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NW to welcome and expose the invisible

BY KATE WALLIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

They say every war has an end, and Invisible Children is out to prove them right.

A San Diego-based non-profit, Invisible Children is a group of self-described "storytellers," who believe that today's youth generation has the power, passion and perseverance to end Africa's longest war and free the thousands of children caught in the crossfire.

Beginning as a video journal of their adventures in Uganda, the idea for Invisible Children evolved as three young men discovered themselves in the middle of an unknown war. A war with invisible victims: children.

Coming back to the U.S., they made a documentary to tell the stories of these "invisible children"—some 30,000 Ugandan youth abducted and forced to fight as child soldiers.

This Monday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m., Invisible Children is coming to Christ Chapel as a part of its fall "Face-to-Face" tour. It is billed as an evening focused on making the stories of these children personal. The team will present their newest documentary, "Schools for Schools," highlighting the peace progress on the ground. Following the forty-five-minute film, a Ugandan student will share her personal stories of war and hope.

"This is a rare opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of Africa's longest war that tragically has involved thousands of child soldiers," said Marlon Haverdink, NW's Director of Service Learning. "What students see and hear will be shocking, but like so many issues where darkness seems to dominate, rays of light and hope are breaking in. The evening will be incredibly inspirational."

Junior Rebecca Bagley added, "It's important to learn about things in the world that matter, things in the world that we can do something about. This isn't just an issue, another cause we should learn about. It concerns the rebuilding of schools and the release of these children are things we can do something about."

Invisible Children is working against 23 years of deep political and historical conflict on the ground as they begin to rebuild displaced communities. The conflict began as politician-turned-rebel leader Joseph Kony clashed with the Ugandan government in a senseless battle for power. His rag-tag militia turned to abducting children to supply their numbers in the late '90s after Kony lost the support of his ethnic minority. Because of the conflict, millions of people have lived in refugee camps for decades, putting them at greater risk for abduction.

To bring stability, Invisible Children builds schools. These schools act as a catalyst, bringing people into the community and thereby reestablishing the village. Then, under the direction of Ugandan community leaders, funding goes to scholar programs and business initiatives promoting eco-sustainable prosperity.

This movement is all about thinking bigger and being more beautifully about what it means to love our neighbors.

"As followers of Christ, we need to be salt and light in these tragic situations," Haverdink said. "Thankfully, movements like Invisible Children give college students just that chance. College students have been inspired to be the voice for change," said Haverdink. "Change is happening!"

Community carries 'MomentuM' into free dance performance

BY BITTLER LEHMANN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Anyone can dance; if you have the heart for it, you can do it."

Orange City dance instructor and choreographer Rebecca Donahue said this is the big idea behind MomentuM: A Community Dance Experience. The show, which Donahue is coordinating, will feature diverse performances by local dancers.

Some Northwestern students have gotten in on the act. Sophomore Megan Schuster has choreographed a dance that fellow NW students will perform. Schuster described her dance as "a kind of mix between jazz and ballet." The dance will be performed to the Natalie Grant song "Human," which Schuster chose because of its "powerful message" of making a difference in the world.

"We are human, but we can be used by God in great ways," she said.

Schuster and her dances have been rehearsing since September.

"There were times when I would get stuck and just have no idea what to do at a certain section of music. Thankfully, my dancers were very creative and helpful, so I got a lot of ideas and suggestions from them," Schuster said.

While some of her dancers are seasoned experts, others have never danced before. The large number of beginners participating in MomentuM accomplishes exactly what Donahue set out to do.

"We want people to just try it. It's an experience they won't forget [and] it's something everyone can be successful at," she said.

Donahue, a NW alumna, was chosen by the Orange City Arts Council to coordinate MomentuM because of her work organizing RUSH. The Council's interest in a community dance concert was piqued by the campus event.

Donahue hopes MomentuM will share the passion she and all of the evening's performers feel for dance.

"I've always felt that I connect to my story best through dance. I feel comfortable expressing myself that way," she said. "It's emotional, and it expresses things with the whole body."

Schuster agreed. "Dance is a way to express myself. I am also passionate about music, and so combining the expression of music with the expression of dance takes things to a whole new level."

Donahue encourages audience members to "see the talent we have in our own community" and "enjoy each dance for what it is."

Each audience member is going to have a completely different experience than the person sitting next to them [because] we're not spoon-feeding the audience. They can interpret dances and relate them to their own lives however they want," Donahue said.

