Halperin, Dunn ignite NW music scene

BY LINDEN FIGGIE
STAFF WRITER

Amidst embracing new students and welcoming back former attendees, Northwestern is gearing up for a season of fresh faces and new ideas. The Back to School Tour features musicians Tim Halperin and David Dunn in Christ Chapel on Monday, September 20 at 8 p.m. The concert is free of charge and open to the public.

An Ominahative, Tim Halperin began his musical ambitions at a young age, playing for church and school bands. He eventually established his current performance style at Texas Christian University where he transitioned from the band scene to the singer/songwriter realm.

With a strong jazz influence stemming from inspiration from Ben Folds and Elton John, Halperin’s music evokes emotion and distinctly unique piano and rhythmic infusion. Success and thriving demand affirming his abilities, Halperin harnessed his talents into his debut album “You Are the Moon EP” in 2008.

Halperin’s musical reputation continues to flourish as his music has been featured on many Midwest radio stations, XM Radio and he himself on NBC’s “Kansas City Live.”

Ann Marie Millican, a student at NW, praises Halperin’s ‘strong voice,’ comparing it to the rock band, Switchfoot.

“I’m pretty pumped to see him live,” Millican said, as she plans on going to the concert with several of her wing mates. Joining Halperin will be David Dunn, also a Texas musician.

It’s game time at the Hub

BY JULIA LANTZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Offering fresher food, more of a retail atmosphere, and additional meal exchange options were priorities for the Hub this year.

According to Don Keith, general manager of Sodexo on campus, “Student surveys are taken yearly to help the Caf and Hub make changes based on what is on demand.”

Students expressed repeatedly a desire for fresher foods and a more retail-oriented system. Greater variety in meal exchange was another request articulated by students. “That’s when we brought in this ‘Game Time’ to help come up with a menu to give students more options,” said Keith.

Game Time food services came into the Hub to train workers for two weeks at the beginning of the year. “They come in every two weeks to check on us,” said Keith. Game Time provides the Hub with fresher foods since food is grilled on the spot, rather than being reheated.

Keith said, “Last year, the Hub had faster service, but this year fresher food is served, so it takes longer to get your food.”

Game Time has helped enhance the Hub’s look, with its eye-catching signs and high-tech menus displayed on the TVs around the Hub.

Study habits not so ‘A-proof’

BY KATE WALLIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Take one step into Ramaker Library and you know: study season is in full swing. Stacks of books, iPods attached to nearly every ear, and endless hours of procrastination… wait, uh, I mean studying. Right?

So what makes all those hours spent with book in hand worth it? What really makes for a productive study session? According to a recent article in the “The New York Times” says that students should forget what they know about good study habits.

“We’ve all heard the standard advice: Find a quiet, consistent study space. Study one subject at a time. Decide whether you need to study in groups or by yourself.

And while this common knowledge holds true for some of us, in recent studies, scientists have discovered some tricks that may improve the one thing that really matters when studying: what you remember.

According to the new research, studying in different locations, alternating between subjects in a single session, and spacing in between sessions all aided in improving the overall success of the student’s effort.

A 1978 experiment studied students’ testing ability of 40 vocabulary words. Those that studied in two starkly different rooms produced drastically better results than those students who studied twice in the same room.

What do Northwestern students think? Junior Christine Roy agrees, “I like studying in different environments. Sometimes the library is too intimidating, too many people. I like the Old Factory Coffee Shop, it is a calm and quiet place to study.”

Senior Wes Garcia adds, “I can’t study in my room. Even with the door closed. There’s a familiarity there that makes me want to fall asleep. I go to a neighbor’s room, there can be people there, it doesn’t matter. A change of scenery helps.”

What about procrastination? Do you do as well as you think you do right before a deadline?

“It’s a common myth that when you work under pressure, you do better. But the truth is you don’t focus as well as you think you do,” said Tom Truesdell, director of Academic Support Services. The studies verified that age-old adage that cramming, although seemingly helpful for that test tomorrow, didn’t benefit the students in the long run.

“Studying takes time. There are no shortcuts,” Truesdell adds.

It’s a common myth that when you work under pressure, you do better.”

Tom Truesdell

“The goal of our department is to help students take ownership of their learning, to create a community of students helping and teaching each other.” In the end, forgetting what you know may be just the ticket to remembering what you need.

Different options for the meal exchange. This year the Hub offers multiple kinds of wraps, subs, pizzas, and burgers. Grilled chicken sandwiches and chicken tender are also on the meal exchange menu. Requests such as bringing back Taco Salad Thursdays, offering gluten-free pizzas, or offering another side entree for meal exchanges are encouraged.

