Roles reversed: Students teach profs

BY MEAGAN MCDougall
STAFF WRITER

Northwestern manages to incorporate dancing into many aspects of campus life. Whether it’s the West Hall Dance Party, Lamrof, RUSH or even an impromptu dance party in the red room of the Franken Center, students who want to let loose and shake what God gave them find a way to express themselves.

This Saturday at 7 p.m., Dancing with the Profs will bring out the classy side of NW’s dancing repertoire. This is a dance competition in which students choreograph routines and perform them with members of the faculty or staff. The judges critique the pair’s performance, just like on TV, and the students make the ultimate decision with a live vote.

Junior Jennifer Nilson and assistant professor of kinesiology Dean Calsbeek will be performing a salsa to “Let’s Get Loud” by Jennifer Lopez.

“There was a little anxiety when I found out about doing the salsa,” Calsbeek said, after saying that his only dance experience was from his days as a NW student.

“(Jennifer) is amazing,” Calsbeek said. “I thought she was extremely patient and understanding in allowing me to learn at my own pace and stop to ask questions.”

Nilson has taught the salsa before in a RUSH routine, but this is her first year participating in Dancing with the Profs.

“It was something I wanted to do last year but couldn’t,” Nilson said. “This year, I kept getting emails, and I didn’t even apply until the last day, but I knew it would be something that would challenge me and force me out of my comfort zone.”

Both say that they are confident in their routine, and Nilson said she is excited to see what everyone else has come up with.

“We’ve creeped on a few people to see who our competition is, but we’re both in it just for the fun of it,” Nilson said.

The biology department has declared a rivalry between their three faculty competitors, Calsbeek, Elizabeth Truesdell and Laura Furlong. Truesdell, after being persuaded by her students to participate this year, will be doing a swing dance with senior Andrew Klump.

“I’m doing a little bit of stressing,” she said. “I don’t want to land on my head or get kicked in the face, which has actually happened.”

This is Truesdell’s first experience outside of college with dancing as well, but despite her sore muscles so far, she said they are “in it to win it.”

The practices have proven to be difficult for many of the participants who are not familiar with dancing.

Sophomore Sarah Bartz and vice president for student development John Brogan were signed up to do what Bartz referred to as “epic Spanish.”

See “Dancing” on pg. 2.
Drawings and daisies: McCollough to display senior show

BY JENNA VAN OORT

Senior art major Michelle McCollough has always loved daisies. Drawing them or writing about them, she discovered that they are symbolic of who she is. This is where the title of her upcoming art show comes from. "Daisy: a Self-Portrait" will be displayed in the Te Paske Art Gallery from Feb. 8-19.

Like most introspective artists, Michelle gets the inspiration for her art from within. "My work is simply an exploration and exaggeration of myself," she said. "Most of my art and poetry are a struggle between a youthful innocence and a physical maturity. I realized that nothing represents that combination better than the daisy."

Michelle planned to stay at Northwestern for only two years and then transfer to another school to study architecture, but she found her love for art was too great to leave. She ended up staying to get a bachelor’s degree in art with a minor in business. The art show is a requirement for the degree.

Regarding after-graduation plans, Michelle is in no hurry to seek employment landing on the architecture path. "I've got my whole life to work; I’ll just stay in school until I'm 30." She said, "I'd like to get back on the architecture path. I've got my whole life to work; I’ll just stay in school until I'm 30."

The Lincoln, Neb. native's show will include acrylic paintings, ink paintings, prints and some of her original poetry. There will be a public reception for the artist at the gallery on Friday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. Her artwork can be viewed in the gallery Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to midnight and Sundays from 1 p.m. to midnight.

"My work is simply an exploration and exaggeration of myself." - Michelle McCollough

Obama proposes new budget

BY LINDEN FIGGIE

As numbers fly in, nothing breaks glass quite like President Barack Obama's most recent $3.8 billion budget plan for 2011, which tops the national deficit at $1.6 trillion dollars, according to msnbc.com. The plan is designed to increase job availability and restructure government funding in order to decrease the economic downturn, but the startling numbers worry nervous economists.

1.42 Trillion - Current National Debt

The budget, while spending billions towards improving employment rates, would spike taxes considerably as an estimated 4.5 percent of the nation’s economy in the next decade would match deficit. The plan also halts many governmental programs, a concern students are beginning to realize here on campus with teachers being laid off and complete programs being cut nationwide.