The Orange City Arts Council will present MomentuM on Monday, Nov. 8, at the Orange City town hall at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

See 'Seagull' on Pg. 2

NW will take part in a nationwide movement to promote awareness of Invisible Children's "Face-to-Face" tour.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JANICE CALISBEK

Junior Dan Sikkena, left, pictured here with fellow Northwestern student Senior Dan Laul, will both participate in MomentuM this Monday.

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHMAN

"Invisible Children" children will be part of the nationwide tour.
Palestinian conflict persists
BY KATI HENG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
A Palestinian Islamic jihad member was killed by shells fired from an Israeli tank at the Gaza Strip on Wednesday.

Although the news of another death in the Middle East is unsettling, it is not likely surprising.

Headlines such as "Tensions are on the rise in the Middle East," "Relations among Christians and Muslims undergoing severe conflict," and even reports of deaths in the Middle East after tempests went out of hand, are familiar to most people. After taking in all this negative news, one might wonder why there is so much unrest.

Professor of English, Kim Van Es, who recently went to Israel with her husband and is planning on returning to the area with students on a spring study abroad, explained some of what is going on in Israel.

Tensions between the Jewish and Muslim populations have been growing since the 1948 Israeli War of Independence. After the war, the UN divided the area into Palestinian and Israeli areas. However, the Jewish populations have been continually spreading out and encroaching upon Palestinian lands. The Palestinians' high birth rate is causing their population to increase, and paired with the loss of land, many Muslims are being squeezed and crowded out of their homes.

While the Jewish side is often supported by Americans involved in the Christian Zionist Movement, there seems to be no one taking the side of these marginalized Palestinians. As the West Bank continues to become more and more settled by Israelis, the Palestinians feel forced to resort to violent conflict in some cases, unsure of how else to preserve the land that the UN had said should belong to them.

To deal with the tension, the groups live totally separate existences. Jews and Muslims don't talk, do business or interact. Many people grow up never hearing the thoughts or stories of people from the other side, mostly because they will never get the chance to talk.

When Van Es and her husband visited the old city of Jerusalem, which has been divided into Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Armenian quarters, the group split up to talk to individuals of each. The tourists asked them what they wanted most and came back with a united answer from all: Shalom or Shalaam. Everyone in the area simply wanted peace and an end to all the fighting. People simply wanted freedom to live their everyday lives, raise their families in safety and to get along with their neighbors.

"Seagull" is tragic, emotional challenge
Cont. from pg. 1 brilliant, and these tragic characters sometimes have these volcanic emotional outbursts," said Hays. These volcanic emotional outbursts are foreign to Western culture, which according to Hubbard makes Chekhov's work a challenge but a joy to explore.

Prior to the show is an artists' reception, which will be held in the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center. The artists' reception is the Orange City Arts Council's Regional Exhibition of local artists. The art exhibition supplements the production of Chekhov's "The Seagull."

One of the featured artists is Mark Alsum, a 2009 NW Alum. Alsum was selected to be a part of the art show through a submission process. He has two pieces in the show, "American Gothic X" and "The Natural Order." Alsum believes it is the audience's place to engage what his pieces depict. "I already went through all the work producing the paintings, now it's time for someone else to wrestle with them," said Alsum.

Tickets for NW faculty, staff and students are available at no charge. Reservations are required. Please contact boxoffice@nwciowa.edu or call at 707-7998. Show times are Nov 11-13 and 18-20 at 7:30 p.m., in the Theora England Wilcox Theatre. The artists' reception will be Saturday, Nov. 13, from 6:30 to 7:25 p.m., prior to the performance of "The Seagull."

Reps, residence and Razors discussed
BY JEBIDIAH RACH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Numerous government meetings occurred around campus over the past two weeks, both within the student body and administration.

Last week, the main focus of SGA was to assign committees to nine different initiatives to explore, and if found wanted and feasible to accomplish, execute these initiatives. This week saw the continuation of these committees, spending time meeting with the groups and finding out where to start on these different initiatives.

Committee reports over the past two weeks in SGA have included the Admissions, Honors and Retentions Committee discussing adding a requirement for a minimum ACT score for full admission into Northwestern.

On another major note of discussion, the faculty on the Committee brought two names to SGA, junior Brittany Klinkenborg and senior Steve Van Wyse, for them to determine which one should serve. Both were found to be quality candidates for the position, having similar personalities and both able to serve well in the position. After careful deliberation, Britanny Klinkenborg was voted to be the representative to serve on the Campus Life Committee.

