“Terror Texts” brings to life the bloody, biblical stories

BY SARA JANZEN
STAFF WRITER

Murder, assassination, cannibalism—this stuff is in the Bible? Tonight these stories will take the stage in the Proscenium Theatre for the world premiere of “Terror Texts,” an original production by Joseph Barker, professor of theatre and speech.

The play begins at 7:30 p.m. In addition to tonight, there will be performances on Feb. 16, 20, 21 and 23, all at 7:30 with a 2 p.m. matinee on Feb. 23.

The entire script of “Terror Texts” is taken verbatim from the King James version of the Old Testament. Barker has been experimenting with Old Testament stories as dramas since 2002 and has produced two similar plays: “And God Said” and “David and Goliath.” Barker was introduced to the idea through an essay written by Dr. Tom Boogaart, professor at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Mich. Boogaart will be on campus today for the show’s premiere and will also speak in chapel.

When it came to “Terror Texts,” Barker said he “was looking for stories that were the most violent and disturbing in the Old Testament.” Barker seeks to use “Terror Texts” to reclaim these stories, no matter how difficult their subject matter.

“Christians need to know what’s in the Bible—that includes the difficult, weird scary stuff,” said senior cast member Emily Sweet Landegent. She went on to say, “‘Terror Texts’ is a way to explore these stories in community and as a community…perhaps start to get a glimpse of why all the blood, why all the deaths, why all the ‘terror’?”

The play features original compositions and arrangements by Joseph Barker, formerly of Orange City, and Heather Josselyn-Cranson, NW director of music ministries. Most of the music will be used as a segue between fun stories and will reflect on the previous scene.

Josselyn-Cranson said the project ran into some problems concerning copyrighted music. Some songs Joseph Barker wanted to use were not part of public domain so he and Josselyn-Cranson had to look for different songs that still evoked the same feeling.

“The whole process,” Josselyn-Cranson said, “has continually been, ‘What is [Barker] imagining for the show?’ and second, ‘What’s possible?’”

Copyrights also influenced Jeff Barker’s choice to use King James version, the only uncopyrighted translation of the Bible. Using a version that is free from copyright makes it possible for “Terror Texts” to be performed elsewhere.

Besides this, Barker said he appreciates the atmosphere created by the text. “These are ancient, ancient stories and to hear them in an ancient tongue, even an English tongue, reminds us we’re going way back.”

As anyone who has dealt with the nearly 400-year-old document can imagine, the text has been difficult to work with at times. But Barker and the cast are committed to working with these difficulties to present a play that represents the Bible. Said cast member senior Kailen Fleck, “We try to take the stories and embellish them as much as we can without straying too much from the Bible.”

Jazz band features a variety of styles and soloists

BY KEVIN WALLACE
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, Feb. 19, Northwestern’s jazz band will be performing a number of different pieces at their concert in Christ Chapel. The music selection will include early big band, cool jazz, swing and others.

The styles will each have their own unique feel, beat and tempo. There will be seven pieces performed and each will have its own unique sound allowing the audience to experience representative selections of jazz styles. This will also give the 16 student musicians an opportunity to play a number of genres.

Out of the 16 students, 11 of them will have a solo on one or more of the pieces. When asked why there are so many soloists, Timothy McGarvey, associate professor of music and the group’s director, says, “Jazz is about improvisation. So I wanted to give that opportunity to as many students as possible.”

One of the soloists will be senior Mark Peterson, who plays trumpet. He will be playing solo in two pieces which include “Israel” by Miles Davis and “Vamos a Bailar” by Doug Beach. Petersen says, “Dr. McGarvey is very intentional about keeping jazz for the whole band. Sometimes trumpets and saxophones switch parts within the section so there isn’t one person who becomes the soloist.”

The other pieces will include another Davis piece entitled, “The Birth of the Cool,” an arrangement of “String of Pearls” made famous by the Glenn Miller Orchestra; another Beach work entitled “Nightwind;” “Fascinating Rhythm” by George Gershwin; and Charles Mingus’ “Better Get Hit in Your Soul.” “Fascinating Rhythm” will open the concert and “Better Get Hit in Your Soul” will close the night.

Peterson says that these two pieces are probably the most fun to listen to out of all the pieces and will be an excellent way to open and close the night. The performance will start at 7:30 p.m. and is open to the public free of charge.
I don’t know God. You don’t either.

BY SARA MOSER

Your eyes scan the title. You think, “What right does she have to tell me I don’t know God?” At this point, I ask you to stop. I ask you to lay aside your theology, as much as that is possible for me. I would contend that in our efforts to know God, we must ultimately check our theology at the door and recognize that when we come into the presence of God, every one of us comes as a heretic.