The budget’s premises focus on aiding struggling businesses, Social Security funding, and economically depressed states. Additionally, though tax refunds face cancellation in the near future, Obama plans to continue tax breaks for middle-class families through the projected budget year in 2011.

As arguments arise among political parties and future election tactics for the following year circulate, Obama defends his tactics for the following year in his proposed budget. Obama is determined to continue cutting the proposed tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 for income families while reducing for low-income families and increased taxes and decreased tax deductions predominantly over the wealthy. Obama hopes to decrease spending by $250 billion by 2020.

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With such large numbers, balance is key in establishing a working system. While some programs will stagnate in spending, some, such as education, will reap benefits. Overall, Obama hopes to decrease spending by $250 billion by 2020.

Consequently, tensions among Republicans rose predominantly over increased taxes and decreased tax deductions of the wealthy. Obama plans to continue tax reductions for low-income families while cutting the proposed tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 for middle-class families through the projected budget year in 2011.

As arguments arise among political parties and future election tactics for the following year circulate, Obama defends his proposed budget by claiming the nation's debt was not of his own accord, and in order to improve the nation's economic situation — reaching heights of the 1990s — funding must first be invested in order to see growth.

NW Iowa receives largest snowfall since ’75

PHOTO COURTESY OF WHITEHOUSE.GOV

President Obama has proposed a new budget plan for 2011 to create more job opportunities.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT SIMMELINK

NW maintenance teams work diligently to clear off over 100 tons of snow over Christmas break. The drift was estimated at eight feet tall, 20 feet wide and 40 to 50 feet long.

Chili Bash!

Casey’s Bakery in Sioux Center is offering all-you-can-eat chili, cinnamon rolls, nachos, corn muffins and a medium drink for $4 (with student id) all day Thursdays.

Cont. from pg. 1

Dancing with the Pros

ballroom," but due to a recent back injury, Brogan will be unable to participate. Charlie Couch from the Registrar's office will be the replacement dancer for Brogan.

Additional student choreographers are Lee Stover, Kory Jensen, Dan Sikkema, Eduardo Rodriguez, Karla Houk, Noel Wolterspoon and Brittany Kiel. The other professors performing are Kim Van Es, Laura Hertritt, Kris McDonald, Sharon McCarvey, Ray Gibler, Piet Koenne and Michael Kensak.
The Right to Reason: Obama in his first year

‘This is not the change America voted for.’

BY TYLER VERMEER

President Obama captivated the hearts of many Americans on the campaign trail in 2008. Hope and Change was the catchphrase that people bought into. What was his change? He promised to change the corruption in Washington, eliminate reckless spending, reduce the deficit, create jobs and promote bipartisanship among others. He has promised change in all phases of government, but what change did we really get? Here are the facts.

In a debate with Sen. McCain in September 2008, Sen. Obama promised earmark reform for the American people by saying, “When I’m president, I will go line by line to make sure that we are not spending money unwisely.” In February 2009 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was rammed through congress. The stimulus package was a bill numbering 1,588 pages and costing $787 billion designed to create an estimated 3.5 million jobs. What people fail to realize is its tolerance for corruption in Washington, eliminate reckless spending, reduce the deficit, create jobs and promote bipartisanship among others. He has promised change in all phases of government, but what change did we really get? Here are the facts.

OPINION

Obama’s first year in office was successful.

BY ELLEN TOLSMA

“Yes we can!” was the chant heard around the nation just over a year ago. Since his inauguration Obama’s approval ratings have declined. In spite of this I believe President Obama has made an impressive start.

Obama said in his State of the Union address, “One year ago, I took office amid two wars, an economy rocked by a severe recession, a financial system on the verge of collapse and a government deeply in debt.” This is probably not how Obama would have chosen to begin his presidency, but it is what he was given and an evaluation of his first year should begin here. Additionally, Obama proposed an aggressive agenda including ending the war, economic recovery, a health care bill, and closing Guantanamo—admittedly optimistic.

Obama has not accomplished everything he hoped; however, he has made significant progress in important areas. Obama’s leadership has started the long, complicated process of health care reform.

Both the Senate and the House have passed their version of a health care bill and are now working on reconciling the two. These are significant steps in the right direction toward making health care affordable for many Americans including small business owners and families.