It was pointed out that people should not ride wheeled things in campus buildings unless needed for a disability, as maintenance has been having numerous issues, along with hall congestion.

Another major meeting on campus was that of the Board of Trustees. The Board approved $3.5 million in bonds to finance the new suite-style dorm, which is on target to be completed for occupation next school year.

Further plans for a new learning commons were also looked at, which is slated to include the library, additional classrooms, the writing center, archives, a coffee shop and community room. Plans for the mini-gym in the BSC were also discussed.

The Board looked at surveys from the freshmen and seniors about engagement in educational practices to help with strategic planning. Also included were discussions on online learning and an acceptance of the college's auditor's financial statements.

2010 Mid-term Election Results

Speaker of the House: (R) John Boehner
Governor of Iowa: (R) Terry Branstad
OPINION

Less motivation with mandatory chapel
BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT

According to the Northwestern website, chapel is about "...chapel service.

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We would not have

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BYKATIHENG

Less motivation with mandatory chapel

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BYKATIHENG
Chef Todd: More than a guy with crazy pants

SHELBY VANDER MOLEN
STAFF WRITER

Shaved head, broad shoulders and the craziest pants on campus, new Executive Chef Todd Schneckloth is a noticeable presence among the kitchen staff this year. Unlike the stereotypical egotistical chef, when asked what title he prefers, he laughed and replied, “Just call me Todd.”

On an average day, you’ll find him mixing up a little new chipotle mayo, revealing peanut butter as the key to chili, teaching students to plate a catered meal or nearly anything else pertaining to food.

Starting every shift by greeting each worker and ending with “thank you and good job tonight,” the communal aspect of the kitchen is central for Schneckloth.

“Working in a kitchen is very different from an office environment. It is this interdependence where the student washing dishes is just as important as the cook, because without them the cooks can’t do their work,” said Schneckloth.

Schneckloth enjoys his job and staff, particularly teaching them proper techniques and how to be consistent in their work. “I like teaching people things,” he said simply.

On the schedule for later this week, the cooks will be learning to make shrimp bisque, a cream soup that used to be ordered in.

Having lived in Florida and most recently Kansas, Schneckloth says, “Kansas isn’t so bad, but it’s not Iowa.” Recalling the Saturday he arrived in Orange City, Schneckloth said appreciatively that people “see you walking down the street, and they wave. That’s what I like.”

Quiz in the Corner

Go to the Beacon online to find out the answer.

When is National Pudding Snack Month celebrated?
A. February
B. May
C. September
D. December

November 5, 2010

FEATURES

Awareness months call for undivided attention, respect

HOLLY STEWART & EMILY GOWING
STAFF WRITER & FEATURE EDITOR

In rushed the black and orange and out went the pink when October 31st marked the last day of the 25th annual National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM). The term “Awareness Month” is used all over the internet, in the news and in conversations. It’s applied to many more than 12 causes that our calendar seemingly would allow.

Besides NBCAM, October is set aside for National Domestic Violence Month, National AIDS Awareness Month, Vegetarian Awareness Month and many more. This month, we should currently be celebrating or commemorating Diabetes, Epilepsy, Aviation History, Alzheimer’s disease and Eating Disorders, among numerous other things. But why should there be one month set aside to specifically honor or remember something so vital to our society’s history or our culture’s present? Why focus on black history in the shortest month of the year?

Black History Month has been celebrated in February since its beginning in 1926. This month was chosen due to the significance of Februaries in the past. In February of 1870, the 15th Amendment was passed, allowing blacks the right to vote. That same February, the first black U.S. senator took oath in office. This month also marks the birthdays for big names in black history such as W.E.B DuBois and Rosa Parks.

When the awareness month is set aside for something less concrete, showing honor and respect isn’t as simple as acknowledging the people who led the nation in peaceful protests to overcome oppression.

Take the previous month that was full of pink, for example. College and professional football teams chose to show their support for NBCAM by replacing their team-colored cleats and chinos with pink ones, and NFL officials refereed with pink whistles.

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation was founded in 1993. Since then, we’ve been shown numerous ways we as individuals can support the cause of research for the cure. For the past several years, Yoplait yogurt has featured pink lids on their products with the goal of “Save Lids to Save Lives.” Yoplait donates ten cents to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation for every pink lid sent in.