“I’d like more feedback about the Hub and Caf. We go to SGA once a semester to get feedback, but we welcome feedback from anybody,” said Keith.

Suggestions about the food or environment at the Hub may be directed toward Keith’s assistant, Katie Dykstra. Dykstra may be contacted via e-mail at kdykstra@nwciowa.edu.

The Hub will be having a grand opening for the Game Time near the end of this month.
Study hoped to discover effects of BPA

BY TYLER LEHMANN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After 10 years of conflicting research, the government is now launching a study to determine whether BPA can play a role in cancer, diabetes, obesity and other disorders.

Hundreds of studies and millions of dollars have produced nothing but controversy in the debate over BPA, a chemical often found in reusable food and drink containers.

"I think we don't even realize how much we take in," said junior Simon Campbell.

A presidential panel on cancer and the environment said there was a "ticking time bomb" between BPA and several diseases. About half a dozen states have banned BPA in children's products, and the restriction may be made nationwide with an amendment to the food safety bill scheduled for a vote in the Senate next week.

Consumer groups have made the phrase "BPA free" a marketing tool. Walmart and many other retailers have said they will stop selling baby bottles made with BPA. Nalgene, which manufactures popular water bottles, quit using BPA when it was banned by stores. The government is now launching a study to determine how much we take in, said junior Paul Bartlett.

"Sometimes it comes across as hype, sometimes as something we need to take serious note of. My tendency is not to jump on the bandwagon too soon."

Many insist that BPA is harmless. Some Republicans, anti-regulation activists and the food packaging and chemical industries argue that BPA is essential for producing many goods at reasonable prices and for keeping canned foods safe.

Linda S. Birnbaum, director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, said, "This is a chemical we're all exposed to, and I think that makes it incumbent upon us to study it. We need to know what it might be doing, if anything."

The new government-financed study is now underway with animal subjects. Results are not expected for at least two years.

Census feared to reveal nation's growing poverty levels

BY KATI HENG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With 2009 Census results expected soon, Democrats fear how this data will reflect on Obama's administration. The poverty rate of Americans is predicted to have increased from 13.2 to 15 percent, figures that are close to the 1960 last year.

If estimates are true, then approximately 45 million people, more than one out of every seven Americans, were statistically poor last year.

Surveys also anticipate increases in child poverty from 19 to over 20 percent, as well as disproportionate levels of injury to Blacks and Hispanics due to their higher rates of unemployment.

"I think it's one pretty easy thing to eliminate out of all the things we're exposed to," Campbell said.

"I'm not sure there are enough jobs out there," he added. "I think a lot of people are looking hard for work and they're not finding it."

"Sometimes it comes across as hype, sometimes as something we need to take serious note of. My tendency is not to jump on the bandwagon too soon."

Last year, according to msnbc.com, Americans, were statistically poor for the first time since 1993.

If estimates are true, then approximately 45 million people, more than one out of every seven Americans, were statistically poor last year.

Among the many building changes in progress, SGA is continuing discussion on creating a game room in the RSC. Currently SGA feels the environment in the mini-gym and exercise area is not very conducive to exercise.

Next year SGA plans on proposing the parking lot be for upperclassmen only.

Due to personal reasons, the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) representative has resigned. Per SGA rules, SGA will bring in those that expressed interest in the position for the next meeting, listen to and ask questions of the candidates and vote in a new AAC representative.

SGA appreciates student input. Meetings are held weekly in the RSC Conference Room on Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m., and any questions or concerns may be communicated to any SGA representative or by email at sga@nwciowa.edu.

The hope is to convert one of the halls into a living space for upperclassmen.

FILE COURTESY OF D. C. O. M. N. E. D. E.

Parking lot change in the works

BY JEB RACH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

West Hall parking lot changes, a recent resignation and proposed changes for the RSC were among the topics discussed at the recent SGA meeting.

The primary topic discussed was the decision to reserve the West parking lot for upperclassmen only. After the last meeting, SGA representatives counted vehicles in the West parking lot to see how many freshmen and upperclassmen park there. It was determined that it would be worthwhile to propose the parking lot be for upperclassmen only. It was concluded that the parking lot on the RSC be for upperclassmen only.

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Red Letter Festival held at the start of each school year. Started by five NW students including Rebecca and Mark Alsum and Brittany Caffey, the music and arts festival features various local bands, a bake sale and an art auction, all designed to raise awareness and money for the Bridge Transitional Housing, a temporary home for women and children living in unstable environments.

The festival, which raised almost $3,000 for the Bridge this fall, is in need of new leaders. As the original student leaders and organizers have graduated, Caffey and the Alsums have been left with full responsibility of the festival. Alsum expressed a desire for new students to step up and take on some of the roles.