Obama has also addressed economic recovery; his efforts began with the unpopular bank bailout which probably saved our nation from a financial meltdown. He addressed taxes, asserting in his State of the Union address, “that 95% of Americans experienced a tax cut” including “8 million Americans paying for college.” In addition to tax cuts, Obama introduced the Recovery Act which created jobs for approximately two million Americans. Economists from both parties acknowledge that this helped save jobs and kept America from economic disaster.

Republican Iowa Representative Chuck Soderberg said, when asked if he believed we were out of the recession, that we are recovering. He believes that Iowa is slow to feel recovery because the Midwest tends to feel economic change last. Republican Iowa Representative Chuck Soderberg said, when asked if he believed we were out of the recession, that we are recovering. He believes that Iowa is slow to feel recovery because the Midwest tends to feel economic change last.

I believe Obama has renewed international respect for the United States. He holds a deep conviction that dialogue is the best route to peace and prosperity. He is utterly consistent in his conviction to find common ground and engage in dialogue. This is not an idea far from NWC’s history. Former NWC VPA Dr. Harold Hie is so convinced that dialogue is the best way to peace that he wrote a book expressing the common convictions (Learning to Listen, Ready to Talk).

Gaining trust and respect from leaders of other nations is how our country can move forward to make this world more peaceful and our country safer.

Whether or not you agree with Obama’s politics, it is important to look at his accomplishments honestly. He has not yet accomplished everything he hoped, but important work was accomplished in one short year. He has worked for economic recovery, health care reform and modeled respectful conversation as a way to work toward peace. I believe Obama’s first year in office was successful, and I have faith that he will continue to work for the good of the United States, the country he loves and serves.

From the Strip

Not so ’sin’ city

When one thinks of Las Vegas, they think “sin city.” It’s true, Las Vegas is decadent and decadent but there’s more. Las Vegas is not just a place for adults who gamble our lives away. This is not true at all. But you would be right in saying that the Valley is a bombarded of the senses. You can eat just about any kind of food from any part of the world at any time, and it’s especially better with the current extreme gangster discount of about 90%. Plus, there are shows like Cirque du Soleil and Criss Angel, and no personal income tax.

The part of the Valley that tourists only bother to see is the Strip and Downtown, but there is more than that to offer. There is the Red Rock National Park, the Hoover Dam, Mount Charleston’s summit and plenty of famous locals to creep on. The only place in the Valley that really has anything to do with “sin” is the Strip. There, most locals do not go in fact, the only reason we would go to the Strip is to ride the overpriced thrill rides atop the Stratosphere, and even some can’t say they’ve been up there.

We are just normal people who have adapted to our surroundings. Yes, we may have a certain tolerance for the “sinful nature and stereotype” of our city, but that doesn’t mean there are not churches and volunteer organizations that help people in need. Hardly any Valley residents are gambling addicts. We are just your average city with average citizens who, at the end of the day, still marvel at the beauty of the sunset going down behind the Spring Mountains.

Want to write for the BEACON?

The Northwestern College Beacon takes pride in being a student-run newspaper. Anyone interested in writing an article for the Beacon is encouraged to attend the staff meetings and contribute their writing. To contribute please contact the editor at beacon@nwcsciowa.edu. All students are welcome to become a part of the long standing tradition.

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Contact Us with Ideas or Opinions:

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or visit us online:

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Features

Speed dating leads to laughter and ludicrousness if not love

BY ANNA HENKE

Was love in the air at the Hub on Saturday, January 30? Well, maybe not love, but there was definitely a lot of laughter. When students were asked if Speed Dating participants had experienced the thrills of new love, the response was unanimous: "No."

However, all felt that it was a fun opportunity for something new to do on a Saturday night in Orange City. As you may guess, given Northwestern’s gender ratio, there were more women than men in attendance. The males sat at tables while the female participants were herded past these tables at one minute intervals. All doms were represented by a least one individual, but some had a higher representation than others. The community of NW came together to see and be seen, generally act ridiculous, and play up the affectionately acknowledged reputation of Northwestern as a college that includes the “Senior Scramble”, “Ring By Spring”, and “If you were a mythological creature, what would you be? - Greta Floding

“MRS Degree” mentalities.

Freshman Melissa Hassman, a resident of Stegenga Hall, enjoyed her experience. She and a friend “double speed dated,” meaning that they walked the room as a pair and shared each male date. They were not the only pair of girls to do so, as it was more comfortable and funnier to reminisce about later. Hassman reported that she and her friend prepared goofy questions and generally had an entertaining evening. She appreciated the atmosphere created by Fern RD Lisa Barber, the MC, who provided questions and challenges for the couples, including a Sudoku race. Junior Greta Floding of Fern Hall also prepared questions, most of which were random, ridiculously specific and designed to provoke silly and creative answers. Floding asked most of her dates this question, among others: “If you were a mythological creature, what would you be?” Answers included hippocoptrix, God of War, phoenix and dog.