These causes are important, and the months reserved to commemorate them push their significance to the front of our minds. They act as reminders to live proactively in regard to these causes—no matter what month it is.

The bare and not-so-bare necessities

ANNA HENKE
STAFF WRITER

As a college student, what can’t you live without?

The general answer from students is technology. First on the list is everything that depends on a working internet connection, preferably a fast one. Modes of communication top the list: email, Facebook, cell phones. Macs and iPads are considered essential for many.

Some require the basics, though. Everybody needs a planner. Sparknotes is also considered a highly valued ‘research’ tool for every college student.

Without hesitation, senior Nessa Summers responded, “Sleep.”

Junior Lizzie Thompson answered, “I just don’t function well without coffee.”

Let’s not forget the one thing every NW student needs—an ID card. You can’t go anywhere, you can’t eat anything; it’s essential. You do NOT want to be waiting outside for someone to open the door when it gets cold.

Speaking of getting cold... NW students have discovered that there are a few winterized items that they simply can’t live without in Iowa’s brutal winters.

The fact is, Iowa winters are horrific. It’s coming. We all know it. When asked how he feels about the onslaught of winter, freshman Morgan Ross from Texas replied, “It’s a little overwhelming. Forty degrees is cold to me. It snowed once on Christmas.”

said a staple for her is “a good pair of wool tights, so you can wear dresses in the winter.”

On the other hand, there are some days when cuteness just won’t cut it. Junior Elizabeth Thompson said, “Don’t be afraid to look foolish when you bundle up.” When it comes to walking to class in winter, fashion often goes out the window.

Go out and get yourself a warm coat. Drop the black peacoat and the fitted Hollister jacket. Instead, get a poofy one that zips up to your nose. Although you may look like a marshmallow, you’ll be a whole lot drier and in a more pleasant mood when you reach your destination.

A hood is also essential. Nothing is worse than trekking to VPH for a morning class in a snowstorm with a biting wind blowing it all in your face. “Wrap your face against the nasty wind with a scarf,” advises sophomore Jasmine Smith.

Even though this is a small campus, the walk to VPH, the Caf or the RSC can feel like miles in December. Grab a fresh-from-the-oven cookie from the Hub and bundle up — it’s going to be a white winter.
FEATURES

It's all fun and games with the Black V family

TINA MCGOVERN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Raw humor, improvisational skills and outrageous story plots are all it takes for Northwestern's Black V group's improv show. Black V is a student improv group made up of nine students from all academic classes. It performs for the campus and the community alike.

"I went to the audition workshop my freshman year because I had a small background in improv from high school," senior member Anna Pitney said. "It simply sounded fun to me."

Abe Klafter, a sophomore on the team, shares a similar idea. "I decided to go because it sounded fun and I had multiple friends in it at the time. Everyone in the group is my friend now."

The Black V group seems to be one of the tightest knit groups on campus. "The group really feels like a family," Pitney said. "We have practices every Sunday night, and I love the relationships we build through doing improv and performing in shows."

The group puts on shows in the community for events like prom, community fundraisers, class reunions and youth groups.

"Every show is different, depending on the age group," Pitney elaborated. "We’ve gone on long car rides together to the location, will be served a meal and then usually perform for 45 minutes to an hour. It’s great! Some of our favorites seem to be the youth group shows because every audience is different. Some kids want to participate a lot and get really into it."

The team prepares for its performances by practicing, but the practice isn’t really like a show. The students simply practice the skills needed for the show.

"We play improv games, warm-up, share the big things going on in our lives and do ‘long-form’ and ‘short-form’ improvisational scenes," Pitney explained. "Long-form is more drawn out and there are more complex scenes that usually tie together. ‘Short-form’ consists of scenes string together that don’t necessarily relate to each other to form a longer story. Practices are good preparations for our shows, but they aren’t exactly the same."

Ideas for the group’s improv games come from popular sources such as Saturday Night Live and from obscure websites and improvisational books. Some of the Black V’s own team members don’t even know what the games are about.

"None of the games we have practiced have been explained to me at all by the team," Klafter stated. Other ideas come from shows that the Black V has done in the past and have been passed down through the generations of Black V group members.

As for where the name "Black V" came from, Pitney revealed that members have to keep it quiet. "I actually can’t tell you about the origins of the name of the Black V. It’s top secret information that only our team members know."

So even though audience members won’t know where the group’s name comes from—or even how the members manage to keep each show funny and original—they’ll still enjoy the show. Even more, they’re bound to come away from the show with an achy stomach from all the laughing and a new appreciation for what it takes to be a part of the Black V improv family.