"The intent of the Red Letter Festival is for the community to take care of itself," said Alsum.

Students interested in helping to fight the growing levels of poverty in America do not have to search far to find ways to help out. Hospers 2nd and 3rd floors will be hosting a bake sale and car wash this Saturday, Sept. 18, from 9 a.m. to noon. In the maintenance parking lot to raise money for the Bridge ministries.
Students take issue: Pulling out of Middle East

U.S. presence still needed in Middle East

BY KEAGAN HICKS

For years the U.S. military has toiled to bring freedom and democracy to oppressed peoples and hurting regions of the globe. In Iraq, a tyrant has been toppled, a new government has been established and violence has decreased. On the surface, it would appear that America’s goals for Iraq have been accomplished; however, much work still needs to be done.

The U.S. military has recently withdrawn, or more appropriately, reduced, the number of troops in Iraq. Normally this end to hostilities should be celebrated and withdrawal encouraged, but in light of the current political climate in Iraq, a sustained U.S. military presence is necessary — for continued security in the Middle East.

Since May, the fledgling Iraqi government has been uncertain about who exactly its new leaders are. This instability has led to an increase in insurgent violence in an effort to distract both the U.S. and Iraqi governments from reestablishing order.

The insurgents’ goal is to terrify and kill civilians to dissuade them from supporting the current regime. By reducing the number of troops now, the U.S. military is left with enough strength to defend itself and the Iraqi people. The meager U.S. force left in Iraq will be responsible for supporting Iraqi police forces, not fighting an insurgency. This leaves little to no hope for sustaining pressure on insurgent groups who would strive to regain control of a weak and corruptible Iraqi government. To withdraw from Iraq is to risk the outbreak of an Iraqi civil war that the U.S. military would be powerless to counteract.

Finally, with the end of a war comes the hope of peace. Let’s be hopeful future with a reconciled Iraqi people as both a friend and a hope for peace is a breath of fresh air.

However, by staying in place, the U.S. can contain violence and help guide the Iraqi government until it is once again secure enough to ensure its own safety and survival.

The U.S. military should be allowed to continue serving the Iraqi people by interacting with and protecting them. Building trust through our presence and actions is the only way to change perceptions of America.

Ultimately, the value of human life outweighs potential gains from leaving Iraq behind. The war keeps Iraq in the forefront of our thoughts and should keep the American people motivated to support the liberty of others.

We are a campus concerned with social justice. Where is the social justice for a nation of people plagued by violence from within their own borders? If we left Iraq, the Iraqi people’s human rights would be threatened by hate-filled renegades seeking to spread fear and violence. If we are not willing to sacrifice for the cause of justice, we are failing to spread justice.

Did the U.S. military pull out of Iraq too soon? Vote online at beacon.nwciowa.edu.

OPINION

Bottled water: What a waste

BY ELLEN TOLLSA

On August 31, 2010, President Barack Obama delivered a speech that announced the official end of Operation Iraqi Freedom. All but 50,000 troops were removed from Iraq and returned home to their families, signifying the end of a seven-and-a-half year war — one of the longest wars in the history of the United States — and those 50,000 troops will be gone by the end of next year.

The question that is running through many Americans’ minds currently is whether or not removing the troops from Iraq was a good idea. In my opinion, this was a good and necessary (but difficult) decision.

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The West Wing Speaks Up

BY TINA MCGIVERN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“Last year when we discovered Heestra was going to be torn down, we all decided to make t-shirts to voice our opinions,” stated Brett Amiotte. “It happened to be a great day to be Steggy! I wore my shirt and what do you know? Here I am.” Amiotte is a resident of the men’s annex wing, “Westenga,” or “West Wing.” He continued, “The guys say it was a prophecy.”

Prophecy? Maybe. Reality? Yes. Steggy has officially completed its transition from being an all-girls dorm to the first dorm in Northwestern’s history to house both men and women. The boys on this new wing had a few concerns coming into the school year. Mostly, they were excited, but they also worried about separation. Freshman Jordan Starkenburg noted, “I was concerned that there would be a separation with West, kind of like an emotional break. But so far, there hasn’t been. But I don’t really feel like I’m living in a ‘girl’ dorm.”

Many of the guys in The West Wing (the name the residents have bestowed upon it) share the same opinion. Sophomore Bryan Duffey has a different spin on things. “It used to be that guys would only come over to girls’ dorms if they wanted to see their girlfriends or something. Guys didn’t come over just to chill. I think Northwestern needed a girl/guy dorm because it’s really going to help us in our sense of community. It’s a lot different than it was last year already.”

