National Champs: Beyond the numbers

BY SARA CURRY
STAFF WRITER

When your home team wins a national championship, what is the one thing everyone focuses on when the game ends? What does everybody talk about and what do reporters write about? To find the answer to that question think about what you wrote in the text messages you sent to your friends who weren’t at the game. More than likely somewhere in your message you included the numbers 85-66.

Numbers are what get all the attention after a championship game. The score, how many points each player had, rebounds, turnovers, free throws and fouls dominate news releases, web casts and conversations.

The audience is captivated by numbers, but if you were to ask any member of the NW women’s basketball team what their first thought was after the buzzer signaling their national victory sounded, not one of them would say anything involving numbers. Senior Andrea Wedel has played varsity forward for four consecutive seasons and has been a part of two national championship teams. Reflecting back on her basketball career, numbers don’t even surface in her mind. The highlights of her experiences are marked not by statistics, but by the relationships she has gained.

“My favorite memories are not all of winning games,” she said, “but of the times that I spent with my teammates. The girls on our team are a special group of women that have helped me become the person I am today. Winning national championships has its place, but the relationships I developed are what I’m going to remember the most.”

Freshman Kendra De Jong shares Wedel’s value of relationships.

The recipient of the 2nd-team All-American award as a forward, De Jong viewed her accomplishment not as personal recognition, but as a product of teamwork.

“I win awards not just for what I do,” De Jong said, “but also because of my teammates who I play with. They make me better every day in practice.”

Junior Becca Hurley, NW’s guard, also emphasized the importance of team over self when she was honored as the tournament MVP.

“I tried not to focus on the awards but just on playing as a team, getting better and doing whatever it took to go as far as we could in the tournament,” Hurley said.

These close-knit relationships aren’t limited to playing a role on the basketball court. This season the team focused on encouraging and mentoring one another to help each other grow spiritually. Wedel described this goal of spiritual growth to be one of the most extraordinary qualities of the team as a whole.

See “Winning” on pg. 4

Eight plays emerge from student ideas

BY MEAGAN MCDUGALL
STAFF WRITER

The theater department offers a vast array of productions for students to participate in and see, but none are as unique to Northwestern as the World Premiere Festival, which will take place March 26 and 27 at 7 p.m.

NW students wrote the one-act plays this fall for a playwriting class that allows students to explore their inner playwright and get hands-on experience in all realms of theater.

“They need to see their work on its feet, so to speak,” theater professor Karen Barker said.

Senior Susan Schoenrock did not want to take this required class. She thought she would need to come up with a completely original story. However, as the class progressed, her perspective began to change.

“The class focused on not being original,” Schoenrock said. “Really, no storyline is original. Rather, using your own voice and resources makes a piece original. That freed me a lot, and I ended up loving the class.”

Schoenrock drew upon a friend’s woes about the difficulties of trying to meet someone you’re attracted to in the one-act play “Hearts in a Library.” Student director Anna Pitney looks on.

Aleah Stenberg, used childhood experiences of fishing with her grandpa for her inspiration.

“I had a very clear image of Skipper Island in my head and the memories just flowed from there and lent themselves to my story,” Stenberg said.

After the plays were written, students applied to direct the plays, and actors auditioned for the roles. In most cases, the playwrights are not involved in the actual production of their plays.

“This is helpful for the playwrights to see how their work is perceived and performed,” Stenberg said.

Barker said she enjoys seeing the plays come into fruition as they go through the directing process.

“I really love seeing what the directors do with the scripts,” she said. “I read them, but what I see on the stage is never exactly what it is in my head because each director brings his or her own aesthetic and creativity to the project.”

Because the plays are written by students mostly for a student audience, NW students can take away a variety of messages from this weekend’s performances.

“None of us are Shakespeare or Chekhov or Tom Stoppard, but there are very good plays being presented this weekend,” Stenberg said. “There will be budding romances, laughs, and maybe even some tears throughout the night. The point is for us, as authors, to get feedback on our work from the audience as well as watch our own work be performed. And, hopefully, it is entertaining.”

Come, taste the diversity

BY JENNA VAN OORT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If students are looking for a real cultural experience this Saturday night, they can just walk into the RSC mini-gym, where the International Club will be hosting its annual Ethnic Fair on March 27 from 5 to 8 p.m.

