Grant, retreat reach end

BY LINDEN FIGGIE
STAFF WRITER

Providing a means for student growth, spiritual formation and community building, the Black Hills Retreat, one of many campus ministry outlets, will be commencing in the Black Hills of South Dakota for a final session this upcoming weekend.

The Lilly Grant, a $2 million contribution from the Lilly Endowment, has helped fuel numerous campus ministry and study abroad programs, summer ministries, and discipleship and multi-cultural internships.

After a five-year term and second reinstatement, the Lilly Grant is coming to a close. “The grant has been very helpful to NW in helping us to establish and enhance many programs—many that will continue,” said Barb Dewald, Associate Dean of Spiritual Formation.

The Black Hills Retreat, one program that will end with the completion of the fund, focuses on relational, spiritual and personal development with opportunities to reflect, participate in devotions and connect with other students.

“I was able to pause and ponder where God was leading me,” Abby Janzing said.

It is no question that the mission of the retreat has not ceased to impact NW students. With an overwhelming and stressful start to the academic year, many that will continue,” said Barb Dewald, Associate Dean of Spiritual Formation.

After both a mentally and physically strenuous climb up Mt. Baldy, “Somehow I was able to make it to the top,” Bird said, “And many of the people who were in that climbing group have remained my good friends to this day.”

Come home and ‘Spread Red’

BY KATE WALLIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the temperatures drop and the trees litter the Green with their leaves, most campuses around the country begin the hibernation process. But ask any current student or alumnus and they’ll tell you, as the days get cooler, Northwestern heats up!

This Monday marks the start of NW’s annual Homecoming festivities. The celebration—beginning with the eagerly anticipated dodgeball tournament and concluding Saturday night with the homecoming dance—is designed to further connect current students while bringing together the NW alumni community.

The week is packed with unique NW traditions that give students opportunities to celebrate our community—past and present. With events such as the homecoming football game, Spread Red Shoot Out, Medallion Hunt, Red Raider Road Race, Morning on the Green and Northwestern’s Best Dance Crew, there’s bound to be something of interest for everyone.

The week will kick off Monday night at 6 p.m. in the RSC with the annual dodgeball tournament. The tournament, divided into male and female brackets, takes place Monday and Tuesday, ending Wednesday night with a final championship at 10 p.m.

As Krystal Van Wyk, former Homecoming royalty and recent graduate, said, “If you’re looking for a stud that spot during the week, go to the RSC gym for dodgeball! Everyone’s there!”

While it’s true that the tournament gives students a chance to compete, it’s also a chance to have some fun. It provides an opportunity to commune with other students and even to prove the proverb, “If you can dodge traffic, you can dodge a ball,” made popular by a certain 2004 movie.

New this year to the lineup of Homecoming events is the Spread Red Shoot Out. The Shoot Out is sure to keep students on their toes as they compete in the “craziest squirt gun game ever.” The event, beginning Monday, pits student against student as they attempt to outwit and outplay all others in hopes of remaining dry.

Saturday hosts many of the more established traditions, including Morning on the Green, the Red Raider Road Race and the Homecoming football game.

On Saturday night the homecoming dance will start at 9 p.m. in the RSC gym. Its music, ranging from classic 90s pop to current tunes, is sure to get your heart pumping as you celebrate with friends, old and new.

Theatre perfects ‘Asian Folk Tales’

BY JULIA LANTZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Senior theatre majors, Yuika Ida and Huiyu Lin, will be featured in the NW theatre production of “Asian Folk Tales.”

Ida is from Tottori-ken, Japan, and Lin is from Yilan City, Taiwan. Theatre professor, Karen Bohm Barker, wanted both girls to be highlighted. Subsequently, a collection of folk tales from their homelands were selected. Folk tales from Korea were also chosen.

“It seemed to me it would be a waste of their resources, with their cultural backgrounds and their abilities,” said Barker. Ida is acting in the production, and Lin is designing costumes with both traditional Asian and anime style for the cast.

A total of six stories will be presented. The themes of the stories presented are similar to folk tales from Western culture.

“What parents are trying to tell their children about morals is the same,” said Barker. “We value the same things; hopefully that will be loud and clear.”

The show begins with a Taiwanese folk tale called “The Frog in the Well.” “It’s about seeing how large the world is,” Barker said. “It is our hope that when all the elementary students come to see the play, they will see the world is bigger than Northwest Iowa.”

The lobby is going to have a display that will hopefully emphasize how immense and diverse the world is, with displays of Asian-cultural decorations and music.

“We would love to see elementary schools become inspired by the performance and start a Haiku unit in their school,” Barker said.

The performance will end with “Story Spirits,” a folk tale from Korea. This tale is about a man who is haunted by spirits because he never shared the stories he heard as a child. “Story Spirits’ will hopefully encourage students to tell their stories,” Barker said.