Transfers find themselves at home at NW

ALYSSA CURRIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Switching schools is tough at any stage of the game, but it can be particularly tricky for college students, who have credits to transfer and degree paths to coordinate on top of moving in and adjusting to a new community.

Junior Kaitlyn Hansen, a Northwestern transfer student, knows this process all too well and admitted that the first six weeks at NW were "tough."

Another junior transfer student, Andrew Schneider, identified with her sentiments: "There were some times early on when I struggled because I didn’t feel as connected to the junior class because they’ve been together now for several years."

Despite their initial difficulties, both Hansen and Schneider have adapted to life at NW quite well.

"I have very nice wingmates in Fern, so that makes the adjustment easier," Hansen said.

"I’ve only been here a couple months, but I really feel like I’m a part of this college. In many ways, I don’t even feel like a transfer student, and I think that will be even more true next year," Schneider said.

Some students have an easier time making the transition than others. Elizabeth Hancock transferred to NW from a community college and now lives in the Spanish House where she’s had no trouble at all jumping right into the campus scene.

"We have a great bunch of girls who are loving and care about each other. We haven’t had any disagreements this year so far and that overall good attitude just makes me feel so good," Hancock said.

"An answer to prayer" is how Hancock described NW’s friendly, welcoming atmosphere. "This was very different than the community college I came from," she said.

Schneider agreed that NW is a nice change of pace after leaving his former university.

"Here there is a lot more freedom for me to be myself, to develop my own personal faith and to live out what I believe," Schneider said.

"My old school was super strict. The focus was on conformity. Here, people accept you for who you are."

However, not all the differences between NW and other institutions are quite as warm and fuzzy, as Hansen explained. "Classes are much more rigorous here and more is expected out of you as a student. You have to put in much more study time to pass classes at NWC than at my old school," she said.

Regardless of her increased workload, Hansen said NWC is "very much like home. Since it is small, you can meet a variety of people and develop strong friendships with all of them."

When it come to developing friendship, Hancock and Schneider were also very encouraged. "My favorite thing about NWC is the people...I think Northwestern is right when they advertise community because it’s easy to make friends here whether that is with other students or even professors," Hancock said.

Schneider summed up his time here saying, "I love the people here! I love being able to sit and talk to really cool people, really late at night (my old school had a midnight curfew). For what it’s worth, I wouldn’t transfer back for anything."

PHOTO BY ANDREA OSCHER
Junior Elizabeth Hancock transferred from Iowa Central Community College in Ft. Dodge.
Gory, graphic comic series gives zombies new life

BY BOB LATCHAW
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Zombies are practically omnipresent in pop culture media—whether it be movies, video games or even Jane Austen novels. They're certainly bordering on extreme overuse, leaving us with a stagnant pool of repetitive zombie media that gets boiled down to slaughter-fest. “Oh no, zombies! Kill them all!” And as long as there's an electric guitar weapon, it's thought cool.

In this age of bull, banal zombie obsession, ongoing comic series “The Walking Dead” has livened up the undead genre. Written by Robert Kirkman and illustrated by Tony Moore and Charlie Adlard, the series has most recently won an Eisner award for continued excellence (the most prestigious of the genre).

The series features the story of Rick Grimes, who wakes up from a gunshot-wound-induced coma to find himself in a deserted hospital with no recollection of the past several months. As he regains his bearings, he discovers that his town is deserted and the dead walk the earth. While this method of introduction has been used time and again in the genre, it works very well considering the direction the rest of the story takes. Rick sets off in search of his wife and young son, whom he eventually finds with a small cluster of other survivors.

The rest of the series revolves around this group of people and their struggle for survival in the deadtrap the world has become.

This series is gruesome. Violence is set left to imagination. The artwork, beautifully done in black and white, is gritty and detailed, which coincides with the series' bleak subject matter. The first six issues are drawn by Moore and the rest of the series is done by Adlard. This transition could be a bit jarring.

BY MICHAEL GUTSCH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Fallout: New Vegas" is the latest iteration of the increasingly-popular role-playing franchise set in a devastated, post-apocalyptic America. Infamous for its top-notch writing. The rest of the story takes. Rick sets off in search of his wife and young son, whom he eventually finds with a small cluster of other survivors.