The event will consist of music, dancing, activities and an international buffet. A variety of different countries will be presenting an entrée, and some specialties to expect are Guatemalan stir-fry noodles, Indian curry and Hungarian goulash.

Admission is $5 for students. Those who will not be eating and who choose to come for just the entertainment will be charged $1. According to I-Club president, Wincy Ho, “The admission costs less than a plane ticket to any of the countries that will be represented at the Ethnic Fair, so this is a pretty sweet deal!”

NW international students will wear traditional dress while dancing, singing and giving
Trio to present senior shows: Exhibit to encourage creativity

BY SHELBY VANDER MOLEN CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Inspired by everything from the birth of new nieces and nephews to God and real life stories, three Northwestern seniors have utilized paint, graphite, film, ink, ceramics, photography and more to create a collaborative senior art exhibit.

The exhibit, which was created by art majors Moriah Maquin Anderson, Elizabeth Myers and Stephanie Parnell, is available for viewing in the Te Paske Gallery through April.

The three seniors not only encourage students to enjoy the viewing but also “to pick up a pencil or paint brush and feel free to create and tell their own stories,” Myers said.

Anderson believes that through sharing her own experiences with her audiences through art, “maybe they can discover something new within themselves.”

One obvious aspect of the show is the variety of mediums on display. Parnell will be displaying acrylic and ink paintings, hand-built and thrown ceramics, photography, linoleum plate prints, graphic designs and a plastic sculpture.

“I have found all of these mediums to have something special about them,” Parnell said. “I’ve been experimenting with all of the materials throughout my years here at NW.”

Some of the artists’ favorites include Anderson’s “Esses Series,” Myers’ “Bubbles” and Parnell’s “Which Way.” Inspired by the story that drove Herman Melville to write Moby Dick, Anderson’s drawing comes from a true story about a whaling ship called “The Essex” that is destroyed by a whale.

“I wanted to explore why this happened, the consequences of our actions and what we can learn from this situation,” Anderson said.

The seniors’ art exhibit, which is a partial fulfillment of a requirement for a bachelor’s degree in art, is another résumé-builder as graduation approaches. Previously from Bismarck, N. D., Anderson plans to pursue a career in graphic design. Parnell, a Fairmont, Minn. native, looks to find a job in logo design and magazine layout.

Hailing from Sibley, Iowa, Myers will be attending Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design. Enrolling for illustration of children’s literature, Myers’ regrets her past struggles to enjoy reading.

“If I can draw a child’s attention to reading through visual stories, maybe they will learn to love reading,” Myers said.

Anderson, Myers and Parnell share the sentiment that creating is an instinctive reaction to life, and thus, the trio feel connected to God through it. As Myers said, “I can praise him as I create my art, which ultimately is his art.”

SGA addresses campus network filter

BY SARA LUPKES STAFF REPORTER

Northwestern’s SGA members met to address a few topics of student concern on Monday, March 22. The first issue discussed was the web filter of Director of Computing Services, Harlan Jorgensen, met with SGA and gave an update on the web filtering process at NW.

“About ten years ago, NW made the decision to have a web filtering system in place when Internet became prevalent on campus,” Jorgensen said. “There is a mandate coming from a federal law that will require all institutions to block people-to-people (P2P) programs by 2010. Our current efforts are to meet this mandate.”

The filter will monitor web content more effectively, but it is understood that some blocked material may be important for student research and homework as well.

“My intention is to have the filter accessible on campus however I will be making sure it is tuned to block certain keywords that might otherwise be accessible,” Jorgensen said.

Second on the agenda was the discussion of the upcoming SGA election. The election is for the 2010-2011 SGA committee. SGA president, Wes Garcia, will be sending an email to all students with information about the SGA election, and applications will be available upon email request on Monday, March 29. They will be due Friday, April 2.

Voting for executive positions, including offices of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer will take place Monday, April 12. Voting for remaining offices, including Academic Affairs, Admissions, Honors and Retentions, Campus Life and class representatives will be Saturday, April 17. The two at-large representatives will be voted on early Fall 2010.

Jordan Gowing, senior class representative, has been involved in SGA for a few years and said he has really enjoyed representing the voice of students.

“SGA is a great opportunity for your voice to be heard. Our campus is dynamic so a variety of students are needed to equally represent our campus,” Gowing said. If you feel as though you would accurately represent a common voice on campus that is under-represented, go for it.