“Most of the visuals will come from the costumes and the staging itself,” said Barker. “Also the lights will be pretty magical.”

Sophomore Andrew Stam has painted a map of the three Asian countries on the floor of the performing center.

“We are hoping the lack of scenery works to our advantage,” Barker said. “It helps the children see that it doesn’t take fancy stuff to tell a good story.”

The cast will be performing Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 2 at 4 p.m. in the Allen Theatre’s Black Box. The production is also being shown to schoolchildren every Tuesday and Thursday from Sept. 30 to Nov. 11.
Record numbers spark NW prestige

BY TYLER LEHMANN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With record-breaking numbers surrounding student enrollment, it is no wonder that Northwestern is topping the charts.

This year’s retention rate of returning freshmen was second to highest in school history at 80 percent, along with the largest entering freshmen class since 2006.

“That shows we are providing the kind of experience students anticipated they would receive,” Ron De Jong, Dean of Enrollment Services, said.

Apart from class standings, NW has intentionally sought cultural diversity with this year resulting in the college’s highest percentage of American ethnic minorities. “Our staff has worked hard to recruit a more diverse student body,” De Jong said, “because we want all of our students to be prepared to be global citizens in this multicultural world.”

With 4,352 higher education institutions in the U.S., students may be fortunate to be attending NW. Freshmen may not yet be familiar with everything that makes NW special, but returning students have plenty to say about why they like “spread red.” NW has garnered a reputation for excellence. “U.S. News & World Report” has ranked NW in the top ten Midwestern colleges for four consecutive years. “Washington Monthly” named NW the second-best baccalaureate college in the nation in 2010. While these accolades are greatly appreciated, they are not what matters most to returning students.

Integrating faith and learning is fundamental at NW, and returning students value this commitment. “Professors open classes with devotions… and I can talk about my faith,” sophomore David Bruxvoort said.

Community also plays a role in returning students’ decision to attend NW. From meeting one-on-one with professors to holding wing devotions, the opportunities to become a part of the NW community are endless.

“Community is why I keep coming here. That’s what I look for,” senior Jacob Gaster said.

Many returning students also appreciate the advantages of NW’s small size with 71 percent of classes having fewer than 20 students. “Small class size is definitely a plus,” Bruxvoort said, “and it’s a liberal arts college, so it gives me the opportunity to take classes in my diverse interests.”

In addition to the academic opportunities, returning students also praise the variety of extracurricular programs and opportunities to give back to the community. “Our students have freedom to choose what they want to do,” De Jong said. “We want them to know there are many opportunities that can enrich their experience here.”

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Breaking the Bubble: Stories across the nation and around the world

BY KATI HENG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Chances are, you’ve heard of Frankenfish, the genetically modified salmon. If approved, the fish could be in stores and on your plate in as little as two years.

The salmon, spawned from genetically engineered salmon eggs, grow to full-size in half the time it would be the first transgenic animal allowed for human consumption. The Food and Drug Administration is in debate over a request to market genetically modified salmon. If approved, the fish could be in stores and on your plate in as little as two years.

The salmon, spawned from genetically engineered salmon eggs, grow to full-size in half the time it would normally take for a salmon to reach marketable size. The goal of AquaBounty, Inc., the company marketing the fish, is to grow modified salmon to marketable size in two years, compared to three years for a natural salmon.

Ron Stotish, CEO of AquaBounty, the company marketing the fish, says the salmon are safe and environmentally sustainable. The FDA has already said that this salmon is as safe to eat as the natural kind.

However, critics are calling the modified salmon a “Frankenfish” and claim it may cause allergies in humans.

Also, it is still unclear if the American public wants to eat the modified salmon. A cnn.com poll showed that about 17 percent of voters said they would eat the salmon “in a heartbeat,” while 45 percent said they would not eat it.

Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell

The “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” rule will stay in place, at least for now. Democrats and the White house were blocked from removing the policy after a unanimous vote from Senate Republicans on Tuesday.

Although disappointed in the outcome, Democrats, including White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs, said they “keep trying” to get Congress to repeal the policy, which bars openly gay and lesbian citizens from serving in the military.

“We still have a fighting chance to repeal DADT through congressional action, but in the meantime, the best interests of our men and women in uniform are served by doing everything we can to get rid of this discriminatory law,” said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign.

Monitor stays

BY JEB BACH
STAFF WRITER

Winter activities, the TV in the cafeteria, and continued student center discussion were highlights at the SGA meeting on Tuesday night.

Probably the most discussed and heated issue on campus is the new monitor in the cafeteria, along with the removal of the old TV. The new monitor in the cafeteria is there to stay. Thought has been given, however, towards putting a television somewhere else in the caf. One possible location of another TV, if approved, is the northeast corner of the caf.

There has been a noted lack of outdoor activities on campus during the winter, since most of the facilities the campus has outdoors aren’t ideal for winter activities.