It seems as though the guys in The West Wing are all right with the fact that they live in a dorm where they are highly outnumbered. But what do the girls think?

“It’s not that different than I thought it would be,” freshman Gretchen Sutherland disclosed. “But I honestly forget that we have boys in our dorm, and that can be embarrassing sometimes. Especially when you walk out in your towel and make a mad dash for your room…” It seems as though many girls in Steggy have had a similar “towel” experience.

A first north freshman shares her insight on the situation: “It’s fun living here, but it’s weird not being able to go to that side of the hallway. In the first week of school, I walked down that hall and it was super weird… I wasn’t expecting to see so many half-naked guys!” The boys in The West Wing definitely do admit to the “half-naked” part.

“I try not to stand in front of my window when I’m in my underwear with my blinds open anymore,” Amiotte laughed. “There are way too many girls around. But hey, sometimes I forget, I’m a guy!”

Aside from the half-naked guys and towel scares, it seems as if this new living situation is a turn for the better. After all, why shouldn’t there be more community between girls and guys? And if nothing else, annex dorm might be exactly what NW needs. It’s not like people will be married around here or anything.

It is time to know who we are: The basics of Reformed theology explained

BY EMILY GOWING
FEATURES EDITOR

It’s 9:55 a.m. in RSC room 154. Prof. Kinsinger has been talking about tulips for the past half hour. I know this little Dutch community takes pride in their tulips each spring, you think to yourself as you doodle in your notebook, but what does this have to do with God?

Northwestern’s identity is grounded in the Reformed tradition after being founded by the Reformed Church of America (RCA) in 1882. Yet only 35% of NW students actually come from a Reformed background. There’s no need to feel singled out or left behind, though. It’s not only easy to understand the basics of the Reformed tradition, but it’s also relatively simple to dive right in. Centered on God and devoted to Christ Jesus, the Reformed tradition predestined by God for eternal life with Him.

Following limited atonement is irresistible grace. According to this tradition, predestination not only means that God chooses the elect but also that the elect are unable to refuse it. It’s God’s goodness that leads men toward repentance when the Holy Spirit has worked in the hearts and minds of the elect.

His grace is enough for us, and irresistibly so.

The fifth point of Calvinism is that of the perseverance of the Saints. Because the election is done according to the Father’s will, because the Son has redeemed, and because the Holy Spirit has worked in and through the elect, they cannot lose their salvation. Thus, they have eternal security to become saints of God.

As a Reformed body, NW believes that the three attributes of God are omnipotence (He has the power to do anything He desires), omnipresence (He is in all places at all times) and omniscience (He knows all things). Another vastly important argument NW upholds is that of justification. This is God’s act of making a sinner righteous before Him. Prof. Kinsinger helps his students remember it by saying, “Justification is ‘just as if I had not sinned.’”

Besides this and the points of TULIP, “the Reformed tradition emphasizes Christian education and the Protestant work ethic, which is a Dutch thing, too,” Senior Marji Mulder pointed out. “Work hard and you will be rewarded. It’s not that our work will bring us salvation, but rather we work as a praise offering to God.”

Redemption, works and grace are three founding covenants that structure the way NW works. Does that mean “Reformed is the only way to go?” Certainly not. NW lives and works “Solí Deo Gloria”—glory to God alone. As long as He’s getting glory, all shall be happy.
Old Factory Coffee Shop, ‘a dream come true’

BY HOLLY STEWART
STAFF WRITER

Community. Conversation. Inspiration. These are the values that Prof. Sowienski believes in and implements in Orange City’s newest coffee shop, The Old Factory Coffee Shop.

Sowienski learned to make coffee as a chaplain assistant, in preparation for church services. “It was horrible coffee though!” he admitted with a chuckle. In reality, however, Sowienski learned as he went. He believes in making quality coffee for quality customers. He grinds his coffee in small amounts so that each cup is as fresh as possible.

The Old Factory Coffee Shop has been a dream come true for Sowienski and his wife Rola. They admit that this dream did not come easy. “It’s hard work,” he said. “It’s more work than I had anticipated.”

The charming Old Factory has a long history in Orange City. It was built in 1900 to be a horse barn and since then has morphed into different community businesses such as the first Vogel Paint Factory and later the Wooden Shoe Factory. Sowienski respects the history of the Old Factory and has kept key parts, such as the wooden floor and the e x c i t i n g
p a r t o f the whole shop.

The Old Factory offers espresso and house coffee as well as non-coffee drinks such as teas, Italian sodas and bottled drinks. Rola brings in fresh, homemade scones and cookies, and they also offer muffins. If you ask around, you are sure to hear rave reviews about the Old Factory’s coffee. Sowienski beamed as he mentioned the comments he’s heard, such as, “I have waited seven years for a good cup of coffee in Orange City!” The Old Factory is located at 110 4th street SE, about a five minute walk from NW. It is open Monday through Saturday from 8 – 11a.m., 2 – 5p.m., and 8 – 11p.m.