Considering that “heresy” does not bring along the most positive connotations, it would seem pertinent to establish a definition. Coming from the Greek word, “choose,” heresy plainly indicates a choice of beliefs. In and of itself, heresy has no purely objective meaning. It exists, rather, merely from the point of view of those who are supposedly “orthodox.” In this regard, heresy is seen as “wrong” only because there has been an established “right.”

So the question lingers, “Why am I a heretic in the presence of God?” Well, let’s first examine our own (conceived) view of God: God is an infinite being who transcends our understanding—upon this I believe we’d all agree. Thus, what seemingly follows is this: our finite, fragile minds cannot even begin to grasp God fully. When we ask questions of God, we are likely not even operating within the proper categories. Our questions of God may not even be fitting. Our questions would be like asking, “Is today yellow?” The question is not proper. It makes no sense to us. Yet, as finite beings in the presence of an infinite God, our questions might come across to God—nonsensical.

In light of our limited understanding and inability to wrestle God into a box, I ask, why is it that we become so firmly entrenched within our theological beliefs? In all likelihood, we’re not even close to an approximation of the truth. We quarrel as we dwell around the theological roundtable, yet our quarrels are so incredibly futile. Indeed, we are both wrong.

Is this all to say that theology is an unworthy pursuit? Hear me as I articulate: absolutely not. It may seem as though I am advocating a push away from the attempt to know God. However, that is surely not my claim. I am not advocating that we give up our attempts to know God, as doing so would indeed be detrimental to our faith. Rather, I am advocating that when our beliefs become dogmatic and violent, we give them up. We cannot grasp God; however, we can grasp that we are all heretics. In turn, we can allow this affirmation to liberate us from that which encumbers our true knowledge of God. For surely, it is when we are able to affirm that we do not know God, that we are actually able to come to a fuller knowledge of God.

Thus, my plea to you is this: embrace your inner heretic. Embrace the vast limitations the very nature of your humanity presents. You do not know God—and that is beautiful.

Cafeteria rants

BY NICK RÖHLF

This past year, the caf has undergone some major changes, and I think they are brilliant. The meal plans are great for those of us who don’t have time to eat every meal, and flex dollars... well, anyone who’s eaten at The Hub knows that they’re useless. But with our new meal plan, we’re getting to the point at which the new stuff has been around long enough for us to get used to it, but there’s still enough time to make it even better.

Rant #1: The 15-meal plan. The perfect plan for those of us who never eat breakfast. Well... almost. What happens to that fifth hour? I don’t know about everyone else, but for me, it’s wasted after week. Granted, we are allowed to go through the line multiple times in a single meal, but my lunch hour just isn’t long enough for such practices. So week after week, meal plan #15 is pure profit.

Rant #2: No rollover. If you miss a meal for one week, once that week is over, that meal is gone. Remember, there’s no rollover. If you miss a meal for one week, once that week is over, that meal is gone.

Solution #1: Do-yourself meal plans. With those limitations, of course. If you’ve ever been to a computer website, they often provide you with a construct-your-own-computer and all the frills you want, and then give you a price. What if we could do that for meals? Select 14 meals a week, pay x dollars. There would have to be some limitations, though, so people could not simply choose not to eat at the caf. Maybe a limit of 14 to 21 meals for people living in the dorms and 7 to 21 for people living elsewhere on campus? That way, each person is responsible for his or her own waste and can’t complain about it.

Solution #2: Rollover. Pretty self-explanatory. Say for example, you have to get up at 9 a.m. every day for the first half of the semester, no breakfast. OK, that’s fine. Then for the second half, you have to get up at 7 a.m. every day. Suddenly you have a bunch of leftover meals that can be used for breakfast.

Solution #3: Don’t tie flex dollars to meal plans. In addition, make flex dollars more easily purchasable—perhaps an initial flex dollar cost via SWISS when signing up for meals and advertising a bit more about the purchase of more flex dollars. I honestly did not know that one could buy more flex dollars until just recently, though perhaps that is my own fault being oblivious to the world around me. Well, there are two ideas. Feel free to counter-rant, or come up with your own solutions.
Movies to warm you up

BY JAMES BIERLY  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It’s freezing outside, but it’s perfect weather to curl up inside with a video and a cup of hot chocolate. Here are a few films to help keep you warm.

“Thank You for Smoking”

What better film to watch in the middle of February than one about smoldering, warm cigarettes. Nick Naylor (Aaron Eckhart) is the best lobbyist the tobacco industry has, but his personal life is a wreck as he navigates divorce, parenthood, treacherous reporters and activists out to destroy the American pastime of smoking. Casting a multi-award industry in the role of protagonist, “Thank You for Smoking” is a hilarious satire on a society where spin is everything, and one that will leave you laughing and filled with a self-righteous desire for some smoky tobacco products.