One of the current options being considered is an ice skating rink. It has proven to be a popular activity on other campuses, but it involves a high level of maintenance, and suitable space is difficult to come by.

A game room in the RSC continues to be discussed. Currently the largest concern is whether there are enough open classrooms to house all the classes during the semester that would normally be held in that classroom.

The search for a new Academic Affairs Committee representative continues, as the initial candidates to be interviewed are unable to commit to the position.

SGA welcomes questions and comments. Meetings are held every Tuesday night at 8:30 p.m. in the RSC conference room, and they can be reached via campus email at sga@nwciowa.edu.
Musings from Marit Langley

If you had told me a month ago what this Romanian adventure would hold, I would never have believed you. But now, 27 days after landing in Bucharest, I am convinced that this will be the most challenging and memorable semester of my college career.

In the past four weeks, I have made myself at home in five locations, learned enough vocabulary to apologize and thank with some proficiency, struggled to conjugate Romanian verbs into a plethora of tenses, spent a week playing, working, learning and laughing with Romanian teenagers at Viata and backpacked the Retezat Mountains. These experiences have been shared with a wonderful group of people, some of whom you may know: Northwestern sophomores Zachary “Hank” Hankel, Bryant “Ted” “Scrappy” Slager, Julie Adams and Calvin College junior Kelly Larsen.

As I sit in my host family’s living room at 11:49 on a Sunday morning, typing, reading assignments for tomorrow’s classes and drinking a mug of steaming coffee, I can’t help but smile over the differences I have found between this place and good old Orange City, where the clocks read 3:49 AM and you should all be sleeping.

I live just minutes down the mountain from Kelly’s host family, and from our new homes we have a lovely little jaunt—45 minutes by foot—to and from the Impact building in Lupeni where most of our classes are held. I must admit that I find it somewhat more lovely on the “to” end, when the road leads downhill, but the view, the company and the moments of silent contemplation I have been afforded while tramping in either direction have been beautiful. From my first month here, I have drawn out these gems of wisdom:

1. “No, thank you” is not often accepted as an actual refusal in Romania, and several more offers will inevitably ensue. Be prepared to stand firm in your refusal, or simply to accept.

2. Romania must be home to three-fourths of the world’s canine population; there are dogs everywhere! Feed them and they will follow you indefinitely, gazing up longingly with big, irresistible puppy eyes.

3. Ciobă (Romanian soup) is fantastic! Never miss a chance to eat homemade ciobă.

4. Microwaves are highly superfluous.

5. Gathering plums and apples from the orchard surrounding my host home is the perfect way to spend a sunny fall day.

6. The little orange café by the Lupeni post office serves incredible pastries and espresso…and if I edit my standard route subtly enough, you could potentially consider “on the way to class.”

7. There is nothing quite as satisfying as falling asleep in six layers of clothing, warming with aching muscles in a chilly tent on the rocky ground of the Retezat Mountains.

8. A simple grin, if used often, can create friendships through language barriers.

9. Verb conjugation can kick my butt in Romanian just as easily as it did in Spanish.

10. Washing the dishes can mean “I love you!” in any language.

Are 3-D movies worth the extra dollars?

Vote online at beacon.nwcwayne.edu.

Want to write for the Beacon?

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Required chapel

Of-age Christians drinking

A mosque near Ground Zero

If you have opinions on these upcoming topics and are willing to write about them or if you have other ideas for this page, please contact us at beacon@nwcwayne.edu.
Colenbrander and Heemstra find unity under one roof

BY HOLLY STEWART
STAFF WRITER

Besides the integration of West men into Stegenga Hall, one of the biggest changes for Northwestern’s community has been the assimilation of Heemstra into Colenbrader Hall. Ever since the news became official last fall that Heemstra Hall would have to be demolished, the atmosphere of NW has slowly begun to change. Without a doubt, there are still those mourning the destruction of Heemstra (the building), but most are coming to terms with the change and are realizing that Heemstra, along with all of the other dorms, is not made up of a building, but of the students that resided in it.

Heemstra, also known as h*, has been relocated to Coly 3rd North and 3rd/ West. That is not to say that the only students there are former Heemstra residents. New freshmen and Coly upperclassmen have been added to the mix and feel the bond of community just the same. Junior Kameron “Drifter” Toews acknowledged how hard it is to go from the smaller to bigger dorm size, yet he thinks the move allows for Heemstra to bond together more closely.

Junior Bob “Rajah” Hammack, R.A. of Coly 3W, echoed Drifter’s thoughts. “Instead of being spread out in four floors of Heemstra, we now enjoy the closeness of living on two wings of the same floor.”

Living together is not the only ingredient for good community. It takes work to keep the individual community of h* alive. “Anew home does not keep us from expressing ourselves differently,” said Toews. “We came up with new h* names for the freshmen,” added Sophomore Brandon “Headlock” Hammack. “It still feels like the old h* where everyone says hi and knows each other by their nicknames.”