How To: Not rely on technology for communication

BY SHELBY VANDER MOLEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Cellular devices, texting, Facebook...you name it, we got it. After all, we are a generation overrun with technology, and maybe even soon to get stampedede. Thus, in an effort to preserve the well-being of the campus community and prevent the possibility of sudden and vicious death by technology, here are ten easy tidbits to stop your reliance on communication via technology.

Let’s begin with the obvious. Talk to each other! Face-to-face, person-to-person, within the same space, breathing the same air. I know it’s radical, but just try it. Try going up to that one friend you text a lot and actually have a conversation!

Now I know face-to-face communication can be a big step, so don’t be afraid to get a little creative. Try the old-fashioned cups-on-a-string. You could even go all out and encourage a little wing unity by putting a cup outpost at each door and a long string down the length of the hallway.

Don’t forget the built-in communicators with your next door neighbors. Outlets are for more than electricity. Take a moment to whisper a little hello, and see if anyone hears next door.

If you really enjoy texting, take the meaning of text back to its roots. Snail mail a letter. Or even better, send a paper airplane flying through the air with a message handwritten on the side. Maybe you’ll find a pilot in the sky who can progress to blimp messages or carrier pigeons.

Speaking of games, who needs %email% anyway? Enjoy a little recreational activity and start up a game of telephone to spread the word about your upcoming activity or event.

Or maybe you find yourself needing to give or receive directions. Avoid technology once more and try leaving a trail of bread crumbs.

Finally, if all else fails, revert back to just talking. You can always write greetings in youralphabetsoup, leave post- its on mirrors or extravagant poetry on the edges of your Converse, but talking is still vital and necessary.

You may have chuckled at some of these seemingly outrageous suggestions, but seriously, don’t hesitate to try a few. Or, if nothing else, open yourself up to the art of conversation and, essentially, the art of community.
Small ‘app’ developers apply unique ideas

BY JORDAN LANGER
ASE EDITOR

It’s been only two years since iTunes introduced the App Store. In that short time, third-party developers have released over a quarter of a million applications for Apple’s touch screen devices, including an inexhaustible library of cheap games.

Besides being affordable and accessible, many of these games have realized the versatility of the hardware. For instance, certain games utilize an on-screen joystick or “controller” to offset the iPhone’s lack of buttons.

If you look in the right places, there is a vast array of ingenuous ideas coming from these small developers.

“Plants vs. Zombies” ($3), for instance, fits within the crowded genre of tower defense games but stands out for its charm and accessibility.

You play the role of a homeowner, protecting yourself from flesh-eating zombies by growing seed-spitting plants around your property. Your enemies and allies, rendered in an attractively zany art style, are diverse and hilarious: you’ll see corn-cob torpedoes, a pole-vault zombie, and another undead who is based directly off of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” video.

The touch screen works surprisingly well for placing your allies; you have just as much control as you would with the PC iteration of the game. Furthermore, the iPhone version is loaded with all content found in the original PC version, losing only its $20 price tag.

In the meditative puzzler “Zen Bound” ($3), your task is to maneuver a short rope around intricate “wooden” figurines. You will need to be precise so that the whole surface area is covered. The objects become increasingly difficult to bind as they have more crannies than nooks or fewer sharp angles for the rope to grip on.

But there’s no need to rush: unlike other games in the “puzzle” genre, “Zen Bound” is free of a time limit, and actually rewards contemplation. The ambient soundtrack and detailed, Oriental-themed art secure a quieter, subtler game experience.

“Osmos” ($3) drifts at the same pace in some ways, though the premise of the game isn’t as easy to absorb: You control a circular orb—one of many, all varying in size, set against a black backdrop that looks like outer space.

These galactic-looking orbs behave in a cellular sort of way: the big orbs “suck up” the smaller ones as they come into contact. Your object, then, is to work your orb to “the top of the food chain” by preying on the lesser and evading the larger.

However, they only way to propel yourself is by releasing small portions of mass as “fuel,” which are eaten up by surrounding orbs. Movements, then, must be very methodical. This is especially true of later levels, which contain gravitational orbits and intelligent “enemies.” Even so, the basic scheme of the game comes pretty instinctually.

Another title, “Spider: The Secret of Bryce Mayor” ($3), casts you as a web-spinning arachnid. Yes, the game plays exactly how you think it would. You will catch other insects in your silk and crawl up mansion-themed objects—all of which are very satisfying. There is also an intriguing story lurking about the abandoned manor. But what is most gratifying is that somebody finally found in the original PC version, losing only its $20 price tag.