Health care bill passed, debate just begun

BY LINDEN FIGGIE CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The heat over health care continues as week as President Barack Obama signed the health care reform bill on Tuesday, March 23, officiating a historic development in the health care system of our nation and closing, in writing, a long-fought battle.

Despite a lack of Republican support, the Democratic Party was able to pull the bill through, though tensions were high and opinions strongly expressed. Much of the continued arguments arise from concerns over the breadth of the issue.

According to sbbc.org, the law’s main purpose is to provide health care insurance to all families. This is a major extension in coverage, as 32 million Americans currently do not possess health insurance of any kind. While the reform covers all Americans initially, insurance coverage requirements and guidelines will fall into stricter effect by 2014.

With a $1 trillion budget, funding for such a drastic movement will come primarily from financial cuts to hospitals, insurance companies, Medicare and various health-focused services, many of which are currently supported through government aid.

Some of the immediate effects of the health care plan include limitations and extensions of current insurance policy and coverage, increased insurance accessibility, tax cuts and subsidized coverage. Some material may be important for student research and homework as well.

There is no question that while universal healthcare aims to provide for all people, few, if any, are left unaffected.

“Efforts to improve health care need to address three essential aspects: access, quality and cost,” said Ruth Daumer, Associate Professor of Nursing at NW. The health care reform legislation “addresses the issue of access,” she said, “but serious concerns remain related to the inattention to health care costs and the effect of this legislation on freedom of choice and health care quality.”

While this stands as a victorious moment for many, skepticism is still strong.

Hielkema highlights musical variety

BY LEANN JOHNSON NEWS EDITOR

Junior Katie Hielkema will bring 11 years of flute experience and an entire year of preparation to her flute recital on Sunday, March 28, at 3 p.m. in Christ Chapel.

“I started working on the music last spring. During this school year, I have spent many hours working on learning and interpreting the music,” Hielkema said. “Having to learn 50 minutes of music is a lot of work. It was definitely a challenge, and I’ve seen a lot of growth this semester.”

Although Hielkema is running out of time for practicing as her recital draws near, she is mainly looking forward to her public performance.

“Theatre, dance and music are an amazing opportunity to collaborate. The only thing that can hold me back is the audience,” Hielkema said.

March 26, 2010
The Right to Reason: Learning English as an immigrant

‘Requiring adults to learn English is unnecessary and unfair.’

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT
SPORTS EDITOR

“We welcome to America. Now speak English!” A T-shirt bluntly states the opinion of many Americans on the issue of immigrants learning English. It seems logical that immigrants should be able to communicate for their own benefit. However, this logic doesn’t always make sense when dealing with real people and real situations.

Immigrant children learn the new language fairly quickly. Immersion mixed with their developing brains means that these children become fluent in a short amount of time. For adults, learning a new language is much more difficult. When I began taking Spanish classes at the age of 16, I had the intent of remembering it for my trips to Mexico and Nicaragua. After about 480 hours of learning Spanish, I have trouble saying much more than “My name is Heidi.” Many of the immigrants that are not learning English are adults who are balancing family responsibilities with two or three lower-paying jobs. Not only is learning English a challenge, it takes a huge amount of time that many of these immigrants don’t have.

The shortage of English teachers and holding waiting lists in many cities add to the difficulty. According to an article in the New Directions for Adult and Continuing Education, as low as 45 percent of adult immigrants are enrolled in or have completed English as a second language (ESL classes).

Interestingly enough, our country does not have an official language. The Articles of Confederation, our first attempt at a government, were printed in English and German. There were areas throughout the country where the German immigrants spoke German, attended German schools, went to German churches and printed German newspapers. It was only during the World Wars that many tried to assimilate for fear of discrimination.

There are numerous other examples that show how it was the second and third generations of past immigrants that picked up English much like immigrant children do today.

I believe that learning English is in the best interest of immigrants. However, requiring adult immigrants to learn it is unnecessary and unfair. We do not have the quality or quantity of ESL programs needed to support these immigrants, and even if we did, some immigrants simply do not have time for instruction. Many will learn English out of necessity, but those that don’t should not be forced to, as our ancestors were not required to learn it.

If we want them to succeed, they need to learn the language.

BY JOSH DOORENBOS
STAFF WRITER

No one wants to write this article. I know I don’t. After I write it and the publication goes to print I’ll become the bigot, the one who hates immigrants, the racist, etc. No immigration debate starts from a place of agreement, it seems. It always starts with someone accusing the other of racism or hating America and the shouting match takes off. On one side of the debate we have the die-hard multiculturists, and on the other side we have completely self-centered argument of, “Well if I won’t go to another country I’d have to do it.”

