the global populace—was summoned to be a voice in a war-bound world. An unnerving position.

“The King’s Speech” seizes the drama of his impediment so articulate, in the opening scene, the soon-to-be-king Albert (Colin Firth) stands before a microphone in the stoop of a dank, fogged stadium trying to clear the air in his throat, trying to deliver his words. These queasitrenia stand solemnly, aligned in the field’s center, one horse giving an ill-timed gruff to interrupt the sputtering English noble. Ared light, indicating that the BBC broadcast was live, glares threateningly. His words are never formed.

This is the first staging of what is the film's main antagonism: Albert’s monologues, in which there is suspended every broken, attempted word. The thrill in this risky center is Firth's performance: his quivering lip, the frustration under his eyes, his tensed muscular frame and his fragmented delivery make the role painfully convincing.

Of course, this disability is set against the character’s otherwise proficient personality. He is well-read, well-versed in English manners and dignified. In an older era, where the English hierarchy was veiled from the public appearance, he'd have been a model stand-in.

In the second scene, he is treated by what is supposedly the last in a long line of therapists and a variety of procedures—for instance, he's made to do a kind of “chubby bunny” routine, only with marbles. But each method proves unsuccessful, and he’s left to smoking cigarettes to ease his outworn patience.

If not for his strong-willed wife, Elizabeth (Helena Bonham Carter), who anticipates an increase in his speaking demands and latent public disgrace, he might have given up. In fact, to find the aid that is ultimately of any help, she must travel to a ramshackle district of London.

Logue (Geoffrey Rush), the eccentric, low-class Australian whom Albert reluctantly comes to consult, uses some so-called “controversial” methods. In his seemingly impulsive program, he prompts a series of speech-improving exercises. In one, Albert is made to read Shakespeare while wearing a headset that plays classical music at full volume and does not allow him to hear himself. Other times, he must sing his lines. And in another practice, he utters a hilarious strand of foul language to give his pronunciations a bit more festiveness.

More importantly, though, is Logue's insistence that they be treated as equals: that they call each other by name rather than status; that they meet in his thrifty, grungy, unfurnished office rather than at a royal estate; and that "Bertie" tells him parts of his personal life as a friend would—a somewhat profane relationship by the terms of monarchical etiquette. He even takes it further in some cases: for instance, by sitting, shrugged, on the throne seat. It's important to be open, he says, because a stutter is a developed trait, not an inborn one.

His irreverence proves rehabilitating, as Bertie comes to realize that it is the collective weight of expectations—from his father, in competitiveness to his brother, in the halls of a statured royal lineage—that has taken away his voice, and essentially his personhood.

These themes of collaboration, equality and humility are continued from Tom Hooper’s last directed film, “The Damned United.” There, a smug, crass soccer manager forgets his dependence on his recruiter.

While “United” is worth seeing on its own merits, “King’s Speech” vitalizes the aforementioned ideas with its historical context: here is a world that needed a leader that had encountered his people, especially the lowliest. And his ultimate confidence in self comes from the confidante of persons, not tiered ordering.

In this sense, the film is consistent even in its aesthetic choices. For being mostly domestic, the sets are less decorous than you’d expect when there were listening ears, but the self existed in more than a digitized form and mattered. If it's an ideal vision for the future, it's at a loss for what to say and for the self. It's a story that seems most real.

“The King’s Speech,” on the other hand, recalls a more romantic time when there were listening ears, when the self existed in more than a digitized form and mattered. And in another practice, he utters a hilarious strand of foul language to give his pronunciations a bit more festiveness. It's a story that seems most real.

In the final moments, Bertie does something similar with the brokenness of his voice; rather than a disgusting decomposition, the space between his words has a sort of dignified eloquence.

“The King’s Speech” will be in contest with “The Social Network” for Best Picture—they are the two most likely to be recognized by the Academy, and are probably the best films.