“The Producers” (1986)

As the winter drags on, one thought is on everyone’s mind: springtime. In this film, a pair of gooms (Zero Mostel, Gene Wilder) decide that the best way to make a ton of money is to set a scam in which a play they produce is a complete flop, but they make off with tons of cash by overselling shares in the play. Unfortunately for them, “Springtime for Hitler” ends up being considerably better than it sounds, and hilarity ensues.

“You Only Live Twice”

This James Bond film ends in a giant volcano turned into a super villain’s lair. What could be hotter than a volcano? James Bond (Sean Connery, back when he was hot) has to take his own death in order to undo a dastardly plot to force the United States and Russia into a nuclear war. He travels to Japan and uses his ability to attract beautiful women and shoot things to make the world a better place. What more could you want in a movie?

“Love, Actually”

How about a heartwarming film to help beat the cold? “Love, Actually” is a group of love stories set in London that looks at love from a variety of different angles. There’s an affair, a cross-cultural relationship, porn stars who find true love and end up nervous to kiss and a Prime Minister falling for a common girl. “Love, Actually” should leave all but the most jaded human beings feeling full of love and goodwill towards humanity.

Things to do before you graduate

BY RACHEL RIETSEMA  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Which one has the most entertainment, Orange City or Minneapolis? Initially, you probably were thinking that this question was a no-brainer. Think again. This current place that you are in may seem like a bore, but not if you go explore with a positive attitude.

1. Let your taste buds be satisfied by taking a trip to the Ice Cream Capitol of the World. It’s known as the fire slide that you should visit in the middle of February than one about smoking. It’s called the fire slide but it’s something to do. Grab a friend and a positive attitude.

2. Do you find yourself wanting to leave your dorm and pump up the excitement? If this is true, then it would be wise of you to head to Sioux City down Highway 75 for a Perkins run. Maybe it’s a friend’s birthday; go to Red Robin. Steep prices, a 50 minute drive and gas money are all reasons to stay here, but it’s a special occasion, right?

3. Some place a little closer to the windmills is the town of Maurice. There’s rumor of a slide that you should visit in the dark. It’s known as the fire slide or the rocket, and it’s waiting for more visitors especially if you’ve never been introduced. Climb those wooden stairs and make your way down in pitch black. It’s about a 15-minute drive; drive west on Highway 10 and take a left where a small town appears. Keep driving around until you find it. Trust me: you won’t get lost.

4. As a child you probably did more of this activity and either loved or despised it. Roller-skating brought me many bruises and maybe it did you, too, but it’s something to do. Grab a friend and a positive attitude to hit the floor, hopefully not literally. If you haven’t been to Sheldon before, start heading east on Highway 10 and merge onto Highway 60 north: 45 minutes and you’re there.

5. No, it’s not the ’50s anymore; it’s the 21st century, and the Holland Plaza Theater is usually your destination. There’s a drawback to my next suggestion, Luverne, Minn., is an hour away, but let’s face it, are a lot of the other hot spots. The drive-in theater isn’t open right now, but make a go of it at the start of next year. It’ll be fun however you plan to spend your time there. Take Highway 75 driving north.

6. A little closer to campus is a place that might freak you out. It’s a 20-minute drive heading west on Highway 10. You’ll come to a four-way stop, and then take a left onto the John Deere shop is. Now you’re in I treon. Apparently, there is a abandoned cemetery where little children were buried. Curiosity did kill the cat, but there’s no harm in this. Drive into the cemetery backwards, then put the car in drive, but don’t hit the gas. It will feel like someone is pushing the car forward or so I’m told.

7. Take Highway 75 down to Hinton, and you’ll find something that might leave the car seat a little wet. The wild dog of Hinton sits in the window, stuffed and ready for attack. Even if you claim that you’re a wimp, it’s time to test that statement.

8. For the candy lovers, the town of Hull invites you to pay a visit to the Foreign Candy Outlet. Whether you like warheads, gummy worms or decadent chocolate, this is the place for you. You can find yourself in this sugar oasis by driving north past the post office. When you come to a three-way stop, take a left onto Highway 18 and the 20-minute trip will soon be over.

9. Tea, S.D., is another place to visit when the boredom creeps up. Warm up those vocal chords and hit the stage at the local karaoke bar. Before you jump in your cars, make sure that you are of age and take into consideration the hour drive. Once the engine is started, get on I-29 heading to Sioux Falls, but make sure to get off at the Tea exit.