Let’s make this clear: we do not want to make them leave their Mexican, Cuban, Russian, French, etc., culture at the border. We’re not asking them to never speak Spanish ever again after entering the country (for the sake of ease I’ll assume the Hispanic is in view when talking about immigrants from now on since it usually hangs on them anyway). It’s irrational to try and take away that which makes a person who they are.

However, official or not, English is effectively the national language. It is the language of commerce, in which we write our legal documents, and that of which most employers speak. If we want immigrants to succeed in the United States, they need to be able to speak the language of business.

If not, they can be, and frequently are, taken advantage of. By not learning English they delegate themselves to slightly above serfdom. They will forever work in the plants and factories and farms for minimum wage, never able to ask for a wage increase because they cannot communicate with their bosses.

The fact is, the necessity to codify English as the national language and subsequently enforce the teaching of English to anyone wanting to live here is not just so that I don’t have to learn Spanish. It is for the good of both society as a whole and for the immigrants themselves. Even if the U.S. is not officially an English-speaking country, the fact that it effectively is such means that immigrants are never fully able to join English society. Yes, we are a nation of immigrants, but we’ve also always been a nation able to communicate with itself. If the immigrants aren’t made to learn English than, quite frankly, it won’t hurt me at all. But if we want them to succeed, as I truly believe we all do, and form meaningful relationships with those who live around them, then they need to learn the effective national language.

From the Strip
BY HOLLY LAWRENCE
Bad Luck Charm

On Tuesday night, the zipper to my footie pajamas broke. We all know what that means: Spring is finally here! It is the time to clean out closets, shave your legs, hassle prospective students, start on our fake tan and walk barefoot to class. Is there anything better? I think not! For spring break, I had the enjoyment of going down to Newport Beach, California, for a day. Sounds awesome, right? Well, I have noticed over the years that whenever I go on vacation, the weather ends up being just the worst. It was cold, windy and rainy the whole time. Of course, the next few days after I left were beautiful.

It seems to be some sort of weather rule that whenever I go somewhere, the days preceding and following (weather) are beautiful, as well as right after I leave; only to come back to similar conditions in Iowa, but with the addition of snow. Yuck. Even here in Iowa last May, I swear it snowed. Once I went to Colorado Springs and the weather was quite opposite of rain and clouds. The sidewalks were so hot, when I walked barefoot the bottom of my feet were burned so bad they were bleeding. I didn’t even have my shoes off for that long, maybe a few minutes. If there’s one thing I’ve learned about traveling, it’s that I am very bad luck. My RD went to Las Vegas over spring break, the same time I was there, and it’s too much of a coincidence for me to not blame my presence there that made the weather far below average and not fun for the tourists. And, as expected, the day I flew back to the Midwest was the day the weather got back up to 80 degrees.

Yet there was one unexpected (yet satisfying) event that had happened in the Midwest while I was gone. That event came in the form of rainstorms melting most of the snow. I can even begin to describe my euphoria. If you know me in the slightest, you’ll know that I love ranting about Iowa’s constantly-changing weather. But I’m going to let you in on a little secret. I absolutely love the feeling that comes over us when we know that warmer weather and sunshine is finally arriving.

What the World Says

About half the states have passed laws that make English the official language of their state. One troublesome aspect of this movement is that while many people simply and sincerely believe that English should be the only language used, there is a more sinister attitude among some other people. In times like these it is easy to forget that is America has always been a melting pot. There are examples of Spanish, French, and German words that have been absorbed by English and are now used by Americans every day. It makes for a richer language and culture. Is there any reason to think that in the future when we start to adopt some of the language of the “new” immigrants, that English will be any less enriched?
This year was special because of the spiritual growth we did as a team, she said. “We focused on what is most important in life - Jesus Christ - and were intentional about playing for our audience of One. We wanted to use the gifts we had been given to bring glory to our Lord through our actions and our play.”

When the season opened, Coach Earl Woudstra knew that he had a special team on his hands, but winning a national championship wasn’t the main priority on his list.

“Our primary goals were to use our gifts, prepare well, get better throughout the season and give God the glory for what He has done and what He wanted to do through us,” he said.