The Heemstra brotherhood may still be thriving, but the residents can’t forget that they are now part of a different dorm – one with its own persona and version of community. “Coly residents have welcomed Heemstraites with open hearts,” said Ryan Anderson. “I love diversity, so I love having Heemstra in Coly. As a new student, I don’t necessarily know what Heemstra culture exactly is or has historically stood for, but from talking to guys from 3rd West & North I understand that community is important to them,” he said.

Both Heemstra and Coly residents are putting aside their differences and working together to mesh the communities. “I think it’s going to be helpful for Coly as a dorm because if Heemstra and Coly are able to come together they will be able to learn from each other and have a broader view of life and a stronger, more diverse community,” stated Schneider. Latchaw captured the essence of the situation when he said, “The transition is, and will be, a process. Heemstra and Coly are simply two different communities. Creating unity between us is naturally going to take some effort, but I’m excited to see what the future holds.”

What’s behind the Gen Eds?
A look into NW’s Religion Department

BY SHELBY VANDER MOLEN
STAFF WRITER

“You can’t go wrong learning about God,” joked Steven De Vries, a senior here at NWC. But as he continued, his offhanded statement seemed to echo a good deal of truth. “On a campus like this, we all have our own refined theologies, and we operate under them whether we’re aware of it or not,” De Vries said. “So why not take a closer look?”

De Vries, an enthusiastic NWC religion major, is preparing for seminary and eventually a career as a chaplain or pastor, as he says “wherever God is going to use me most effectively.”

Religion majors have a wide variety of options come graduation, he notes. Hospital, military, or prison chaplaincy, as well as hospice work, pastoral roles, or mission work are just a few options.

Classmate Felipe Silva exemplifies this as he plans to apply his degree to enter “full time ministry after seminary, being involved with church planting and community development.”

Silva said, “If you are interested in learning more about the word of God, how to use it properly and manage it well, or have a passion to be involved in the ministry one day, this is a good major to choose.”

People in the religion department are quick to agree that the two required courses, Intro to Biblical Studies and Theology, just aren’t enough. After taking a host of courses including Topics in the Old Testament, History in Christianity and Christian Spirituality, Silva says that the classes can be difficult but also “open up our eyes to many years” and represent a variety of specializations in their research and teaching.

As a student, De Vries has experienced and appreciates this. He says that by only taking the gen. ed. courses, you miss out on the variety of knowledge and perspectives throughout the department. De Vries says he enjoys this range and finds it none short of delightful to learn from various professors about the topics that “make them light up.”

Not to mention, as a religion major, you might just find yourself “reading through Reformation era theologians, memorizing declensions andconsulting 30-lb. lexicons, being able to distinguish between ‘Baptists’ and ‘Anabaptists’ or ‘infralapsarians’ and ‘supralapsarians,’” said Dr. John Vonder Bruegge. After all, “What’s not to like?”
What does your Facebook profile picture say about you?

BY KAYLA ARNDT

Are you one of the millions of people that changed their profile picture on Facebook today? Of the 400 million Facebook users, profile pictures range from style to fashion, from intriguing to confusing – and the picture is often quite as interesting as user’s motives.

Unless you’ve specifically set your privacy settings, hundreds of pictures of you that are tagged on your Facebook are available for the entire world of Facebook users to see. What sort of impression of ourselves are we giving off by our profile picture?

Students around campus are known to display pictures that capture their good time with friends, supporting their favorite “sport-ball” team, or experiencing a moment that has become memorable to them. Some people want their picture to have a unique edge that sticks out and becomes noticed by Facebook users. Others think profile pictures are simply irrelevant.

Why did you choose the picture you have? What’s the thought process behind the change when you make one? Maybe it’s as simple as taking a new picture because you’re tired of your old one. When it gets down to it, however, choosing a Facebook profile picture may be more of an art than we would assume.

Currently displaying himself and two friends at a baseball game, sophomore Steve Ehlers said of his picture, “I picked mine because I think it’s funny and I wanted something different.” Young adult men are more apt to find pictures that create a funny or cool vibe for them. “It portrays my passion - and Kai Hao Chen took it. What’s not to love?” said senior Matthew Skelton whose picture shows him playing the guitar.

As seen by freshman Miranda Fischer’s simple picture of her with two friends, profile pictures can be used as a way of connecting with loved ones. She said, “I chose my picture because it reminds me of my friends back home that I miss so dearly.”

According to a recent study done by 17-year-old Nina Jones in collaboration with the BBC, “men are 50% more likely to have retouched their photo than women and 20% less likely to be smiling in it. Being in a relationship raised men’s chances of a smiling photo by some 35%.”

For working adults on Facebook, their profile pictures are often seen to display a professional headshot or no picture at all so their name and face are not associated together. Many times, “the older generation” likes to show pictures of their families or just of their children.