While male participants did not, in general, prepare cutsey questions to ask their dates, one-liners were highly prevalent and worked to great effect. Sophomore John Hellinga of West Hall even prepared a resume to hand out during the process, including a picture, “in order to expedite the process,” said Hellinga.

Although Northwestern students may not have found their true love at Speed Dating, it was a fun opportunity to meet new people and a unique weekend event. Whether this will incite an influx of valentines via campus mail and dates at the cafeteria remains to be seen.

Hosting a Super Bowl Party, Dorm Style

BY HOLLY STEWART

It’s time for the big game: the NFL showdown featuring the New Orleans Saints and the Indianapolis Colts. Next to the game, the most important part of every Super Bowl party is the food. College students usually don’t have much extra money to spend on food, but here are some recipes that can help make your Super Bowl party a success.

Remember that you can utilize the microwaves and stoves in your dorm’s kitchen area. Instead of buying premade foods, make your own. It’s cheaper and you can share the expense with friends to make it more cost effective. For instance, if you are planning a party with several people, ask that everyone bring one food item to add to the menu. In this way, you will have a lot of options without one person having to do all the work.

Quesadillas are a great party option. All you need is cheese dip, salsa, and tortillas. Spread the dip and salsa on a tortilla and heat in the microwave for 45 seconds. Nachos also require only chips and cheese dip. Of course, grills go against dorm rules, but hot dogs can be made on the stove. Just boil them in a pot of water until tender and slap them on a bun.

Deviled eggs are a popular party finger food that can also be made on the stove. To make twelve deviled egg halves, all you need are six hard-cooked eggs (hard cook them by boiling them for about 4 minutes), two tablespoons of mayonnaise, one teaspoon of mustard, and a little bit of salt and pepper. Cut the six hard-cooked eggs in half, scoop the yolks out of the halves and mash them in a bowl. Stir in the mayo and mustard and season with salt and pepper. Then scoop the mixture back into the egg halves and leave to chill for a bit.

Kool-aid and punch mixes are cheap, and can be made in large quantities. For desert, root beer floats are a favorite and like most of the recipes, only need 2 ingredients—root beer and ice cream.

All of these recipes take less than 10 minutes and cost less than $10 to make. Make sure that you have enough food to comfort the fans of the losing team and enjoy the game.

Features

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Pondering from Across the Pond
From the Precocious Mind of Emily Muilenburg
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT FROM THE ESTEEMED OXFORD UNIVERSITY

The rain was just starting as I trudged back from the library this morning— not enough to douse me or anything, but just enough for me to get wet sand from the Oxford University Parks between my toes. This environment seemed conducive to pensive thinking, so I tried to come up with some deep thoughts to share with the Northwestern community about Oxford. The only thing that really came to my mind was “Nature is so stupid,” but that was after I spent ten minutes walking around a tree, trying to take a picture of an extremely elusive gray squirrel.

That’s pretty much how time works here in Oxford—I find the hours fading away as I spend most of the day sitting on the same part of the same couch in the same room, reading, reading, reading, writing… maybe some Facebook in there. Oxford literally means the ford of oxen (no, really?!), which doesn’t exactly pay tribute to its rich history of academia and prestige. The ox thing sort of makes sense though, because everything seems to move more slowly here.

Everyone’s days are mostly filled with study of some kind, but not in the boring, mind-numbing way. Reading, drinking tea and frequently the local pubs make up the population’s daily schedule. In fact, people used to refer to studying any subject as “reading,” this makes sense for people who read C.S. Lewis, but not as much for those who “read mathematics.” The thing is, everyone seems to thoroughly enjoy what they’re doing—and no one here seems to be stressed out.

One of my favorite pastimes is to walk slowly down the pavement (English-English for “sidewalks”) and watch people. I realize that’s pretty creepy, but this way I get to take in the variety of people walking down the streets. The typical Oxfordian is a tall, skinny man with glasses and a long face. He’s wearing a black detective-looking overcoat, and shiny black shoes. He is probably carrying a shoulder bag bursting with thick books about Plato and Shakespeare. But this “typical” man isn’t all that typical. Oxford has this great thing called pedestrian-only streets, where the whole pavement (English-English for “sidewalks”) and watch people. Everyone seems to thoroughly enjoy what they’re doing—and no one here seems to be stressed out.