10. When the snow melts and the air becomes more bearable, consider holding a bonfire at the Sandy Hollow golf course. It’s located just outside of Sioux Center and is about a 15-minute drive. If you are the “swim with the fish” type, ponds also reside there. A swinging rope could make the tidal wave even higher. Frogs, fish and friends are the perfect combination.

“Pulp Fiction”

A great film to watch with a group of friends (all the extra body heat is a plus) pulp fiction drips with sex, ultra violence and wit. Told with scenes presented out of chronological order, “Pulp Fiction” was a groundbreaking film when it was first released, and it still holds up remarkably well today. Step into this, the wild world of professional assassins, pulp heroes and overdosing junkies, and you’ll quickly forget about the snow outside.
Jesus’ first miracle: water into grape juice?

BY KRISTI KORVER

Most traditional four-year students will turn 21 during their time at Northwestern. With this birthday comes a whole host of opportunities, including the ability to legally purchase and consume alcohol.

“Let me see your ID” is a phrase that many newly 21-year-olds smile at as they proudly reach for proof of their mature age. But with this new opportunity comes a series of questions. Should I buy a drink? Should I go to a bar?

There is no denying that alcohol, wine specifically, is found frequently in the Bible. In the words of Harlan VanOort, chaplain, “Jesus didn’t turn water into sparkling grape juice.” For Christ’s first miracle he turned water into wine to provide for the bridal guests and appease his mother.

The human body and alcohol are gifts of God. Like all gifts they are to be used to bring honor to God and edify the Body of Christ.

Wine was used as an everyday drink, but also as a way to celebrate. It was plentiful at feasts held by Israel’s kings. The Israelites also brought wine as an offering to God along with their livestock and produce (Deuteronomy 14:4). When Jesus served the first communion to the disciples it consisted of bread and wine, not wafers and grape juice. The holy Eucharist and Jesus’s first miracle were not wafers and grape juice. The holy Eucharist to the disciples it consisted of bread and wine, not wafers and grape juice. The holy Eucharist is carried out in the Bible as a way to celebrate and as a symbol. But there are plenty of verses in the Bible that warn of the extreme consequence of consuming alcohol to the point of drunkenness. In Proverbs 25:20 it is advised, “Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.” Nowhere in the Bible is drunkenness encouraged.

In Romans 13:13 Paul advises, “Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissipation and impurity, but in honor and respectability.” As people clothed with the Lord Jesus Christ, Christians represent God. Therefore it is important to remember that there is an appropriate time and place for alcohol, in moderation. VanOort reminds that it is “important to be of sound mind.” The Bible calls for sensibility and caution.

After doing a funeral for an alcoholic VanOort had a new understanding of the implications alcohol can have on the body. He stresses that it is important to care for the bodies that God made. The human body and alcohol are gifts of God. Like all gifts they are to be used to bring honor to God and edify the Body of Christ.

To drink or not to drink:

Alcohol at Northwestern

BY KILEY SELIGMAN

According to interviewed RAs and RDs, alcohol on-campus does not seem to be a big issue at Northwestern. “I haven’t had to deal with it personally. Praise the Lord,” said junior Heather Nold, an RA in Fern. Senior Nate Summers, an RA in Colombo, said he has dealt with it twice, but does not see it as a big issue either.

NW students are not allowed to have alcoholic beverages on college-owned property or at college-sponsored activities. Students also cannot return to campus inebriated, according to the student handbook.

The first time a student is found in violation of NW’s alcohol policies he or she must complete a minimum of three hours of community renewal, plus an educational component. After a third violation, the student will be recommended for dismissal from NW (for more guidelines see the student handbook).

Students usually get caught drinking in the dorms because of alcohol smells and odd behaviors. Underage drinkers and students coming back to campus inebriated are usually caught by someone mentioning things or bringing photos to RDs.

Though NW students can purchase and consume alcohol once they are of age, keeping it on campus is prohibited.
Word on the street: What are your views on drinking alcohol?

BY AMANDA KUEHN
FEATURES EDITOR

Teachers know best: professors share their views on drinking alcohol

BY AMANDA KUEHN
FEATURES EDITOR

Getting abroad-ed perspective on drinking

BY AMANDA KUEHN
FEATURES EDITOR

Life and death behavior

BY AMANDA KUEHN
FEATURES EDITOR

Kim Jongerius, professor of mathematics, shares a story of what can happen when students abuse alcohol.

"When I was in grad school, one night a friend of mine left a party at my house and came back a few minutes later to call the police. A guy down the street had gotten drunk and left his house in a rage, snapping off the antenna of my friend's truck and using a chain from the truck bed to smash the windows and mirrors and scrape the body.