Whether missing your friends, expressing your interests, or hoping for a laugh inspired your current choice, we all know Facebook can be a world of its own. Does your profile picture represent the real you?

Pax Christi: a discussion of sects, denominations and religions

BY TINA MCGHERN

Northwestern is a religious school, that’s for sure. However, not all religions are equally discussed and brought to the surface here. Pax Christi (which is Latin for the peace of Christ) is a group that was founded on those premises—a group for Catholics to understand and talk about their faith. Shauna Ell, a graduate of Northwestern, explained her gratitude for Pax Christi because sometimes being one of the minority religions on campus is “frustrating and lonely.”

Students who don’t practice Catholicism are invited to participate in discussions as well. The group members believe that having a number of different religious beliefs represented enriches the experience considerably. Members are not afraid to discuss their faith and they are certainly not afraid to learn. Students take part in Pax Christi to continue to learn about their faith even while being in the minority.

Member Chelsea Stanton described the basics of this student-led group: “It is a place for Catholics and non-Catholics to meet for informal, ecumenical conversation and to ponder other questions about theology – God and life.” She went on to say that the mission of Pax Christi is to provide an informal atmosphere to discuss faith and life across Catholic and Protestant divisions. However, the group doesn’t just stick to those denominations.

Recently, the book of Mormon was brought into discussion and the group is currently pondering the faith of the Church of Latter Days Saints (LDS). Jubehidah Rach, freshman and new member of the group, shared input as well. “There’s discussion about a lot of items related to religion. Despite the fact that [Pax Christi] is sometimes advertised as a Catholic discussion group, really, it turns out to be about Christianity as a whole. Plus, there’s free food!”

The roots of Pax Christi come from a basic, almost biological need to be understood as well as to understand others. Justin Derry, graduate of NW, is one of the key people involved in starting Pax Christi. Regardless of the community in Heemstra, he still felt isolated and lonely in his faith. “My friends in the dorm were supportive but there were still the differences in our belief structure that never seemed to go away. It was like the elephant in the room. I did not have anyone to talk seriously about doctrines of my faith."

Many other students at NW felt the same was Derry did, including Ell. She said, “I sat through some chapel services with speakers who had anti-Catholic views. I also heard negative things about the Catholic Church and Catholicism in some of my classes.” Being a part of Pax Christi helped people like Derry and Ell gain a better hold on their faith and the ability to challenge themselves in their beliefs. Also, being a part of Pax Christi helped the group challenge themselves in their beliefs. Also, being a part of Pax Christi helped people like Derry and Ell gain a better hold on their faith and the ability to challenge themselves in their beliefs.

Pax Christi is open to everyone and they are looking for more people to join. They meet in the South Union room in the Frankenroom from 7-9 p.m. on Mondays.

A mission about baby clothes and Bibles

BY ALYSSA CURRIER

Anyone who has ever called themselves a “poor college student” is probably familiar with the concept of “thrifting.” Finding good deals on clothes, furniture and other odds and ends can be the difference between Pizza Ranch and a granola bar; a load of laundry or the alternative.

Like many other thrift stores, Bibles for Missions offers quality, used merchandise at exceptionally low prices to assist those looking for a good deal or facing financial hardship – hence, college students. While offering incredible steals on quality clothes, books and home decor, this thrift center supports an international organization called the Bible League.

Since 1936, the Bible League has distributed over 700 million copies of Scripture to be shared around the globe. It is this ministry’s hope that individuals touched by their outreach will feel compelled to start new centers in their own communities.

All merchandise sold at Bibles for Missions is supplied by donations. Donations of new or gently used clothing, furniture and other household items, is one of the ways in which the centers are able to give all proceeds to the support of the Bible League.

Bibles for Missions is also staffed entirely by volunteers. In the United States there are over 1,000 volunteers dedicated to God’s work in their town and the world through Bibles for Missions.

“What is so neat about the Bible League is that it’s not just a Bible distribution. It’s an evangelism tool,” Bruinsma said.
Novel spins American culture with satire, heartbreak

A & E

September 24, 2010

By Alena Schuessler

Gary Shteyngart's new novel, "Super Sad True Love Story," presents an intriguing world, a world where iPhones are a thing of the past, and people communicate via每股 everyone’s credit scores and cholesterol levels are posted on the Internet for all the world to see. In this world, no one cares to know the words to "The Star Spangled Banner" and all of this takes place in America's much-too-near future.

In this brilliantly crafted satire, Shteyngart presents an all-digital, fast-paced world in which everyone is concerned with staying alive as long as possible. The novel centers on Levy Abrams, born of Russian-Jewish immigrants, and his relationship with a much younger Eunice Park, the daughter of Korean immigrants.