I’ll see a pair of bright yellow tights and a Salvation Army in Chicago to a pair of outdated overalls instead of a pair of hip American Eagle jeans with trendy tears and rips, you can bet that if you’re in a dress-up mood you’ll find something that catches your interest. Who wouldn’t want to wear a sweatshirt that says, “Jesus can mend your achey brakey heart”?

Now just because the ladies of Fern have the privilege of reliving their childhood and dressing up in frilly prom dresses does not mean that they never act their age. Every month the dorm gets together for a night of insightful discussion called “Mug ‘n Muffin” where the ladies are encouraged to participate in conversations that range in subject from personal testimonies to struggling issues.

On Feb. 1, Fern kicked-off their spring semester Mug ‘n Muffin series. The Stegenga RD Rebecca James spoke with the ladies about the importance of not comparing themselves to others. “I would love to see this discussion yield fruit of healthy self-identities and genuine relationships amongst the women in Fern,” Barber said.

From dressing up in bedazzled hot pink pantsuits and mad scientist wigs to discussing profound and significant issues, Fern residents are host to a unique place that catches interest through both mature and immature methods.

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Dorm Beat: Fern keeps dressing the part
BY SARA CURRY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Some may argue that Fern is the luckiest dorm due to its luxury of being able to dress up for certain campus events that encourage “not your everyday” outfits such as Bingo Night and LAMROF.

With its diverse array of knockoff, vintage, retro and straight-up obscure items of clothing, Fern’s dress-up bin has proved to be especially useful for certain campus events that encourage “not your everyday” outfits such as Bingo Night and LAMROF.

Complete with a makeshift witch costume, Fern’s dress-up room is now essentially an entire department store at your fingertips, free of charge. Though you may find a pair of outdated overalls instead of a pair of hip American Eagle jeans with trendy tears and rips, you can bet that if you’re in a dress-up mood you’ll find something that catches your interest. Who wouldn’t want to wear a sweatshirt that says, “Jesus can mend your achey brakey heart”?

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Does your dorm/apartment have what it takes?
It’s time to name the top dorm rooms and apartments on campus. If you would like your living space to be included in the judging, please e-mail us at beacon@nwciowa.edu
The tube in twenty-ten

BY KEVIN WALLACE & JOSH DOORENBOIS
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Okay,” he dropped a stack of three books on the corner table of the Hub-at-N-Dub, “where do we begin?” She laughed at him, pulling out her red, single subject notebook.

“We well can start with coffee,” she reached into her back pocket for her student ID. “Or how about small talk?”

“Oh,” she set down his pencil. “I don’t usually do that.”

“Coffee?”

“Small talk, I love coffee.”

She laughed at him again, “Well, James right?”

“Yeah.”

“But let’s start with that.”

Sheila led James to the counter.

Sheila was a beautiful piece of creation: tall and slender—with the emotions of some, but for those devoted tube-watchers, the line up for the upcoming season is looking to be more jam-packed than ever.

Critics say new shows such as “Human Target” and “Caprica” might be worth tuning in for this upcoming season. Fox’s “Human Target” is regarded by The Boston Herald as “the closest thing on TV to swigging a keg of Red Bull. It’s one hour of pure energy, a blast of fun action and stunts.”

“Caprica” is a show that premiered 58 years prior to the events of “Battlestar Galactica.” The Washington Post writes, “There’s enough going on in “Caprica” to keep a sci-fi fan, or anyone who likes to settle into a good story, satisfied and even beguiled.” Professor Richard Sowienski is curious to see “how beguiled.” Professor Richard Guthmiller, “It is such an awesome fun action and stunts.”

One show that has been getting quite a lot of perhaps unnecessary attention is this season of “The Bachelor,” somewhat humorously subtitled “On the Wings of Love.” Closet-watchers were not available for comment about this show, however Sophomore Brett Busch was willing to voice his opinion “I don’t like it, it is unrealistic. It feeds our cultures quick-find-a-person strategy. It is exaggerated.” Sophomore Parker Moore added by saying, “I think in reality shows such as romantic-reality shows, it is very difficult to determine just how ‘real’ it is because we don’t know how scripted it is.” Sophomore Rachel Peterson, with the female perspective on the show, said, “It is sufficiently entertaining, however, demoralizing to women. It really doesn’t ever tend to work out.”