The police arrested the guy and tested his blood alcohol level at .309. A few days later he was very apologetic, and his parents paid for the damage, saying that this wasn't like him, this was not his usual behavior.

Two months later, he killed a young couple and himself in a head-on collision. His blood alcohol level was again .309. Friends and family were quoted as saying this was unlike him, he wasn't a drinker.

Instead of encouraging him to get help, his friends and family made excuses for him until the damage he inflicted on himself and others escalated to the worst point imaginable.

That's the kind of attitude toward alcohol that was, if not predominant, at least very common in the three college communities (all at state universities) I was part of as a student: laugh about it, ignore it, deny that there could be problems with it. I believe that such behavior, is not a significant part of Northwestern's culture, but the danger is always there. I would be surprised if there aren't some students on our campus with significant alcohol problems. I pray that their friends are willing to step up and do the right thing rather than encouraging or ignoring their destructive behavior.

Getting abroad-ed perspective on drinking

BY AMANDA KUEHN
FEATURES EDITOR

Spending a semester in a different country significantly affects the way you view your own cultural practices. Senior Amy Thvedt and junior Samantha Olson share stories of how the practice of consuming alcohol differed in England and Spain.

Thvedt recalls, "I attended a church in London that held an awesome, evening worship service for young adults. After the service each week, a group of those Christian Londoners would head down the street to a pub for continued fellowship over a pint. One week, a British friend there asked if I would like to come along with them to the pub. She must have seen my surprised expression because she then proceeded to tell me that the British treat pubs much like Americans treat coffee shops. Pubs are not a place to go and come out intoxicated, but a place to simply have a pint and relax.

"I consider permitting drinking in moderation to be the wisest course," says Michael Kensak, professor of English and modern foreign languages. "Morbidity and immorality attach not to the substance per se but to a person's use of it. I wouldn't judge this in terms of number of drinks per week, but in terms of whether alcohol has an idiosratical role in or deleterious effect on someone's life." He goes on to share, "I have spent some great evenings with friends over a bottle of wine. And I relish a fine beer, not the kind made in America, but the dark, pumpernickel-like artisanal lagers of Ireland and Germany."

Kensak also states, "I don't know much about the view of alcohol on campus, but I think America as a whole has an unhealthy attitude toward drinking—just as it has an unhealthy attitude toward eating. Germans, for instance, drink more alcohol than Americans, but they seldom drink as much at one time. I've had meals with German families where young teenagers get a small glass of wine, but I can't recall seeing a German inebriated. If you grow up with something, partaking in moderation as part of your culture, it doesn't have the thrill of the taboo when you're underage or the thrill of anticipation once you are of age."

Jackie Smallbones, professor of religion and Christian education, believes that a healthy view of alcohol includes a recognition of its potential dangers and suggests that practicing what the devout Jews do would be helpful. "Before opening a bottle of wine, a devout Jew would recite hiddat shalom (a prayer) and thus sanctify the wine. In Christianity, the wine is sanctified by the process of the Eucharist."

Jonathan Kuik, "I don't have a huge problem with drinking as long as it is done responsibly and the drinking isn't the primary activity of the event."

"I would never personally do it because I respect other people's choices. I know what I am tempted by and those temptations would be accented if I drank."

"It is ok as long as it is in a responsible situation and it doesn't hurt anyone. It is important to continue to have control over your own body."
Exciting finishes abound as NW men win two

Red Raiders rely on buzzer shots to defeat Dakota Wesleyan, Concordia

BY JONATHAN MEERDINK

SPORTS WRITER

It took two last second shots and an overtime period, but the Northwestern men managed wins over Concordia and eighth-ranked Dakota Wesleyan recently, improving their record to 21-4 on the season.

NW 82, Dakota Wesleyan 80

The Red Raiders beat the buzzer for the win at home against the Dakota Wesleyan Tigers on Feb. 13. NW appeared to be in control of the first half, leading for much of the period thanks to 50 percent shooting (five of ten) from beyond the arc. Substituting liberally, the Raiders used an up-tempo game plan to take a ten-point lead going into the half.

Early on, the second half appeared much like the first with the home team hitting on all cylinders and running the lead to 13 with just over 11 minutes to go. The eighth-ranked Tigers wouldn’t go quietly and rallied to tie the game with just over a minute remaining.

The Raiders could have put the game away on their next two possessions, but only made two of four free throws to gain a tenuous two-point advantage. The Tigers seized their chance, scoring on a layup with just 2.6 seconds remaining. NW advanced the ball to half court and called timeout with two seconds left, setting up a final play. The Raiders got the ball in to senior Chad Schuiteman, who had a wide open look from six feet, but missed badly.