Abramov works for Sta Steeg- Wapachung, a company that tries to sell vitamins, supplements, teas, and juices that are supposed to increase one's lifespan. The company boasts promises of youth and immortality. The company boasts promises of youth and immortality. The company boasts promises of youth and immortality. The company boasts promises of youth and immortality. The company boasts promises of youth and immortality. The company boasts promises of youth and immortality. The company boasts promises of youth and immortality. The company boasts promises of youth and immortality.

 Abramov is often searching for meaning in a world of online shopping and live streaming. He's one of the last Americans to own real paper books, a rarity because of their old-fashioned nature and unpleasant smell. "Who were these people?" he comments in his diary. "Americans. I guess. But what did that even mean anymore?"

Shteyngart, a Russian-American himself, was born during the early seventies to a Soviet family. His family came from St. Petersburg to the United States seven years later. He later attended Oberlin University and Hunter College. His previous novels, "The Russian Debutante's Handbook" and "Absurdistan," have been published to critical acclaim—the latter being listed among the top ten books of 2006.

Almost heartbreaking and at other times disgusting, the novel is also touching at points. Abramov's romance with Park is one meaningful relationship among many meaningless ones. Shteyngart also shows the power of healing families, as broken as they may be.

In a unique blend of humor and pathos, Shteyngart packs a punch in this novel.

The Walkmen redefine sound with upbeat, guitar-driven anthems

BY GREG WHITE

Staff Writer

The Walkmen have been angrily rocking since 2000. But on "Lisbon," their latest studio album, they're starting to change. This may have to do with the idea that everything around them inevitably changes, as the lyric from "Juveniles" suggests ("You're someone else / tomorrow night / doesn't matter to me").

The Walkmen still care. But as they are growing up, the thrill of defending a rigid, idealistic view of the world has lost its edge. They follow by saying, "Cause there's a sun dying / into the hill / you got all I need." Their settling says instead that human beings can all have that they need despite the changes that take them away from what they think they want. Fans of Ezra Koenig (Vampire Weekend) may be interested to know that he interned under The Walkmen at Columbia University. Under their tutelage, Vampire Weekend developed an offshoot of the fast-paced, guitar-driven anthems of The Walkmen.

Thus, the first three songs of "Lisbon," whose piano-ish guitar and pounding drums may seem reminiscent of Vampire Weekend, represent a dressing up long been the predecessor's template. While Vampire Weekend songs are stuffed with east coast high- culture (brownstones, Luís Vuitton, punctuation), Walkmen tracks have usually cried out in anger at intimates, at the impossibility of having things work out easily and being torn away from a good time.

Their lyrics have been punctuated by unanswered question marks and angry exclamation points. "Lisbon," however, is less angry and more at peace. In "Stranded," the drums and guitar ease into a coda of horns which, like music heard a ways up a beach, bring the song to a close. Their songs have slowed from their old punk pace.

In "While I Shovel Snow," Hamilton Leithauser admits he "fudged the numbers," but then explains that "Half of my life, I've been watching / Half of my life I've been waking up." The track, and the album as a whole, sounds like Leithauser waking up. In "Woe Is Me," he sings over an upbeat, Dick-Dale-ish back drop of surf guitars, "There's a girl you should know / she was mine not so long ago.

The capital of Portugal may seem like a strange reference point for the pacifying of an angry rock band. Lisbon is a port city of five hundred thousand with a history of conflict.
Halo finale solid through series’ tradition

BY MICHAEL GUTSCHE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When Bungie announced that “Halo: Reach” would be their final game with the franchise, expectations immediately rose. “The final Halo game? It will be top-notch.” Well, it is. Mostly.

So here’s an incomplete rundown of the Halo story. It’s the 26th century. Humankind has settled down on various other planets. Suddenly, aliens! These extra-terrestrials are on a religious crusade to kill everything. They’re calling themselves the Covenant, and they’re a big angry melting pot of alien races that have been converted — peacefully or otherwise — to the crusade.

Fortunately, humanity has one key advantage: SPARTANS, a group of futuristic super-soldiers who are genetically enhanced and trained from childhood for combat. You play the game from the perspective of one of these characters, whose appearance (color, gender, equipment) can be fully customized.

Mechanically, the game beyond shines. The gameplay is intuitive. The controls are responsive. It has the galactic sheen of time, care and money. “Reach” runs on an oily smooth engine that lends itself gloriously to large, intricate set-pieces within the beautiful terrain. The landscapes, stretching far beyond the vast cliffs and sheer drops, blend so well with the interactive parts of the level that they seem just as important.

The single-player campaign is good. Not “final Halo” super grand. Just plain good.

I will say, though, that as an extension of the Halo drama, it works well. Especially the smaller moments that demonstrate that, yes, you are fighting a losing battle. You overhear an air support dispatcher declining a request for a desperate request for aid. You watch as civilian transports are shot out of the sky as they flee burning cities. No, there’s nothing you can do about it—a special, devastating feeling that video games don’t often give.