One show that has seemed to work its way into hearts of many is Fox’s “Glee.” It is essentially a show about a handful of high school misfits who join a glee club. It would have to say however, that the great musical arrangements make up for the mediocre script writing. Junior Abby Raska said, “I love it because it is fun. It is fun to see which song they are going to remix next.” And yes, but certainly not least, is the talk about the last season of ABC’s “Lost.” For many, that is just what they feel when it comes to the show, lost. Sophomore Jordan Kruse states it plainly, “I watched the first season and then got lost and couldn’t keep up. I got so lost.” There are many, however, who agree with Freshman Sean Guthmiller, “It is such an awesome and exciting show that definitely keeps you on your toes.”

Eric and Darren defend suburban against space monsters even after they have had sex and done drugs, even after they are supposed to be “grown-ups.” This way in which D.C. Pierson intertwines the world of magic and fantasy with the world of skepticism and reality resonates due to its perceptive commentary on growing up. We don’t relinquish all things childish as adults.

Eric and Darren create an entire world of skepticism and reality resonates due to its perceptive commentary on growing up. We don’t relinquish all things childish as adults.

Sure, I may not believe in Santa anymore, but I cling to child-like idealism and wonder in more subtle ways – my prayer for world peace and my awe at childbirth rather than my desire for toys or my wonder at the stars. By ensnaring this nuance, Pierson captures the awkward period of teenage transition in which no one really knows how they are supposed to behave.

He suggests that the world of grown-ups is not what kids think it will be. Especially for Eric and Darren, being an adult is more like reverting back to being a little kid – you have to almost believe in magic; everything else – the sex, drugs, parties etc. – become much less important. The world is full of magic and adventure; you just have to keep your eyes open.

Fiction: It Happened in the Hub, a Northwestern Mystery

BY SARAH KUGLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The eccentric cover of Pierson’s first book.

D.C. Pierson dazzles in teen sci-fi novel

Written by Sarah Kugler

February 5, 2010

Drawn together by their love of science fiction stories, Eric and Darren create an entire world populated by cyborgs and robots. Neither has any other friends, and they quickly become close. But then Eric throws a curve into this standard story of adolescent loneliness: he does not sleep. When a confused Darren asks for clarification, he says: “I mean I can’t sleep. I’ve never been able to and I don’t have to. I am physically incapable of it and I don’t require it.”

Ultimately, it is not about the sex, the drugs, the parties, or the girls. It is not even about Eric’s strange sleeplessness; The Boy Who Couldn’t Sleep and Never Had To probes the issue of “growing up” and suggests an alternative to our typical impressions. As Eric and Darren wound between the realms of childhood and adulthood, I realized what they feel when it comes to “growing up” is mostly a myth. No specific event – one party, one kiss, one one-night-stand or even one summer makes you a grown-up.

Eric and Darren defend suburban against space monsters even after they have had sex and done drugs, even after they are supposed to be “grown-ups.” This way in which D.C. Pierson intertwines the world of magic and fantasy with the world of skepticism and reality resonates due to its perceptive commentary on growing up. We don’t relinquish all things childish as adults.

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The eccentric cover of Pierson’s first book.

Every week, the story will continue, the plot however, is in the hands of the reader. Write in with your plot twists at beacon@nwciowa.edu

717 8th Street SE Movie-Line 737-8866 MainStreetTheatres.com Tuesday is $1 Day! Popcorn & Soft Drinks Only $1!
Prepare to believe

BY ANDREW LOVGREN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Think of your favorite movie. Was it something that makes you laugh each time? Or perhaps it was something that scares you out of your seat, no matter how many times you see it. Or maybe you’re like me, where your favorite movies are those that leave their mark as you exit the theater, still pondering what just happened. Enter The Book of Eli.

I, like many others, went to see this movie on Movie Night Out. I knew nothing about it and, therefore, had zero expectations of it. Needless to say, I was amazed. In order to better review it, I went to see it again to ensure that the first time wasn’t simply a fluke, but, to see it again to ensure that the first time wasn’t simply a fluke, but, to see it again to ensure that the first time wasn’t simply a fluke, but, to see it again to ensure that the first time wasn’t simply a fluke, but, to see it again to ensure that the first time wasn’t simply a fluke, but, to see it again to ensure that the first time wasn’t simply a fluke.