He didn’t give up, though, scrambling for the lose ball and tapping in his own missed shot as time expired, securing a huge win for the Raiders.

In addition to beating the buzzer, Schuiteman also led the Raiders with 18 points to go with 14 rebounds. Senior Curt Schilling scored 16 and junior Kale Wiertzema added 12 to round out the leading scorers for the home squad.

NW 87, Concordia 84

On Feb. 9, the Raider men traveled to Seward, Neb., to face a tough Concordia team. For much of the first half, the teams traded punches, neither team leading by more than six for more than 15 minutes of play. Over the last five minutes, however, the host Bulldogs went on a 17-10 run to take an eight-point lead into the break.

NW held tight early in the second half and didn’t allow the Bulldogs to gain an insurmountable advantage. With less than five minutes remaining, Concordia still led by nine. The Red Raiders rallied, cutting the lead to just two points with 12 seconds to go. Head Coach Kris Korver called Schilling’s number, and the senior forward delivered, draining a 10-foot jumper shot as time expired, taking the game into overtime.

In the extra period, the Raiders relied on a couple timely baskets from Schilling and freshman Ryan Hoogeveen as well as stellar free throw shooting to put Concordia away for good. Schilling notched 24 points to lead the four Raiders who scored double figures. Wiertzema added 14 to the cause, and Schuiteman and junior Andrew Stimson scored 11 and 10, respectively.

Next up for the Raiders are the Doane Tigers in Crete, Neb. Tip-off is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16.

“We all know what we are running for. The only thing that matters is the glorification of God in our efforts.”

BY BETH MOUV

SPORTS EDITOR

Brock James Jensen, a football-playing, track-running, senior physical education major introduces himself thus: “Hail from Correctionsville, Iowa, and no, there isn’t really a prison there. It’s a small town of about 900 people, and I wouldn’t have it any other way. I’m a farm boy too, but I’m not a true farm boy because we don’t actually farm, but I live in the country on a farm. I guess I’m like half a farm boy or something.”

It seems obvious through this explanation why Jensen claims, “Those who know me understand that I’m a little goofy and off-the-wall.”

This affinity for fun, he believes, dates back to his childhood growing up in the country, where, he says, he didn’t really care for sports. “My idea of fun was going outside into the grove. We had a ton of trees on our property, and I would climb all over them and make forts. I was, and still kind of am, a monkey.” He adds, “I wish I still had that kind of imagination.”

Although Jensen doesn’t remember when he “started really getting into sports,” he recalls that in eighth grade “I set the high jump record at 5-05 and that was awesome. I felt so cool.”

After enjoying a successful senior track season that saw his first trip to state, Jensen admits that he wasn’t ready to start thinking about college. “I didn’t even want to go to college,” he reveals. “I just liked where I was at.”

Thanks to recruiters like Nick Scholten (“I just liked the guy”) and the football team’s offensive coordinator, Kyle Achterhoff (“I got the sense that he cared about more than just football”), Jensen found himself at Northwestern playing football and running track.

After four seasons of these sports, Jensen believes that “teammates that have helped me grow as a person, as a student and in my spiritual life are things that I have valued most.” He explains: “No matter what feats we’ve accomplished through sports here, I will always remember and cherish the time spent with my teammates. Conversations on the bus ride back from a meet. Not being able to talk because we were all so pooped from a workout. But by looking each other in the eye and maybe giving a little nod, we know that we are all there for each other, and that makes it all better.”

He concludes that train of thought with: “We all know what we are running for. When it all boils down, the only thing that matters is the glorification of God in our efforts.”

After reflecting on the highlights of his NW experience, he places the annual homecoming dodgeball tournaments near the top of the list. He’s very proud that “The Men in Tights remained true to our name for four years!” but would like to clear up some misconceptions about his behavior. “I know some people think my behavior is cocky and arrogant, but that’s not me, and those who know me know that. My goal in acting the way I do is to get the crowd involved. Yeah, I like to win, but I like to entertain more.”

As for the future, Jensen has no problem admitting that he’s completely clueless. “I have no idea what I’m going to do with my major. Note to underclassmen: ask your advisor lots of questions so you make sure you know what you have to do.”

Regardless of what the future holds, though, Jensen will always be grateful for the growth he’s experienced here. “NW has changed me a lot,” he says. “I have developed a much closer personal relationship with God during my years here. Some of that comes from living in Orange City, some from classes and sports, but mostly from friends who encourage the walk with God and find happiness in seeing me grow.”
Raider softball opens season 4-0

BY BETH MOUW
SPORTS EDITOR

The Northwestern softball team traveled to Cedar Falls this past weekend to launch their season in the UNI Dome. They came away from the competition with four wins. 