In the meditative puzzler “Zen Bound” ($3), your task is to maneuver a short rope around intricate “wooden” figurines. You will need to be precise so that the whole surface area is covered. The objects become increasingly difficult to bind as they have more crannies than nooks or fewer sharp angles for the rope to grip on.

But there’s no need to rush: unlike other games in the “puzzle” genre, “Zen Bound” is free of a time limit, and actually rewards contemplation. The ambient soundtrack and detailed, Oriental-themed art secure a quieter, subtler game experience.

“Osmos” ($3) drifts at the same pace in some ways, though the premise of the game isn’t as easy to absorb: You control a circular orb—one of many, all varying in size, set against a black backdrop that looks like outer space.

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Finally, “Squareball” ($1) is the perfect fusion of retro gaming’s most important: “Pong” and “Super Mario Bros.” Other iPhone games have tried to imitate the left-to-right, jump heavy gameplay of “Mario,” but have had a difficult time offering precise controls.

Departing from the unreliable d-Pad and button control scheme, this game makes the “jumping” automatic: your character bounces vertically from wall to wall, a la “Tong.” Your only motion is quick swipes to the left and right, which move you further into this Atariesque maze.

This is far from easy, as many mazes have more gaps than wall space. Thus, the game retains something else from retro gaming: the demand for twitchy, muscle-memory reflexes. If you like a challenge, take this one up.

“Limbo” keeps an art in the dark

BY ADAM DONOHUE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“Limbo” is a simple game, and all the more alluring for it. You play the role of a boy looking for his lost sister in a series of dark and ominous environments—an obscure forest and a solitary sailboat, for instance. Everything is rendered in black and white, shaded in a silhouette-like style. High definition enthusiasts will not be scared off by lack of graphic detail; more frightening is the mood of the art direction.

In fact, “Limbo” resurrects the age-old question, “Can video games be considered art?” I don’t know what else you would call something this sensually affecting.

Beside the few details mentioned above, the plot of the game remains mystery at first. The only task that will move you forward in the game is your instinct for survival and curiosity of your whereabouts. This is all you need really, as the game sets you in a 2D world (like Mario) in which you move from left to right. Thus, safety and story can be found along an appropriately linear path.

The controls are also straightforward: move, jump, and a context-sensitive “action” button that you will use to move large objects and solve puzzles. These actions, however basic in comparison to other button-combo action games, are entirely necessary, as there are brutal traps and savage life forms out to take your life. The main character may be a little boy, but this world holds no mercy. Failure in almost any puzzle will lead to a gory death.

And you should expect to die. Whether decapitated by a bear trap or skewered by spears, your character will bravely respawn at a nearby checkpoint. This “trial and error” element of the game will help you develop a sympathetic bond.

Which leads to the one great fault of the game: replay value. At fifteen dollars, this is a fairly pricey downloadable title. You will want to re-experience everything again, but the elements of the title will not be shuffled in any way.

Northwestern students may also have difficulty acquiring the title, as it requires an Internet connection to your Xbox 360.

But neither of these concerns should keep you from purchasing Limbo. It is rare for a big production video game to have half the style that this game has.
The National moan with a wornied America

BY GREG WHITE
STAFF WRITER

The National, a Brooklyn-based rock outfit, have a reputation for poetic, subdued music that is carried by the distinct and melancholic baritone of Matt Berninger. In their last two recordings, their octave rarely rises above a resonating bass. So, judging from their recent work, you wouldn’t take him to be a screamer.

But when I saw him live on August 8 at the First Avenue Theatre (Minneapolis), his eventual raspy shrieaks seemed so appropriate for a band that approaches the world with a very different disillusionment.

I stood among the 30-something, world-weary Minneapolis bar crowd and watched Matt on stage, twitching nervously, tapping his hands together, and squatting to the floor. These timid gestures were, to that point, his most emotive actions.

Shedding the jacket of a classy brown suit, Matt took a sip of his lemonade with a little something brown suit, Matt took a sip of his lemonade with a little something

He proceeded to scream the lyrics to “Ariel,” a song about midlife psychosis which appears on their 2005 album, “Alligator.” “My mind’s not right, my mind’s not right,” he sang, leaving the mournful baritone for a moment. With the vigorous last line, he lifted the microphone stand into the air and stumbled back. It was awesome.

Just five years ago, you might have expected that raw sound following their first critical masterpiece, “Alligator.” However, you won’t hear any literal screams on “High Violet,” the band’s fifth studio recording. Their latest is clean, polished, reserved, and somehow every bit as emotional.