A post-apocalyptic story set 31 years after the ‘Great War’, the movie follows Eli (Denzel Washington) as he journeys westward across America. The movie begins with a scene of a dark landscape and a somber attitude as Eli journeys through the decimated landscape, void of nearly all human life.

However, the scene is far from dull or lifeless as the powerful music draws an audience into the movie and anticipation builds as the lone man travels west. Eli ventures onward and encounters violent scavengers, delivering the viewers the epic action scenes some of them came to see.

Eli soon comes across a small settlement, reminiscent of an old western town, complete with a dusty road and a saloon. Here, he encounters a hindrance to his ‘path’ in the town’s founder, Carnegie (Gary Oldman).

Carnegie, like Eli, was alive before the war and knows the “old ways,” including how to read and write. He is looking for a book, the last of its kind in existence, and, you guessed it, Eli has it.

If you like Sufjan Stevens or Iron and Wine, try The Mountain Goats: folkys religious exploration

BY SARAH KUGLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Life of the World to Come

The Life of the World to Come tells a story of faith without entrenching itself in a single religious ideology. The Mountain Goats’ frontman John Darnielle identifies himself as religious, but he remains skeptical of institutionalized faith. Instead of forcing a specific dogma on the listener, Darnielle uses his songs to pursue ideas or ask questions. Each track, named for a passage from the Bible, follows concepts drawn from or inspired by that text.

Expressed in simple language, Darnielle’s words resonate because of their honesty. “I will do what you ask me to do / Because of how I feel about you,” he sings in “Genesis 30:3.” This simple language, however, does not imply simple subject matter. Even though listeners understand what he’s saying, The Life of the World to Come requires multiple listens and some contemplation.

Pursuing complex, universal themes such as our search for home, love, or for the afterlife in accessible language allows listeners across the spectrum of “religiousness” to ponder them. Darnielle seems interested in initiating a conversation rather than simply voicing his personal opinions. This approach appeals to me because, rather than limiting his audience through dogmatic rigidity, Darnielle uses the Bible as a platform from which he can speak to everyone.

Whether you view the Bible as a strict rule book or as just another piece of literature, The Life of the World to Come encourages you to ask questions and draw your own conclusions about faith.

Darnielle’s chameleon voice also enhances The Life of the World to Come. Sometimes nasal, sometimes rough, sometimes melodic, he characterizes each song through vocal variation. Often speaking in rhythm rather than singing, he also evokes a conversational tone. This sense of conversation comes through in the instrumental layers also. Rather than complex instrumental layers, The Life of the World to Come is a collection of acoustic guitar, piano, and drums. However, a few songs incorporate other instruments to great effect.

Among these is “Psalm 40:2,” which uses electric guitars. A swirl of drums, vocals, and guitars drives its final line, in which Darnielle’s usually soft voice rises to a skittering wail. This emotional investment compels listeners to care as well, asks them to listen well and to think.

My favorite aspect of this album – the thought-provoking lyrics and Darnielle’s ever-transforming voice – hardly explain The Life of the World to Come. I feel unqualified to discuss other attributes, especially its musicality. My dad has a theory about music, though. He says: “If it sounds good, it is good.” I don’t agree with him entirely, but, because I’ve found so much that I love in this album, somehow all the parts I don’t understand are less important. For now, I’m happy to listen and to ponder. The Life of the World to Come by The Mountain Goats lets me do this and reminds me that sometimes asking questions is more important than finding answers.
Men’s basketball falls to Dordt, trounces Mt. Marty

Seim and Miller contributed with led the Raiders, scoring 25 points 54 percent compared to Mt. Marty’ s NW dominated the shooting with over Mt. Marty, 81-59, raising their Wednesday night, claiming a win each dished out four assists. Miller and freshman Mike Vorwald pulled down 11 rebounds, and Miller and freshman Mike Vorwald each dished out four assists.

The Raiders bounced back Wednesday night, claiming a win over Mt. Marty, 81-59, raising their record to 12-11-7 in the conference. NW dominated the shooting with 54 percent compared to Mt. Marty’s 27. Van Kalsbeek again led the Raiders, scoring 25 points and pulling down nine rebounds. Seim and Miller contributed with 12 and 10 points, respectively, and freshman Stuart Goslinga added seven rebounds.