NW 6, Mount Mercy 0

Freshman Lexy Determan earned her first collegiate win on the mound in Friday night’s 6-0 victory over Mount Mercy.

Freshman Rachel Harris scored the first run of the evening, walking to first and scoring on a wild pitch from the Mount Mercy mound. The second inning saw more strong play from freshmen with Megan Sextro scoring on a single from Lara Vonnahmen. Two more runs were scored in both the fourth and sixth inning, sealing the Raider victory.

NW 10, Dakota State 0

NW pounded 12 hits against the Trojans in Friday night’s five-inning, one-hit shutout. Junior Gabriella Burrola pitched the mound for the first three innings in her premier victory as a Red Raider and freshman Jessica Hooper pitched the last two to complete the shutout.

“I felt like we performed really well as a team this past weekend,” said Harris. “We played together and did a great job backing each other up.”

Harris and senior Michelle Van Duyan each had two hits on the night. The two Raider women, along with Sextro and freshman Stacey Godfrey, batted in two RBIs apiece.

“This team is full of loyal members who embody what it actually means to be a ‘true’ teammate.”

- Lizz Swanson

NW 9, Iowa Wesleyan 0

Determan pitched a solid no-hitter in the Raider’s first contest on Saturday, striking out eleven and walking only one in all five innings of the 9-0 shutout.

Nine Raider women had at least one hit on the night, giving NW a combined 12 hits to Iowa Wesleyan’s zero. Vonnahmen, Determan and Harris pounded two apiece, driving home five RBIs between them.

NW 4, Dakota State 2

Solid pitching and hitting was again key for the Raiders as they handed Dakota State their second loss of the weekend in Saturday’s game. Determan and Burrola shared the mound for NW, allowing two runs and three hits between them.

Senior Lizz Swanson led the offense for the Raiders with three hits and 3 RBIs. Harris pounded two while Godfrey boasted a hit and an RBI.

Head Coach Melanie Mason said of the weekend, “We weren’t worried about outcomes, just playing to the best of our abilities. We have great chemistry right now, and I look forward to seeing that grow.”

Swanson added, “What was even better than going 4-0 this weekend were the experiences we had getting to know one another and further developing our bond as a team. This team is full of loyal members who embody what it actually means to be a ‘true’ teammate.”

The Raider women will next travel to Nebraska to compete against Peru State in a doubleheader on Saturday, Feb. 23.

Coach Woudstra leads squad to his 300th win

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Northwestern continued their dominance this week as they defeated Dakota Wesleyan 95-74 in the Bultman Center. This was the 25th win of the year for the Red Raider women as they improved to 25-1 overall and 15-0 in the GPAC.

Coach Earl Woudstra reflects, “Our defense is not difficult around the basket, led by Earl Woudstra. “Our defense is not designed to force a lot of turnovers or make a lot of steals, but to contest every shot.”

Four Raiders scored in double digits. Leading the way was senior Deb Remmerde with 33 points. Seniors Amy Larson and Crystal Algod added 22 and 15 points, respectively, and freshman Becca Hurley dropped in with 13.

Besides just scoring, the Raiders had a great all-around effort. Woudstra reflected, “Miranda Boekhout had 12 assists and Mandy Carr had nine; that is a testament to their unselfish play.”

Algod pulled down eight rebounds and blocked five shots, sophomore Randa Hulstein had six rebounds and Boekhout added four steals.

NW91, Concordia 77

Woudstra led the Raiders to his 300th career win on Saturday when they defeated Concordia (Neb.) 91-77 in a battle of top 10 NAIA teams.

The ninth-ranked Bulldogs jumped to an early 15-11 lead, before NW tied the score at 20. A layup by Hulstein then gave the Raiders the lead for good. They ended the half with a 47-37 advantage.

The Raiders distanced themselves from Concordia right away in the second half by going on a 13-1 run. A 13-4 run later in the game helped seal the deal.

NW shot 61 percent from the field, including 64 percent in the first half. Remmerde dominated with 47 points. Larson contributed 22 points and Carr pulled down 10 rebounds.

The win brings Coach Woudstra’s coaching record to 300-123 in his 14-year career for the Raiders. He boasts the most wins in the history of women’s basketball at NW.

On Saturday the Raiders will travel to Nebraska to play Doane College. Tip-off is at 2 p.m.

NW track sees more record breaking, national qualifying times

BY BETH MOUW
SPORTS EDITOR

The Northwestern women grabbed third and the men fifth in last Friday’s indoor meet at BVU. The team competed against 11 other schools and had 18 top five finishes.