The multiplayer is still fantastic. The standard Halo formula is broken up by the addition of new mechanics, such as “Armor Abilities,” allowing the players to use jetpacks, holograms, zooming fields and various other special abilities that change how the game flows nicely.

Players can do just about anything to control their game experience. The level editor (“Forge”) returns with its many options. The wave survival mode (“Firefight”) from “Halo 3: ODST” also returns, now with it’s own customizability as well. This combines with the already expansive list of game modes to ensure one of the most exhaustive, well-executed multiplayer experiences available.

Altogether, the game’s pretty fantastic. The single-player is solid, and the multiplayer is one of the most distilled, fun things to come out in recent memory.

The game’s glaring flaw is that all of its merits are exactly what make it stand out as so very rooted in the traditional concept of a video game. Yes, it does every trick in the book, and it does most of them really well. However, the demand for this kind of game encourages formula rather than innovation for future releases. It is not a step forwards or backwards, just a determination to stand still.

But in the end, I say “hooray” for “Reach.” It’s a grand time to play with a few dorm-mates. Even if you’re not familiar with Halo, it is fairly easy to get into. Get it, or find someone who owns it, and give it a shot. Fly around with a jetpack. “Halo: Reach” is a colorful breath of fresh air with acceptable storytelling and fantastic multiplayer. Go play it.

Affleck directs, takes lead in hit heist film

BY JORDAN BORN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“The Town” may be the first in this fall’s respective lineup, but Affleck’s successful directorial character drama that continues the help of his life-long crime partner and friend James “Jem” Coughlin (Jeremy Renner).

The Town looks like the future building. In only his second chance at a story, Doug MacRay (Affleck) knows exactly what it’s like to thrive in such a dehumanized environment. Over the years Doug has become quite an accomplished robber with the help of his life long crime partner and friend James “Jem” Coughlin (Jerome Renner).
Red Raider Sports Shorts: by Heidi Hildebrandt

Two road wins for women’s soccer

The Northwestern women’s soccer team won their first GPAC game over Concordia University, 1-0, last Saturday, Sept. 18.

Freshman Alyssa Duren connected with senior Stephanie Wilcox in the 22nd minute and Wilcox put the ball in the net for the only goal of the day.

Freshman Ariett Watts made seven saves and had her first shut-out as goalkeeper. Senior Annaleise Forsey and freshman Alii Dunkelberger each had three shots on goal. Duren, Forsey and Dunkelberger each had two shots on goal.

Both teams had 14 shots in the game, but NW had a 2-1 advantage on corner kicks.

NW improved to a 2-1 record in the GPAC on Tuesday night, beating Morningside 2-0. The Raiders’ overall record is 4-5.

Dunkelberger scored the first goal of the game in the 11th minute on a pass from senior Katy Phillips. In the 58th minute, freshman Hannah Jensen found the back of the net with an assist by freshman Kate Fonte.

The Raiders out-shot Morningside 14-9. Watts had four saves and recorded a second straight shut-out. Dunkelberger led the team with seven shots, four on goal.

NW is on a hot streak, winning four of their last six games. The Raiders will host Mount Marty in their next contest on Wednesday, Sept. 29, at 7:30 p.m.

Malm leads football to victory

The Red Raiders captured a 30-14 over Nebraska Wesleyan last Saturday, Sept. 18, to improve their record to 2-1. After the game, Northwestern moved up from 21st to 18th in the NAIA national rankings.

Sophomore Branden Smith scored the first touchdown of the game on a three-yard run to end a 67-yard, ten-play Raider drive at the beginning of the first quarter.

In the second quarter, the Prairie Wolves returned an interception to the endzone to tie the game, but the Raiders answered with a 22-yard touchdown run by senior Taylor Malm in their next possession.

Malm again found the endzone after a nine-play, 74-yard drive. Malm’s touchdown was a one-yard run on fourth-and-goal. NWU snuck in another score to end the half with NW leading 21-14.

The Prairie Wolves came out of the locker room with a vengeance and pushed ahead to NW’s two-yard line on the opening drive of the second half. The Raider defense came up big as senior T.J. Lensen forced a fumble that was recovered by sophomore Stanley Fleming.

In the fourth quarter, Malm scored his third touchdown on an 80-yard run. After a punt by freshman Davis Bloemendaal placed NWU at their own four-yard line, the Raider defense forced a three-and-out. Freshman Theo Bartman then blocked the Prairie Wolves’ punt out of the end zone to earn a safety and close out the scoring at 30-14.

The Raiders gained 415 total yards while holding the Prairie Wolves to 211. Malm led the offense with 274 total yards, including 200 rushing yards on 24 carries with three touchdowns. Smith added 38 yards on 13 carries with one touchdown and senior Kevin Vander Schaaf gained 40 yards on six carries.