Next up, NW will take on Dana College at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

The Red Raider women’s basketball team controlled the game last Saturday, posting a 76-59 victory. Northwestern held Dordt to 36 percent shooting, while making 45 percent of their own shots. Junior Becca Hurley scored 23 points and dished out six assists to lead the offensive effort. Sophomore Kani Kuhlmann and freshman Kendra Dejong each scored 12 points, while senior Randa Hulstein added 11 points and 11 rebounds for a double-double and dished out four assists. NW improved their record to 20-3, 11-2 in the GPAC on Wednesday night with a win over Mt. Marty, 67-60. The Raiders shot 40 percent for the game, while the Lancers shot 36 percent. Four NW women scored in double figures: Hulstein had 17 points, Kuhlmann had 16, Hurley added 12 and Dejong scored ten. Hurley also added nine rebounds and five assists.

NW, who is rated fifth in the latest NAIA poll will travel to Blair, Neb. on Saturday to take on Dana College at 2 p.m.

Two champions and a school record for track and field

Tough competition didn’t stop two Red Raiders from claiming victories in their respective events at the Minnesota State Open in Mankato, Minn. on Saturday.

Junior Charity Miles ran 18:34.1 in the 5000-meter run to win the race and provisionally qualify for nationals. Senior Kyle Sauter was the other champion, running the 60-meter hurdles in 8.38.

Sophomore Kara Den Herder also had a notable performance, setting the school record in the weight throw with 46’6.75”. She placed 11th in her event. Other top finishes came from juniors Jenna Soresen, who placed eighth in the mile (5:31.5), Stacey Dietrich, who was ninth in the 60-meter hurdles (9:81), Bream Rozeboom, who was tenth in the 5000-meter run (19:33.8), and Corrie Faustch, who placed tenth in the 600-meter run (1:42.1), along with freshman Jana Olson, who pole vaulted 9’2.5” to finish tenth.

On the men’s side, sophomore Mark Mineart cleared 5’10.5” in the high jump to capture ninth place. Freshman Adam Potter rounded out the top-ten finishers by running a 2:03.5 in the 800-meter run and placing tenth.

The Raiders will compete next in the John Dalton Invite at the DakotaDome in Vermillion, S.D. on Saturday.

The Red Raider wrestling team scored 91.5 points last Saturday to take third place at the GPAC Wrestling Championships in Sioux City. Dana College was crowned conference champion with 136 points followed by Morningside with 99.

Northwestern also had three individual GPAC champions in seniors Levi Price and Brian Heiberger and sophomore Nic Leither. Finishing with runner-up honors were freshman Jerod Flores, junior David Carter, and junior Brad Hughes. Freshman Luke Evjen added a third place finish for the Raiders.

The Raiders followed up their conference performance by defeating Briar Cliff 27-21. Carter and Hughes each recorded pins in 1:54 and 1:33, respectively. Freshman Nate Halpin won a 3-2 decision and the Chargers left two weight classes open to round out NW’s scoring.

On Saturday, the Raiders head back to Sioux City for the Briar Cliff Open at 9 a.m.

Player Profile

Kyle Sauter

“Most of the time the car would win, but that did not stop us from trying to beat it.”

Kyle Sauter started his running career racing against cars with his twin brother. “Most of the time the car would win, but that did not stop us from trying to beat it.” From there came junior high track where he and his brother found they were faster than most of the older kids. Now, Sauter is a senior at Northwestern and still running on the Northwestern track team. He knew at a young age running and competing was something he loved and wanted to do for as long as he could.

Throughout his career, Sauter has always been a sprinter and hurdler. In high school, Sauter participated in four events: 110 meter hurdles, 4x400 meter relay, distance medley relay, and long jump. In college Sauter competes in the 60 meter hurdles, 55 meter dash, 400 meter hurdles, and 4x400 meter relay. Sauter is not only busy on the track, but also busy in the other aspects of his life.

Sauter juggles school and track, being a husband to his wife, Emily and also managing the Snap Fitness in Sioux Center. “I do not have a lot of free time,” says Sauter.

Sauter’s favorite track memories take place when he was a member of the Northwestern track team. “I will miss seeing my friends on the track team. They are a great group of people that love the sport as much as I do.” His words of wisdom for underclassmen would be to “make the time you have at college count, because it goes a lot faster than you think.” His words of wisdom for underclassmen would be to “make the time you have at college count, because it goes a lot faster than you think.”

He is a senior Physical Education major with a concentration in Fitness Management. His post- graduation plans for right now are to continue working at Snap Fitness until God calls him elsewhere.