This series makes it stand out is that it focuses acutely on its characters, which are positively normal in every way. This would seem like a downside, but it actually gives them a sense of realism. The intimacy in which we get to know each of them makes it impossible not to get attached to these otherwise lackluster characters.

Unlike almost everything else, this series is not standalone. It's a must-read and more enjoyable affair.

What happens in 'Vegas' stays with you in 'Vegas'

A much-lauded feature to the game rather than merely shooting them in the face—a valuable aspect of the genre. At more than one point I was able to neutralize a volatile situation with my speach or barter skill.

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This series makes it stand out is that it focuses acutely on its characters, which are positively normal in every way. This would seem like a downside, but it actually gives them a sense of realism. The intimacy in which we get to know each of them makes it impossible not to get attached to these otherwise lackluster characters.

Unlike almost everything else, this series is not standalone. It's a must-read and more enjoyable affair.

What happens in 'Vegas' stays with you in 'Vegas'

A much-lauded feature to the game rather than merely shooting them in the face—a valuable aspect of the genre. At more than one point I was able to neutralize a volatile situation with my speach or barter skill.

This series is gruesome. Violence is set left to imagination. The artwork, beautifully done in black and white, is gritty and detailed, which coincides with the series' bleak subject matter. The first six issues are drawn by Moore and the rest of the series is done by Adlard. This transition could be a bit jarring.

BY MICHAEL GUTSCH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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“Speak Now” follows growing Swift in the aftermath of VMA disaster

By Jordan Langer
A&E Editor

Having started her career so early, Taylor Swift has always been considered “good for her age.” Her thematic draw has to this point, been in relating stories of love-prone, innocent youth. So twenty-year-old Swift finds herself in something of a transitional point—both as a soon-to-be adult, and as a potentially powerful pop force.

And there’s no doubt that she’s in contest for the best of her kind.

But allow me to break my train of thought for a second here. Yeah, Taylor Swift’s new record is pretty good. But have you heard Kanye’s new tracks? They’re some of the best I’ve ever heard.

Look, I don’t mean to take away from Swift at all. She’s obviously maturing, especially after being the victim of an out-of-place, degrading comment at last year’s VMAs.

In fact, her new record, “Speak Now,” is a testament to a growing Swift: while it keeps the catchy sentiment and vulnerability that Swift is known for, she’s now writing a coming-of-age story; and it’s one that many of us will identify with.

Take the already-ubiquitous “Mine” as an example. It takes more than a few notes from the musical and narrative formula of “Love Story”—a faulty father figure is at the center of both songs. But her more recent track cuts the kiddie Shakespearean conflicts and replaces them with an ever-present one: “We’ve got bills to pay, and we’ve got nothing figured out.” Even though I doubt she’s hard-pressed for money, her hope for a quietly working love does translate well into these more adult-like circumstances.

In general, there’s a better awareness that “life is a tough crowd.” And many of these tracks (“Dear John,” “Mean,” “Better Than Revenge”) can be traced back to her real-life relationships that fans are no doubt aware of. One important thing to note is that unlike her first two records, she wrote the songs of “Speak Now,” which are by far her best she’s recorded (with a couple of exceptions in “The Story of Us” and “Haunted”). Her involvement accounts for a very accurate shift from girl to woman.

Even so, this in-between time—however familiar it is to our past or present—can be annoying if given a detailed look. On the one hand, Swift insists on being helpless and innocent, as with “Dear John.” Supposedly about John Mayer, she writes, “Don’t you think 19’s too young to be messed with? The girl in the dress cried the whole way home.” And though I’m inclined to agree with her rhetorical question on the surface, I have to also point out that she’s a young person who cannot possibly be as powerless as she wants to make herself out to be.

How do I know? Listen to her sense of entitlement and egon on other tracks like “Sparks Fly,” “Better Than Revenge” and “Mean.” Or “Long Live,” which is almost like a toast to her own prom-queen accomplishments.

Which leads me back to Kanye West, who’s also making toasts for himself in his recent single, “Runaway.” The difference is that described as weakly defensive. By doing so, she’s able to take shots at her peers without running any real risk. In that sense, she’s still only “good for her age”—good for her age. Maybe that’s okay for some people. I’ll admit that her songs evoke a pleasant nostalgia for me. But in the end, I’m more interested in the hardworking Kanye, who has to write music that supersedes his bad reputation.

Young girl succeeds in harsh rural drama

By Jordan Langer
A&E Editor

“Winter’s Bone,” set in a bleakly impoverished Ozark community, conveys the raw resilience of a rural family. The film was the winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the latest iteration of the Sundance Film Festival.