I find their reciprocity riveting. Fincher’s “Social Network” couldn’t be any more modern in subject matter or in theme—that is, though our generation can create networks and vast mediums for interaction, it is at a loss for what to say and for the self. It's a story that seems most real.

“The King’s Speech,” on the other hand, recalls a more romantic time when there were listening ears, when the self existed in more than a digitized form and mattered. If it’s an ideal vision for the future, it’s at least comforting one. Is there something on the tip of your tongue? Say it.
**Lady Raiders dominate**

**BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK**
**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

No. 2 Northwestern went into Wednesday night’s matchup against No. 3 Morningside with national attention on the outcome. The Lady Raiders seemed unfazed and beat the visitors with a striking score of 76-46.

NW forced the Mustangs into 25 turnovers and held them to only 29 percent shooting on the night, while the Raiders overcame 28 turnovers of their own by shooting 53 percent from the floor.

The much-anticipated battle started out close until the Raiders pushed ahead to their largest lead of the first half, 30-15, with four minutes remaining until halftime. Heading into the locker room, NW’s lead was closed to 14-22.

Slowly forcing turnovers and converting their own shots, the Raiders built their advantage to a game-high 71-39 with 5:25 left in the second half before finally closing out the game with their 30-point domination.

Junior Val Kleinjan drained 21 points, including five treys, to lead the Raiders. Senior Becca Hurley put in 15 points and dished out seven assists. Sophomore Kendra De Jong added another double-double to her season total by dropping 10 points and grabbing 13 boards. Junior Kami Kuhlmann provided a well-rounded effort by dishing out five assists and scoring eight points. She also added four steals.

The Lady Raiders will be action next on the 16th when they travel to Dakota Wesleyan.

**Men defeat Morningside**

**BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK**
**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

The Northwestern men overcame a halftime deficit and sent Morningside home empty-handed by a score of 87-80 on Wednesday night. The win clinched the GPAC regular season championship for the Raiders.

Fueled by shooting 70 percent from the field in the first half, the Mustangs took it to the Raiders and didn’t surrender after the first five minutes of the half. Poor shooting and letting in easy baskets left NW down 51-41 at the half.

Slowly building up their charge, NW regained the lead at the midway point of the final half, 61-60. The remainder of the game was filled with the Raiders cooling the hot shot Mustangs to 28 percent shooting on the half and sustaining their lead. NW only shot 45 percent on the game, but held a 42-31 advantage on boards in the game.

Sophomore Daniel Van Kalsbeek dominated down low by scoring 27 points and grabbing eight rebounds. Sophomore Ben Miller put in 14 and senior Ryan Hoogeveen added 12. Sophomore Stu Goslinga contributed 10 points plus leading the Raiders in rebounds with nine.

The Raiders next game is on the 16th when they travel to Mitchell, S.D. to take on Dakota Wesleyan.

**Track team has some great times at Dennis Young Invite**

**BY NATASHA FERNANDO**
**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

Senior Krystina Smith and Junior Kiley Murra set the bar high as they finished first in their respective events at the Dennis Young Invite in Storm Lake last Saturday. All in all, the Raiders compiled 24 top five finishes, two NAIA provisional qualifying standards and one new school record.

The school record was set by freshman Jeriah Dunk in the 55-meter dash. He finished with a time of 6.46 seconds in the prelims and third in finals at 6.54, meeting the provisional standard. Dunk also finished second in the 200 with a time of 22.94. In the 600, Austin King finished second at 1:25.34, while high jumper Matt Husseman placed second with a jump of 6-08 1/4. Thrower Kiley Murra snatched up first in the shot put and met the automatic qualifying mark after tossing 51-04 1/2.

Freshman Brianna Hobbs took third place in the 600 and Teresa Schloten finished second in the 800. In the 55-meter hurdles, Junior Stacey Dietrich provisionally qualified with a second place finish and time of 8.69. The Raiders will make their next appearance this Saturday at the Dordt Invite.

**GPAC Champions**

**BY DREW NONNEMACHER**
**SPORTS EDITOR**

Congratulations are due to our men’s and women’s basketball teams on clinching the GPAC regular season championship.