By playing for an “audience of One,” the players showed they had reached these goals with flying colors as they didn’t view their victory as a reason to boast, but as an opportunity to both give and receive God’s blessing.

“It was awesome to be a part of such a special team and see how God blessed us,” Wedel said.

The NW women’s basketball team is proof that service and teamwork, not pride and absorption with numbers, are what bring a team success on and off the court.

“What stands out the most about this team is their humble spirit,” Woudstra said. “These ladies are truly servants who love to play together.”

The players’ love for the game, each other and God is what brought them triumph. And unlike numbers that will eventually fade and be lost with time, the love this team shared and experienced together will endure in their memories.

People say the college years are the best years of your life. Whether that proves to be true for the players or not, one thing is certain for Andrea Wedel as she moves forward. “Being a part of the basketball program was the best thing I could have done in college.”

Winning for an ‘audience of One’

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Best spaces of the apartments and plexes

BY ANNA HENKE AND MELISSA NESS
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Mood Room
You’ll feel instantly calm and relaxed upon entering Alison Hager, Kate Mannenbach and Meredith Reed’s Plex 9. Being opposed to fluorescent lights, these ladies have opted for “mood lighting,” including lamps, rope lights, and Chinese lanterns. The girls chose warm colors, such as browns, maroons and creams for their cozy abode. To brighten up the normally dreary walls, they added an array of black and white photographs and a large painting of a flower, created by Reed. Various signs on the walls that were generously “loaned” to the girls by a few friends on campus also contribute to the uniqueness of their plex.

Classy and Colorful
Morgan De Jong, Kristin Neth and Hannah Watters have made a bright and cheerful home in Apartment 223. Their apartment features bright colors; the cabinets in the sitting room are vibrant shades of purple and teal. The focal point of their living room is the large bookshelf rather than the television. Fun lamps illuminate framed pictures of the residents, as well as personal artwork.

Dishwasher, Whooa.
Apartment 202 is whirring with both the sound of a dishwasher and the force of this reporter’s astonishment at the sight of such convenience. The remarkable kitchen of Bobbie Lydick, Sarah Olson, Natasha Roth, Brittany Van Eck and Angela Wiggins also features an espresso machine. This apartment is comfortably homey with its five comfy couches, vintage mirrors and old-fashioned photos adorning the walls. Flower vases establish a feminine and jolly atmosphere, and a bright green rotary phone resides next to one of their tall vintage lamps.

Entertainment Center
Apartment 201 is an entertainment center in every sense of the word. The apartment of Sarah Earlewine, Mirae Nacree, Amanda Gramstad, Amy Holechek, Eunice Paik and Rachel Schultz is artistic in a very eclectic way.

Bohemian Décor
Apartment 203, home of Rebecca Dix, Sarah Fisher, Baylee Heims, Anna Korver, Mariel Langley and Noel Wotherspoon, has a very Bohemian vibe. There are paper decorations dangling from the living room ceiling, and handcrafted artwork scattered in the cluttered but cozy space. They have designated one room for study and another for sleep, while the entire apartment is artistic in a very eclectic way.

Best Bachelor Pad
Bachelors on campus beware. Ryan Hoogeveen and Hans Vander Plaats’ plex 7 can compete with the best bachelor’s crib. Their place is complete with a hat wall, 42-inch flat screen TV and an impressive array of pop cans which is proudly displayed on the back of the stove. These boys are also serious about their schoolwork, which is evident by their learning area. This space has been set up by Vander Plaats in the back corner of the plex in order to get the most out of their educational studies.

Best Use of Space
Kaitlin Beaver and Maggie Atchberde have fully learned how to best utilize the wall space in their plex, number 8. Not only have the girls set up a wall of photographs with rustic-looking name plates, cork boards and a watercolor painting, but they’ve also decided to use their living room wall to display their impressive collection of purses. Kaitlin and Maggie have also set up distinct kitchen, dining and living areas in their plex complete with potted plants and a pet fish, making the place feel as homey as possible.

Winning Women
Upon walking into Kristal Van Wyk, Lindsey Haskins, Brianna Gneindener and Anne Eberline’s Apartment 101, you’ll see the red, glittering Clash of the Classes trophy standing tall in the living room, an honor won by the Senior class last fall. Three out of the four girls served as senior class representatives. The creative décor in this apartment is matchless, from the Bucket List hanging on the kitchen wall to the wooden Nutcracker figure, Norbert, who proudly keeps watch over the room from his perch on top of the refrigerator. The girls’ residence also boasts a water machine, which not only cools water, but heats as well.