A character study, “Winter’s Bone” centers on 17-year-old Ree Dolly, who is left to care for her two much younger siblings. Her mother is incapacitated—whether because of sloth or mental dysfunction is not clear (the sense that is that she can talk, but won’t). As such, Ree is a feminine standout, filling the rough maternal role that literally keeps the rest of her family alive. In one scene, she shows her siblings how to skin a squirrel that she has recently riled. In another, she reads stories to them.

The film’s running plot hinges on her mother-faking-father who has, by the time we enter these characters’ lives, been missing for some time. He is presumably a dead victim of the drug-ridden community’s criminal activity. Even so, there is a warrant out for his arrest, and the house was posted as his bail. As this is literally the family’s last remaining asset, Ree sets out to find her father, dead or alive.

In order to do so, she must interact with other dangerous members of the community who may know of his whereabouts. Adding to the seemingly hopeless task is her social imposition as a woman. This area is brutally patriarchal: the male characters in the film are abusive and inaccessible (Ree has to go through the wives much of the time). Since Ree has almost nothing to offer the also-poor neighbors and drug lords that she gets involved with, she must be boldly demanding—a behavior that gets her disfigured and bloodied at least a couple of times.

This leads me to a major credit of the film in the way of its makeup, costume design and set. All of them combine to make a film that not only looks harsh, but one that feels so because its characters are visibly affected—whether by weather, fist, or hunger. Furthermore, I can’t imagine a more accurate visual rendering of below-poverty rural America.

Director Debra Granik is continuing a tradition of recent, high achieving female directors (following Sophia Coppola’s “Lost In Translation” and Kathryn Bigelow of last year’s “The Hurt Locker”). Yet, she deserves to be noticed here not only because of her social imposition as a woman. This area is brutally patriarchal: the male characters in the film are abusive and inaccessible (Ree has to go through the wives much of the time). Since Ree has almost nothing to offer the also-poor neighbors and drug lords that she gets involved with, she must be boldly demanding—a behavior that gets her disfigured and bloodied at least a couple of times.

“Winter’s Bone” did not get a very wide theatrical release, but hopefully it will find a broad audience now that it is available on DVD. Viewers will find a powerful, timely drama here about the human spirit, familial allegiance, and self-sacrifice.
Volleyball completes perfect regular season

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK

The Northwestern volleyball team won 3-1 (25-18, 25-17, 21-25, 25-18) over the 19th ranked team in NCAA D-II, Nebraska Wesleyan, on Saturday, Oct. 30. The win also propels the Raiders conference winning streak to 57 games. It broke the record held by Dordt from the 2002-06 seasons.

A 24-kill effort and .413 hitting percentage by senior Hilary Hanno led the Raiders. Fellow senior Bobbie Jean Rich added seven kills and a great defensive effort with six blocks. Sophomore Jennie Jansen also recorded six blocks. Senior Kaileen Beaver set up 41 kills, and the Raiders were led in digs by sophomore Jael Moret with 13.

The Raiders served 82 percent on the day and had four aces.

With Tuesday night's win at Sioux Falls 3-0 (25-21, 25-17, 26-24), the Raiders finished the regular season with a 32-0 record. This brings Coach Kyle Van Den Bosch's career record at NW to 186-41.

The Raiders were led in kills by Hanno with 13. Hanno also received GPAC Player of the Week for the second straight week. Sophomore Kate Boyert registered 11 kills and hit .500 on the match. Jansen and junior Rylee Hultstein also tallied seven kills each.

Rich tied Hanno for top honors in the blocks department with four. Rich, Moret and sophomore Danie Floerchinger also scrappled up 10 digs each. Beaver led the Raiders in assists with 35 and aces with three.

NW will play at home in the GPAC tournament on Tuesday, Nov. 9.

Men's basketball begins season with blowout

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT

The Red Raiders opened the 2010-11 season with a 104-51 win over Grace University on Monday, Nov. 1. Northwestern shot 60 percent in the game compared to a mere 18 percent for the Royals. Sophomore Eli Groenendyk scored a career-high 16 points to lead the offense, while fellow seniors Gosing and score in double figures. Gosing scored six rebounds.

Sophomore Ben Miller added 10 points, five assists and four rebounds.

The Raiders will host the second-ranked Jamestown on Friday, Nov. 5, at 8 p.m.