Both teams clinched with wins over Morningside on Wednesday, Feb. 9. The women have a perfect conference record of 16-0. This is the first outright conference title for Coach Korver, and the women’s team since the 2000-01 season. The men stand at a solid 14-2, and have won their fifth conference title under Coach Woudstra, first since the 2004-05 season. The teams each have two games remaining before tournament time, both games within the conference.

On Wednesday, Feb. 16, they travel to Mitchell, S. D. to take on the Dakota Wesleyan Tigers. On Saturday, Feb. 19, the Bultman Center will play host to the final regular season double-header as the Sioux Falls Cougars come to town to square off with the Raiders. Come out to the games next Saturday and cheer on your GPAC champion Northwestern Red Raiders.

**Scoreboard**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men’s Basketball</th>
<th>Women’s Basketball</th>
<th>Wrestling</th>
<th>Track &amp; Field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/5 vs Hastings - W 101-92</td>
<td>2/5 vs Hastings - W 83-64</td>
<td>2/5 @ Briar Cliff Open</td>
<td>2/5 @ Dennis Young Invite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/9 vs Morningside - W 87-80</td>
<td>2/9 vs Morningside - W 76-46</td>
<td>Coming Up</td>
<td>Coming Up</td>
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<td>Coming Up</td>
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<td>2/11 @ Midland Lutheran</td>
<td>Coming Up</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/16 vs Dakota Wesleyan @ 8</td>
<td>2/16 @ Dakota Wesleyan @ 6</td>
<td>2/11 @ Midland Lutheran</td>
<td>2/12 @ Dordt Invite</td>
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<td>2/19 vs Sioux Falls @ 8:30</td>
<td>2/19 vs Sioux Falls @ 6:30</td>
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Raiders handle Broncos

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Even an inspired effort by the visiting Broncos and a slow start by Northwestern couldn't keep the GPAC-leading Raiders from picking up an 83-64 win. Northwestern continues to sit atop the conference with a perfect 15-0 record in the GPAC and 24-1 overall.

The game started out close until a 12-0 run by the Raiders gave them a 25-11 lead, and they never looked back. They held a 42-29 cushion at the intermission. The second half saw the Raiders maintain a double-digit lead until the final buzzer.

Sophomore Kendra De Jong dropped 24 points and added nine boards to lead the Raiders in both categories. Senior Becca Hurley kept pace by netting 20 of her own. Junior Val Kleinjan went 3-5 from behind the arc to score 11 points. Senior Allison Hulst provided a spark off the bench with her 10 points. Freshman Mackenzie Small dished out four assists on the afternoon.

Men win shootout

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Northwestern went into the locker room with a 51-42 advantage. A key run in the first half gave the Raiders the lead; and they did not give it up for the rest of the game.

Sophomore Daniel Van Kalsbeek’s 19 points and 10 rebounds got him his second double-double of the season. Fellow post and sophomore Stuart Goslinga netted a career-high 19 points. Junior Jon Kramer came off the bench and scored a career-high 17 points. He served up six assists as well. Sophomore Ben Miller dropped 14 points of his own. Junior Walker Seim and Ryan Hoogeveen scored 12 and 11 points, respectively.

Northwestern held a significant advantage in three-point percentage (50 percent to 38 percent) and rebounds (41-23) on the afternoon.

Baseball and softball seasons begin

BY DREW NONNEMACHER
SPORTS EDITOR

The Rowenhorst Student Center has been in a flurry of activity since the return of students and athletes after Christmas break. Much of that activity can be contributed to the baseball and softball teams. Both teams are back to work after their respective off-seasons, and they are working hard to be ready for their first games.