FEATURES
Morning Benders echo their tourmates

BY JORDAN LANGER
STAFF WRITER

First single, “Excuses,” uses a 60’s a.m. “Wall of Sound” recording technique (see Phil Spector) to arouse a swooningly theatrical and climatic wistfulness. It’s picturesque: the setting would be a boardwalk under overcast coastal spring, just enough morning sea breeze that anybody’d feel good that they’d opted for long-sleeves, however thin the material (thin enough to make the body stiffen up and feel naked). If there’s a character, she has frizzy curls, and she’s being filmed—damp with sentiment and bleached 70’s film grain. Oh, or it could surely be that doo-wop that you got in the mood for last year with Veckatimest.

Actually, that’s not the only thing that this sophomore record tastefully borrows from tour-mates, Grizzly Bear. First off, Benders got the Bear’s art-pop sage, Chris Taylor, to produce—and mentor, I might add. The piano chords on “Excuses” jingle like they did in Grizzly’s last-year favorite, “Two Weeks.” The second track of Big Echo reinterprets a guitar rhythm from “While You Wait For The Others.” There are interjects of energetic bounces and percussive breaks scattered (ex. vinyl air in “Excuses,” two-note roll in “Promises,” some textural stuff in “Mason Jar” and “Wet Cement”)—they’re all characteristic of Taylor and his idiosyncratic instrument machines.

As a record—yes, listen to it all together—it’s also intricate and intentional like you’d expect anything in the same area as a Grizzly man.

But for all their “smart music” similarities, Big Echo finds its own place. It’s not as architectural as Yellow House, nor exclusively quiet as Veckatimest. No, it’s much more open-airly, loudly sung to seas and echoed into skies. Try the groups side-by-side: Jon Chu’s vocal quality (Benders) is youthfully blunt where the Brooklyners are meditative, reserved. A lot of that’s in the recording—Echo needs, much more, the energy for songs like “Cold War,” and “All Day Daylight.” I’d use the former as a categorical foreground; I’m feeling a brisk wind of twee in this wee-fast, horn-driven two minutes. Than it floats higher, to new harmonic heights on track eight. There’s a quirky gale at the end, a whirlwind of instruments. It takes up a lot of space.

These tracks are very well-spaced between the slower moving ones though. The first two tracks are animate and communal, but half-sunk third track, “Wet Cement,” will have you settling in. The air’s cleared a bit, it’s afternoon, and it’s bumping along with a pleasantly simplebass. But there’s plenty of cinematic precision here, too. The five-song slew of slow rewards careful listening.

Here’s the last thing. The last line of this review gives away the secret to this album. I don’t know much about Hip Hop, but I hear about how it’s dead or dying. “Turn on the radio,” you say. But I say that, on a spiritual level, this version has nothing in common with its roots. It used to be a medium for the marginalized, for metaphor and poetry, for politics. It inspired “fear of a black planet.” But history’s shown the white’s more violent, subtle: silence the obscene, kill the black art and recruit what’s left of it for fat cat or frat propaganda.

Gil-Scot Heron: I’m New Here

BY JORDAN LANGER
STAFF WRITER

I don’t know much about Hip Hop, but I hear about how it’s dead or dying. “Turn on the radio,” you say. But I say that, on a spiritual level, this version has nothing in common with its roots. It used to be a medium for the marginalized, for metaphor and poetry, for politics. It inspired “fear of a black planet.” But history’s shown the white’s more violent, subtle: silence the obscene, kill the black art and recruit what’s left of it for fat cat or frat propaganda.

Gil-Scot Heron says, “I’m New Here.” They’re ironic words once you know that he’s like the godfather of rapping. He’s been at this since 1969, and the world was a much different place then. He could still be a voice then. There was something to change, and the hope that it could. But I’m not sure that’s something the world can give him anymore. Nothing’s changing, there’s only stories.