Junior Jayme Rozeboom completed 12 of 18 passes for 126 yards. His top targets were Malm, who had four catches for 35 yards, and sophomore Tyler Walker, who had three catches for 53 yards.

Lensen had seven solo tackles, forced a fumble and broke up a pass to lead the defense. Senior Austin Rozeboom totalled 12 tackles. Malm and senior Aaron Jansen had three and one half tackles.

NW hosts Mount Marty at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 29.

More domination by volleyball team

The fifth-ranked Red Raider volleyball team remains undefeated as they improved their record to 16-0 this week with wins over Concordia and Dordt.

Last Saturday, Sept. 18, Northwestern claimed a 3-0 win over 17th-ranked Doane College. Game scores were 25-19, 25-21 and 25-20. The offense hit .295 in the match compared to the Tigers’ .227.

Senior Bobbie Jean Rich led the attack, hitting .536 and getting 12 kills and five blocks. Senior Hillary Hanno hit .400 and totaled 11 kills and 14 digs, while sophomore Jennie Jansen added nine kills.

Senior Kaityn Beaver contributed six kills and 43 assists, along with 12 digs and five ace serves. Junior Kylee Wilcox added 15 digs.

On Wednesday night, Sept. 22, NW snapped Dordt’s 14-match winning streak by claiming a 3-1 victory. Dordt claimed the first set, 25-20, before the Raiders took the next three, 25-21, 25-20 and 25-18.

Hanno led the team with 12 kills and six ace serves, while Hulstein had ten kills. Jansen added nine kills and hit .474 on the outside. Beaver lofted up 44 assists and had nine kills.

Sophomore Heather Goehrung went 13-13 from the service line and had two ace serves. Hulstein added 21 digs on defense, and Hanno and Rich had 13 and 10, respectively.

The Raiders head to Bellevue, Neb., this Friday and Saturday to play in the Bruin’s Premier Classic.

Men’s soccer on the wrong side of close games

Northwestern out-shot Concordia 16-12 and had a 5-3 corner kick advantage last Saturday, Sept. 18, but ended up losing 2-1 in overtime.

The Bulldogs scored first in the 27th minute. The Red Raiders got a break in the 55th minute when a header by a Concordia player bounced into their own goal. Sophomore Jonathan Taves got credit for the goal.

Neither team was able to score in regulation, but Concordia found the back of the net in the 103rd minute to claim the win.

Taves had six shots, four on goal and one goal to lead the Raiders. Sophomore Mario Garcia added three shots, all on goal. Senior Jeff Lancer made four saves in the goal and allowed two goals.

NW lost its third one-goal game in a row on Tuesday, Sept. 21, to Morningside, 3-2. The Mustangs scored the first three goals of the game, but the Raiders didn’t go down without a fight, scoring two goals in the last eight minutes of play.

Senior Dereck Ball scored the first goal unassisted and senior Aron Pall scored the next on an assist from freshman Justin Lehman. The Raiders were out-shot 10-6 but had a 2-0 corner kick advantage. Pall had three shots-on-goal to lead the team. Ball added two shots-on-goal and freshman Jeriah Dunk had one.

Lancer allowed three goals and made three saves in the game.

NW hosts Mount Marty at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 29.

“I have faith in yourself and your abilities. Hardships will come often, but the way you face them truly tells what type of person you are.”

Ben Karnish has been running up and down the soccer field ever since he was four years old. He has been playing the game for so long that it will be a big adjustment to not play soccer once he finishes out his last year at Northwestern.

Playing soccer has helped shape Karnish’s life in many ways. His faith has had an impact on his sportsmanship, just as soccer has affected his faith. “Faith has taught me that you have to play with 1 men at all times with those around you,” Karnish said.

Regarding soccer, Karnish stated, “I love that it is truly a team game. You have to play with 1 men at all times for 90 minutes; there are no real breaks and you constantly have to be thinking on your toes.”

Karnish recalled making it to Nationals his freshman year as his favorite memory. A recent favorite memory was scoring his first collegiate goal against Sioux Falls just this year.

Because this is his last year, Karnish faces the bittersweet ending of his soccer career. He said he will miss two things about soccer: “One, the people you play with. It is hard to replace that bond you create with a team. Two, just enjoying something that I love so much on a daily basis. Soccer has been a part of my life for so long that it will be hard to adjust without it.”

When not running up and down the field, Karnish watches sporting events and hangs out with his friends. Also, he mentioned with a big smile, “I enjoy planning my wedding with my fiance.” Karnish recently got engaged to fellow NW senior Jennie Poush.

Karnish leaves his fellow athletes with a little advice. “The biggest thing I would say to someone is to have patience, and most of all have faith in yourself and your abilities. Hardships will come often, but the way you face them truly tells what type of person and player you are.”

Upon completion of his Sports Management degree at NW, Karnish hopes to work for anything having to do with sports. He ultimately hopes to be a general manager of a professional team or an athletic director at any level.