Football downs Dakota Wesleyan

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT

Northwestern found victory again on Saturday, defeating Dakota Wesleyan 16-10 and improving their record to 6-2.

The score hardly reflects the day's dominance, as they had possession of the ball for 42 minutes compared to a mere 18 for the Tigers. They gained 472 yards, while the defense held DWU to 223.

NW rushed for 384 yards, led by senior Taylor Malm and sophomore Brandon Smith. The duo each rushed for over 100 yards in the same game for the fourth time this season. Smith gained 177 yards on 32 carries and Malm had 21 carries for 157 yards.

Freshman Davis Bloemendaal had his first collegiate start at quarterback for the Raiders. He rushed for 42 yards on nine carries and completed nine of 13 passes for 88 yards.

Smith scored two touchdowns and sophomore James Rodriguez had a 21-yard field goal.

Junior Ben Aguilera had five tackles, two of them for a five-yard loss, to lead the defense. Senior Caleb Van Otterloo added four tackles, and sophomore Aaron Jansen had three tackles and one interception.

The Raiders plant their last home game on Saturday, Nov. 6, against Concordia at 1 p.m.

Women's soccer season ends

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT

Northwestern's season ended on Tuesday, Nov. 2, in the first round of the GPAC tournament with a 0-3 loss to Dakota Wesleyan. The Lady Raiders ended with a season record of 7-10-1, 5-5-1 in the conference.

NW out-shot the Tigers in the first half, 5-4, but DWU shot 10 times in the second half and found the back of the net three times.

Freshman Alii Dinkelberger had three shots, one on goal, and freshman Jessica VanderBaas had two shots, one on goal, to lead the offense. Freshman Kate Fonte also took two shots. Senior Wendy Hofmeyer played all 90 minutes in goal, making four saves and allowing three goals.

Dinkelberger led the Raiders this season with nine goals. Fonte had five and freshman Alyssa Duren added three. Freshmen Hannah Jensen, Jessica VanderBaas, Ann Calsbeek and senior Sarah Seeger each scored one goal.

Fonte had five assists this season and Dinkelberger added three. Jensen and Calsbeek each had two assists.

Freshman Ariel Watts played 998 minutes at goalkeeper in 13 games and nine starts. She made 56 saves and allowed 11 goals. She also had three shut-outs. Hofmeyer played 660 minutes in nine games, making 43 saves and allowing 14 goals.

Player Profile

Sara Hess

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT

Sara Hess didn't know what cross country was until her junior year in high school. A former volleyball player, she decided to try cross country.

"I made the switch because I was enjoying track so much and the volleyball team dynamics weren't so great," Hess recalled. "I wanted to try something new and it went really well. Cross country has a very unique team dynamic."

Hess visited a lot of private colleges in Iowa, but Northwestern stood out as distinctly Christian. To make it even more special, her sister, Jayme, decided to attend Northwestern stuck out as distinctly Christian. To make it even more special, her sister, Jayme, decided to attend Northwestern.

"Faith is what permeates our whole life, and that's what I hope is true of me. I want it to shine through as my motivation and my purpose," Hess said.

Through the trials of balancing athletics and academics with life, Hess said she's learned consistency. She explained, "I like to think I always work hard, but there's a difference between just working hard and consistently working hard. Running can become a lifelong thing that transfers to other areas of my life."

Hess' fondest memories include long runs on Saturday mornings and then panca¬¥ brunches at Coach Dale Thompson's house. She will miss bonding with her teammates and the conversations that happen along the way.

As a captain on the cross country team, Hess helped choose the theme, I Corinthians 9:27, with an emphasis on "running in such a way as to win the prize." Just as she makes many sacrifices to be a runner, she emphasizes: "Faith is what permeates our whole life, and that's what I hope is true of me. I want it to shine through as my motivation and my purpose."

Hess struggled this year with the purpose of being in cross country since she prevented her from being involved in other ministries, but through talks with Coach Thompson, she realized she was in the sport for a reason.

"I realized it's an ability I have," she said, "and I want to use it. I have learned about consistency in a way I wouldn't have otherwise. I have a team that I've learned to be more mindful of than in high school."

As she reflects on her four years, Hess said, "I just love our coaches! I keep thinking how thankful I am to get to run with the ladies and the guys and have such wonderful, patient, wise coaches."

Hess will finish up her classes this spring and will study abroad for a semester next year. She's still deciding between Guatemala, Costa Rica and Mexico. The year after that, she hopes to attend medical school.