The baseball team opens up first, with games scheduled in Joplin, Mo, the weekend of Feb. 25 and 26. They had games originally scheduled for this weekend in Fayette, Mo.; however, cold temperatures and large snowstorms cancelled those from the slate. In Joplin, the Raiders will be facing GraceLand, Culver-Stockton, and Viterbo. Following the weekend trip to Joplin, the baseball team will practice for a couple weeks before flying off to Phoenix, Ariz. for spring break. They will play a total of 10 games in Arizona against a variety of teams, including 11th ranked Madonna University of Michigan.

The ball-club is looking forward to the season, as they are receiving votes nationally and picked to finish second in the conference after Christmas break. They will play a total of 10 games on their spring break trip. After Arizona, the Raiders will begin conference play against Nebraska Wesleyan.

The softball team will also be looking forward to their season opener on March 7 at the Tucson Invitational in Tucson, Ariz. Despite the longer wait, they will be ready to play in warm temperatures, and will play a total of 10 games on their spring break trip. After Arizona, the Raiders will begin conference play against Nebraska Wesleyan on March 19. The softball squad is picked to finish at ninth place in the entire conference. Harris racked up a total of 57 hits, 4 of them triples. She earned first-team All-GPAC honors, and also received All-American honors from the NAIA. The Red Raiders are hoping to rebound from last season, and will be looking forward to starting their quest in just under a month under the sunny skies of Tucson, Arizona.
Penn. gas blast
ALLENTOWN, Penn. - A natural gas line exploded on Wednesday, Feb. 9, killing one person and injuring five more in a residential area.

Congressman quits
WASHINGTON D.C. - Just hours before a report broke that married N.Y. Rep. Christopher Lee sent a shirtless photo in response to a Craigslist dating ad, Lee announced that he was quitting his elected post.

Jobless claims down
WASHINGTON - The number of applicants for unemployment benefits dropped by 36,000 last week to its lowest point since July 2008. The numbers show not only number of layoffs, but also the willingness of companies to hire.

Mubarak steps down
EGYPT - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stepped down Thursday night after 30 years of ruling the country. The decision comes after a meeting Thursday night after 30 years and Hosni Mubarak stepped down.

Second storm strikes
PHOTO COURTESY OF CSUFRESNO.EDU

MIDWEST - Record snowfalls have been recorded across the country, however, this winter weather has shown little sign of letting up. The most recent storm, with below zero temperatures and two feet of snow, hit around Oklahoma.

Prime Minister may face more charges
ITALY - Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is facing three court cases in the coming months for bribery and tax evasion allegations. Prosecutors also want charges brought against the PM in response to his alleged prostitution of a 17-year-old girl. The legal age for prostitution is 18 in Italy.

Verizon + iPhone
United States - After weeks of hype, Verizon's iPhone went on sale Thursday, Feb. 10. Anticipating long lines and sold-out venues across the country, Verizon employees and family members have been asked to refrain from purchasing until after demand has decreased.

Gay marriage law back in discussion

Implementing faith at work: Purpose, success

**CONT FROM PG 1**

Of Iowa who was raised by two mothers and is against the proposed amendment. Blake Norris, a senior, states that the experience of being raised by two mothers is overwhelmingly similar to what his mother and one father. He still has male role models, as “it’s not like you can exist in America knowing only adults of one gender.”

Many students on campus also seem to be against the proposed amendment. Blake Norris, a senior, notes, “I don’t see any social, political or cultural reasons to put a ban on gay marriage. I don’t think that two men or two women marrying has any bearing on those who are not the two getting married.”

Brian Brandau, a junior, sees legal marriage (in contrast to religious marriage) as nothing more than convenient social arrangement for the two getting married. Norris encourages us to research the issue fully, as the issue is not as black and white as it may seem.

Jeff VanDerWerf, a political science professor at NW, points out that there are differences in how people view the lawmaking process and what role the law plays.

He goes on to say, “As the 1978 report by the RCA Commission of Theology noted, approval of the homosexual orientation or acts is not a prerequisite to firm support for basic civil rights for gays and lesbians.”

And finally, Brandau has a wish for those over-concerned about the issue: “Wouldn’t it be nice if we could all move on to more pressing issues?”