The album starts with the sonorous, cymbal-crashing “Terrible Love,” and ends with the slow, quiet “Vanderlyle Crybaby Geeks.” In between, there’s a range of musical feeling. But, in general, their guitars seem softer, less edgy. The Alone-sounding Justin Vernon (of Bon Iver) provides vocal accompaniment, which probably says something about the spirit of their latest.

At the same time, this record does have a more percussive presence than their last (“Boxer,” 2007). Lyrically, they’re still still contemplation “the un-magnificent lives of adults.” Berninger, as the narrator, tells his lover that she and her sisters live in a “Lemonworld.” He assumes that he would be happy to “sit in and die” there, since the world lives in is much more nihilistic (“try to find something on this thing that means nothing”).

In “Afraid of Everyone,” they find themselves as a part of post-9/11 xenophobia, which they consider a “vemon” of the press. As a result, they cannot distinguish friends from enemies, but “try not to hurt anybody [they] like.” Furthermore, there are no drugs to “sort out” this kind of anxiety.

“Bloodbuzz Ohio” brings them to their home state, which may not be a place they want to be: “I still owe money to the money to the money...”


definition

The National have made a stirring album about what it’s like to live in the U.S. today. Full of fear, diminished confidence, lost potential, and financial woes, “High Violet” reflects on the collected, suppressed anger that grows out of our daily problems. Berninger suggests on the final song “(Vanderlyle Crybaby Geeks)” that there may be something of an escape: “leave your home, change your name, live alone, eat your cake.”

But I don’t believe Berninger. After seeing The National in concert, I don’t believe that they think everything is that simple. Instead, Berninger lets the gloom linger a while. Eventually, he screams into it, which is a more satisfying solution to him and to us.

I owe,” Berninger sings. My personal favorite song on the album is “Conversation 16,” which is about marital problems (“Try to hold it together ’til our friends are gone”). The narrator makes a zombie-like analogy of himself and his supposed inadequacy. “I was afraid, I’d eat your brains, ’cuz I’m evil.”

The National are a Brooklyn-based indie rock band.

Tap your old shoes to a ‘slamming’ beat

BY REBEKAH WICKS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Old Factory Coffee shop: by day it’s a cozy little nook in Orange City frequented by tourists, locals and college students wishing for a quiet study time with some tasty coffee.

But once the clock strikes nine on Saturday night, the little coffee shop takes on a whole new atmosphere. There’s a new rhythm to the movement of the regulars. A spirit of rowdiness falls over the group, and there is an excitement you can find in is much more nihilistic (“try to find something on this thing that means nothing”).

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A warning to any readers who, in this moment, are thinking something like: “Poetry? Yuck! It’s just a sappy person speaking words into a microphone, right?” You are most certainly mistaken.

This is a new type of poetry— “blue collar poetry,” perhaps. Easily distinguished from traditional or rhyme-based poetry, slam poetry bears a beat-driven, conversational form with an urgent or revolting spirit. Interactions between the audience and the speaker are encouraged, as this art seeks to be an agent of social change.

Also unlike open-mike poetry readings, slams are competition based and are judged on both the performance and the poetry itself. The readers are not just readers; they’re the artists of the spoken word.

Poetry Slams began in 1985 after former construction worker and poet Marc Smith began a series of poetry readings at a club in Chicago: the “Get Me High Lounge.” The readings became so popular that Smith approached Dave Jemilo, owner of “Crowd”, in Chicago, and proposed once-a-week competitions in poetry. On July 25, 1986, the first “Uptown Poetry Slam” was formed.

This is the first year that poetry slams have been hosted at The Old Shoe Factory. The inclusive group, hosted by Steve Mahr, has the goal of competing in various slams around the state and other high-level competitions. The “Factory” is their “home base,” where they will host slams monthly and meet together on a regular basis.

For those unfamiliar, the Old Factory is owned by English professor Richard Sovienski and his wife. A sign in front of the coffee shop reads “Community. Conversation. Inspiration.” This is the theme that inspired Prof. Sovienski to open his doors to the group. “We’re thrilled,” he said. “This is indicative of a growing interest in the arts in Orange County- and it’s good to be a part of that growth.”

Sophomore Holly Stewart has been competing in poetry slams since her freshmen year of high school. To students who want to participate she gives this advice: “Don’t think that what you have to say is stupid or not important or sounds silly. If it’s how you feel, it matters. It’s reality. Don’t be scared to slam. It’s a freeing experience.”

The shop opens its doors this Saturday at 8:00 p.m. It is recommended that you come early if you wish to register for a spot in the competition. Remember that slams are all about emotion and difficult topics, so not all content is “G-rated.” Some may find the subjects and language offensive.