So on this new record—his first in over ten years and the only significant one in the last thirty—he’s talking about himself. Under the conscience of the last ten years, in and out of prison on drug charges. Under the loneliness of a man disjointed from the social strata, even his most loved (“Your Soul and Mine”). Under some history that he calls a “broken home” (“On Coming From...”). And, despite all of the obvious trouble he sees in himself, both the choices and the inextricable: “it may be crazy, but I’m the closest thing I’ve got to a voice of reason,” he says. “I did not become someone he calls a “broken home” (“On Coming From...”). And, despite all of the obvious trouble he sees in himself, both the choices and the inextricable: “it may be crazy, but I’m the closest thing I’ve got to a voice of reason,” he says. “I did not become someone

He’s like a lost spirit, some torrential elder or prophet we’d forgotten about. Or maybe an angel of lament and death. And he’s trying to resurrect something soulful. All of his words seem vital. For instance, “It’s easier to run. Because running will be the way your life and mine will be described. As in, the long run. Or, as in having somebody a run for his money. Or, as in running out of time,” which we are. Like I said, he’s purely a prophet.

You’ll find an earlier, purebred “rap here. He uses spoken word, and has a more obvious bluesy bond. This just means that he still knows the nub—a newer expression of an old genre. But he’s not ancient either. This is a pretty bass-heavy recording, and it sounds as tragic as his successors. The successors are probably what most of us know. But there was a time when the genre had more life. Actually, it was life-giving. And Heron’s here to restore some of that sense, even if it’s just telling you where he’s been. His is the story of the rest.
Burton’s royal flush trumps expectations

BY MEAGAN YOUNG
STAFF WRITER

Rob Bell’s newest book, “Drops Like Stars,” is a coffee-table-book-sized illustrative collection of “thoughts on the suffering and creativity.” It is a short yet expansive work of sleek design layout and evocative imagery. Most of the pages have a few words on them, punctuated by powerful images.

One of my friends picked up the book, leafed through and said, “This is trendy as frick.” But the lustrous, minimalist design certainly works. It is filled with beautiful images of soap carvings, to colorful Times Square, to a squirrel. The images back up Bell’s power-packed words. Bell’s previous books, “Sex God,” “Velvet Elvis” and “Jesus Wants to Save Christians,” have all had similar designs: strong colors and sharp shapes, and straight lines. The space keeps you focused on the few words that are on the page.

Bell’s “thoughts on creativity and suffering” are divided into six “arts.” These arts are observations on the nature of suffering or its side effects. The first art, distraction, is when our plans don’t go right, or they get completely disrupted, and we have to “imagine a totally new tomorrow.” Honesty, the next art, happens when people suffer and they have to express that suffering. Everyone feels “the ache” when they hear a story about human suffering, “Suffering unites,” which spells out solidarity, the fourth art. Bell talks about how we can all relate to Christ because he became flesh and suffered, just like the rest of us. We have solidarity with Christ. Elimination causes us to trim down to only what is necessary. This art coheres with the economic situation: Americans have had to eliminate extra things from their lives. The art of failure resides in the human ability to bounce back, evolve and learn from mistakes.

In a recent interview with the Burnside Writer’s Collective, Bell said, “Great rhetoric has never been about how many words one can fill the air with, it’s always been about how clean and uncluttered and lean an idea can be articulated. It’s always been the short, crisp parable that has infinite layers of meaning that knocks around your head for days.” “Drops Like Stars” is just that. Bell doesn’t blab on and on for one-hundred and sixty pages. He cuts a few strong words on each page and leaves space for readers to knock his ideas around.

Bell also said in the interview, “I’m endlessly interested in content—how to make something shorter, denser, get to it faster.” “Drops Like Stars” is a dense, short, thought-provoking exploration of a question that most never ask about suffering.

Bell says that most people ask “why?” when it comes to suffering, but nobody really has the answer, and even though they are volumes of explanations, they all fall short. So he asks a more practical, fresher question: what now?

campus
QUOTES

“I didn’t buy it for the vampires, I bought it for the werewolves.”
- Junior Victoria Horne defending her purchase of the New Moon DVD.

“I can’t imagine touching myself and being like, muscle, muscle, muscle.”
- Senior Hannah Watters referring to Apolo Anton Ohno 2% body fat.

“Vampires are very hot right now, and sparkly, and I’m not happy about that. Now I’m just a face in the crowd of moaning teenagers and moms.”
- Returning Professor of Rhetoric, the beloved Joanna Trapp presenting on vampires in popular culture.

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Red Raider Sports Shorts: by Heidi Hildebrandt

School record nine wrestlers compete at nationals

The Red Raider wrestlers tied a Northwestern school record by qualifying nine individuals for the NAIA National Championships, which took place on March 4-6, in Oklahoma City.