Sophomore Emily De Weerd led the women, earning three top five finishes herself. De Weerd placed third in both the 55m dash (7.71) and 200m dash (27.42), also taking fifth in the 55m hurdles with a time of 9.08.

Freshman Olivia Johnson and senior Laura Jacobson each took first and set new school records in the 800m run and the 1000m, respectively. Johnson broke a 22-year-old record set by Vonda Volgendsky back in 1996 while Jacobson bested her own mark, set earlier this year. Freshman Kaitlin Beaver also set a new record on the day, breaking Patti Olsen’s 25-year-old record in the high jump with a leap of 5-03.

Freshman Charity Miles and senior Lori Wolf grabbed first and second in the mile with times of 5:21.36 and 5:33.14 while freshman Stephanie Powell placed second in the 1000m, running a 3:31.69.

Wolf, Johnson, Jacobson and senior Jess Regan grabbed a third-place finish and provisionally qualified for nationals in the 4x400m relay with a time of 4:07.92.

Junior Dan Walhoff and sophomore Kyle Sauter made good showings on the men’s side, provisionally qualifying in their respective events, the 3000m and the 55m hurdles. Walhoff took first with a time of 8:52.22 while Sauter grabbed second, running an 8:02.

Freshman Kevin Krueger took fourth in the 800m run with a time of 1:24.6 while seniors Mark Den Hartog and Michael Ortmeier placed fifth in the 1000m run (2:38.62) and pole vault (5.81m), respectively.

The Raiders will travel to Vermillion, S.D., tomorrow to compete in the John Dalton Invite.
Where is God in mental illness?

Dr. Kathryn Greene-McCreight, author and theologian, will be on campus Feb. 18 and 19 to address this question of Christianity and mental illness.

Greene-McCreight is a well-respected theologian and writer. She has taught at Smith College, Connecticut College and Yale. Currently she is chair for the Christian Theology and the Bible Unit of the Society of Biblical Literature. She is also assistant priest at an Episcopal church in New Haven, Conn.

There is one more aspect that particularly qualifies her to speak on the subject: Greene-McCreight personally suffered from clinical depression and bi-polar disorder for years following the birth of her second child.

“Too many Christian discussions and responses to mental illness are shallow, glib or ignorant,” commented Laird Edman, associate professor of psychology. “Kathryn offers an intellectual, Christian and personal perspective on mental illness. Now on the other side of that ordeal, she explores the troubling questions such an illness raises and comes to a deeper understanding of scripture, of community, of compassion, of suffering, of prayer and of grace.”

“Mental illness challenges our notions of self and personality, Kathryn has thought and prayed and lived through these questions.”

- Laird Edman

Edman gave example questions concerning the understanding of the mingling of faith and personality. Questions like: if I am a Christian who knows I am loved and treasured by a God who died for me, gives me grace and has a place reserved for me to live eternally with him, why do I just want to kill myself?

“Mental illness challenges our notions of self and personality,” added Edman. “Kathryn has thought and prayed and lived through these questions.”


“The book is full of scripture, prayers, quotations from the church fathers, psychiatric and psychological information and theological reflection,” commented Edman, “all on the scaffolding of her own difficult story.”

Northwestern students will have the opportunity to hear Greene-McCreight during Monday and Tuesday’s chapels and again Monday night at 7 p.m. in VPH 313. She will also be speaking in various classes throughout the two days.

“Mental illness is different from physical illness in that it seems to attack our very selves,” added Edman, “and we wonder if we will ever come out the other side, and if we do, who will we be?”

The Serbian city of Kosovo made plans to break away from Serbia and become independent. Many Serbian government officials, including the Serbian prime minister, Vojislav Kostunica, say this would make Kosovo a false and illegle state. Russia, being a long-time Serbian ally, also opposes the independence of Kosovo.

Following the death of a senior commander, the Islamic militant group Hezbollah has threatened open fire on Israel. Israel’s military chief has ordered forces to take the steps necessary to protect Israel against Lebanon, a nation that has a history of carrying out violent acts.

Ethnic tensions that broke out in Kenya after the disputed presidential elections a year ago are in the process of being relieved. Kenyan negotiators are working on a political agreement and will continue talking through next week. The negotiators are still in the process of sorting out the issue and a substantive agreement has not yet been reached.

Pado Mahn Shar, the secretary general of Karen National Union (KNU), the largest rebel group of Burma, was shot and killed at his home in Mae Sot, a town located in Thailand near the Thailand and Burmese border. The KNU have spent 60 years rebelling against the Burmese government in order to establish a Karen state in eastern Burma to protect the Karen people, one of many ethnic minorities in Burma, from abuses they feel from the government.