But that’s just another example of the art’s edge. It is, after all, called a slam.”

I “I want you to act like brain-damaged three-year-olds.”
- Professor of English Michael Kensak telling his German class to start with simple conversation.

“It’s true. Brad Pitt has aged well. But he was just so golden and beautiful.”
- Professor of English Keith Fynaardt, upon viewing a younger Pitt in “A River Runs Through It.”

“If I’m a perpetrator and I want a kid, there’s a lot better ways than hanging around a school.”
- Social Work Professor Mark de Ruytor on “the 200 ft. rule.”

Send your Campus Quotes, with context, to beacon@wnciowa.edu.

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Red Raider Sports Shorts: by Heidi Hildebrandt and Michael Simmelink

Raider football knocks off Hastings

Twenty-third ranked Northwestern passed a great road test by taking a win from host 13th-ranked Hastings on Saturday, Sept. 11, with a score of 24-10. The Raiders got out of the gate quickly by scoring the first 17 points unanswered, and the NW defense came up with five turnovers to protect the lead. Sophomore Brandon Smith started the attack with a 33-yard touchdown run, and sophomore James Rodriguez followed with a 37-yard field goal to put NW up 10-0.

Early goals by USF prove fatal to men’s soccer team

The men’s soccer team gave up two goals early on Wednesday night against Sioux Falls. Despite controlling the rest of the match, Northwestern was only able to score one goal and fell short of a comeback. The Red Raider's only goal came from senior Aron Pall on a pass from senior Ben Karnish in the 69th minute. Sophomore Jonathan Malenke tied sophomore teammate Michael Dykema for 18th after both men shot a 79. Sophomore Michael Clark rounded out the Raider scorecard after shooting an 82.

Men’s golf opens GPAC tourney with season-best

A season's best score of 298 has the Red Raiders sitting in second place in the GPAC-qualifier after their round in Sioux Center on Monday.

Freshman Ryan Kiewiet led Northwestern with an even-par 71 and is currently tied for third place in the GPAC tournament. Freshman Kyle Stanek tied for ninth with a four-over 75. Freshman Neil Malende tied sophomore teammate Michael Dykema for 18th after both men shot a 79. Sophomore Michael Clark rounded out the Raider scorecard after shooting an 82.

First place at first meet for women’s cross country

The Red Raiders started the cross country season with a victory last Saturday, Sept. 11, in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Northwestern won the meet with a total of 36 points. Dordt came in second with 55.

Senior Charity Miles finished second overall with a time of 19:20 and senior Sara Hess placed fourth with 19:41. Senior Jenna Sorensen finished in eighth place with a time of 20:03 and junior Teresa Scholten placed 11th after shooting a 20:20 and senior Sara Hess placed in eighth place with a time of 20:41. Teresa Scholten. Leslie Stover and Dawn Gildersleeve work together at the first meet in Sioux Falls last Saturday. The Raider women won the eight-team meet, beating second-place Dordt by 19 points.

Women’s soccer opens conference play with loss to Sioux Falls

The Red Raider women opened GPAC play on Wednesday night with a 0-1 loss to the University of Sioux Falls. Northwestern had seven shots in the game compared to USF’s nine. Freshmen Allison Weeldreyer and junior Annaliese Forgey each had one. Senior Wendy Hofmeyer had one save in 20 minutes in the goal, while freshman Ariel Watts made four saves in 70 minutes and allowed one goal. The loss dropped NW to a 2-5 overall record.

The Raiders will travel to Seward, Neb. on Saturday, Sept. 18, to take on Concordia at noon.

Women’s golf places second then first at GPAC meets

A team score of 346 put the Red Raiders in fourth place after the first GPAC qualifier in Mitchell, S.D.

Senior Maggie Rozenboom is in seventh place in the GPAC tournament with an 11-over 83. Junior Andria Hinze is sitting in 11th after shooting a 84. Senior Sara Horn carded an 88 to tie for 19th and freshman Taylor Kline is tied for 24th with a 91. Sophomore Kayla Johnson's 94 was good enough to put her in a 32nd place tie.

Northwestern won the Doane Invite by one stroke over Midland Lutheran at Wilderness Ridge Golf Club in Lincoln, Neb., on Wednesday, Sept. 15.

The Raiders shot a 360 to squeak by Midland Lutheran's 361. Rozenboom won the individual title after she carded an 84, her best score of the season, and tied for fourth place with an 88. Horn tied for seventh with a 91 and Hinze carded a 97 to tie for 21st.

Ann Calibeek maneuvers around her Bellevue opponent at the game last Saturday.