Sophomore Nic Leither, NW’s Champion of Character this season, placed fourth in the tournament to be named All-American for the second consecutive year. He came into the tournament ranked sixth with a record of 23-6, recording 44 take-downs throughout the season. Leither began the tournament with two wins, 9-2 and 12-3. He then faced a tough 11-6 loss, but came back to win 3-2 in the wrestlebacks to reach the third place match. He ended the tournament losing by fall in 6:27 to place fourth.

Senior Levi Price went 4-3 at 149 pounds to place 8th in the tournament and earned honorable mention All-American honors.

He also earned All-American honors in 2008. His season record was 31-11 with eight pins and 37 take-downs. He began the tournament winning 11-1 and then losing a close 4-3 match. He came back with a vengeance in the wrestle backs, pinning his opponent in just 46 seconds. He won on to win 11-3 and 6-5, but lost by fall to Ashton Primus, who ended up finishing third. Price lost his seventh place match 10-4 to finish his career as NW’s all-time leader in career wins.

Senior Brian Heiberger went 2-2 at 157 pounds, pinning his first two opponents in 4:22 and 2:26. He then lost in the quarterfinals 11-6 and then lost by fall in 2:41. Heiberger finished with a 14-17 record.

At 165 pounds, sophomore Luke Evjen went 1-2 as he fell 5-3 in his first match, but came back and won his next match 9-4. He was eliminated after that in a close 5-4 match. He finished with a 24-12 record and 35 take-downs.

Junior David Carter also went 1-2 in the tournament at 174 pounds. He lost his first match by fall, then won by defalt before losing by fall in his final match. Carter finished with a 21-19 record and a team-high five technical falls.

He also had 30 three-point near falls and 10 two-point near falls, which let the Raiders this season.

At 125 pounds, freshman Diego Quintana lost 8-3 and 15-8, finishing 21-21 with a team-high 35 take-downs. Sophomore Matt Dowell lost 11-2 and 15-2 at 141 pounds, finishing 14-21 with 17 take-downs. At 157 pounds, Jerod Flores lost 5-2 and 7-6. Flores, who qualified at both 141 and 157 pounds finished 21-12, recording a team-high nine pins this season.

Junior Brad Hughes lost by fall and 8-5 at heavyweight. He finished 21-16 with 44 take-downs and seven pins.

Heartbreaker ends season for men’s basketball team

The season ended for Northwestern men’s basketball team on Thursday, Feb. 25, as a last-second three-pointer lifted the University of Sioux Falls Cougars over the Raiders, 94-93. The Raiders lost three out of the last four games of the season against higher-ranked teams by only one or two points.

The Raiders held the lead, 91-80 with 2:52 left in the game, but USF, who was ranked 17th in the final NAIA poll, would not surrender. A 5-0 Cougar run cut the deficit to two points. Freshman Ben Miller made a lay-up to give the Raiders a 93-89 lead, but USF fired back with a jumper and the final three-point shot to steal the victory and knock the Raiders out of the play-offs.

NW shot 49 percent in the game compared to USF’s 46 percent. The Raiders outrebounded the Cougars 45-39. Miller scored a career-high 26 points and added seven rebounds and six assists. Sophomore Walker Seim added 21 points and senior Brent Dunkelberger scored 18 points in 15 minutes before fouling out. Senior Ryan Hoogeveen added 12 points and freshman Eli Groenendyk pulled down a career-high eight rebounds. The team finished the season with a 15-15 overall record and 9-9 GPAC record to place seventh.

Freshman Daniel Van Kalsbeek earned post-season honors, being named all-conference first team and the GPAC Freshman of the Year. He was also named NAIA All-American honorable mention. Van Kalsbeek ranked in the top ten in the GPAC in points per game (18.5), rebounding (7) and blocked shots (40). He also shot a team best 54 percent from the field, registered five double-doubles and scored in double figures 27 times in his first season.

Seim was named second-team all-conference, leading the GPAC in three-pointers with 97, three-point percentage with 44 percent and free throw percentage with 90 percent. He ranked seventh in the conference with 17.6 points per game, scoring in double figures 27 times this season, and averaged five rebounds per game.

Miller earned honorable-mention honors, averaging 12.6 points and 6.6 rebounds per game.

Throughout the season, he shot 43 percent from the field, made 20 three-pointers, dished out a team-high eight assists and scored in double figures 20 times.