HOLIDAY SEASON DEBUTS WITH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS VESPERS

BY KATI HENG

Opinion Editor

Northwestern's A cappella and Women's Choirs, Brass Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra will be presenting the campus and community with the Christmas Vespers concerts on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m. in Christ Chapel. Admission is free, and all are invited to attend and enjoy in this annual Christmas tradition.

Christmas Vespers, a concert celebrating the Christmas story, has been taking place at NW for decades. Happening every year on the first weekend following Thanksgiving break, the concert provides an excellent kick-off for the Christmas season. This year's concert theme is “Gloria.”

The concert is considered an audience favorite. Members of the audience will not only get the chance to witness beautiful choral arrangements but will also get to be a part of them. Several well-known carols will be sung, and the audience is encouraged to participate.

“I think what I enjoy most about Christmas Vespers is celebrating the Christmas story with students, with faculty and with a larger audience from the community,” Dr. Thomas Holm, director of the A cappella choir said. “The Christmas story is fundamental to who we are as Christians, and there is a great joy in inviting the audience to participate in that story with us in a musical way.”

Rev. John Hubers, who now serves as a professor in NW's religion department, was a member of the A cappella choir while a student at NW in the 1970's. During that time, the choir focused all their time on preparing for their spring tour and did not get the chance to give a Christmas concert.

“I love the idea of Christmas Vespers,” Rev. Hubers said. “Christmas is in danger of being completely subsumed to the commercial spirit.” Rev. Hubers appreciated the concert's ability to introduce the audience to a broader range of Christmas music, with both songs that capture the depths of the incarnation and carols that allow the audience to participate.

Sophomore Hannah Biernacki and Andrea Hallberg, members of the Women's Choir, are both looking forward to the Vespers concerts.

“The concert brings in the Christmas season,” Hallberg said. “The music is beautiful, the carols are fun to perform with the audience and I enjoy having so many different types of choirs and bands. I think this a favorite concert for those who are watching and listening.”

“Singing with the huge group of both choirs and audience members in such a collective, worshipful way is probably the best part,” said Biernacki.

The program will open with a performance from the Brass Ensemble that will set the tone for the event. The Chamber Orchestra, directed by Dr. Kimberly Utke Svanoe, will perform an arrangement of the carol Of the Father's Love Betoguen and Steven Amundson's Glories Ring.

The Women's choir, directed by Dr. Linell Moss, will be performing Gloria ad modum tubae by composer Guillaume Dufay and John Rutter's Candlelight Carol. Students Kiersten Van Wyhe, Katlyn DeVries, Sam Schouweiler and Jana Bruce will have instrumental solos in the performance of Hope for Resolution by Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory.

Gloria, by the French composer Francis Poulenc, will be performed by the A cappella choir and will feature soprano solos by students Renee Ausborn, Karina Smit and Erica Bauserman. The A cappella choir will also be performing Eric Whitacre’s Lux Aurumque, with a solo from sophomore Rianna De Winkle, and Paul Christiansen's arrangement of Infant Holy, Infant Lestly.

ONE ACTS EXPRESS TALENT, MONTHS OF PREPARATION

BY LINDEN FIGGIE

News Editor

Months of hard work and preparation culminate for theater students next Wednesday, Dec. 8, as the annual One Act productions set the stage of the Allen Theatre in the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center. The 14 short plays, directed and performed by Northwestern students, as well as NW professors, are the directing class's culminating final that began in October. Directing students chose their own pieces, held auditions and will now present the many hours spent in willful preparation and rehearsal.

With themes stimulating a wide range of emotions, audience members should expect to preview the “funny, serious, dramatic, tear-jerking and historical” facets of theater, sophomore Rachel Van Gorp said.

While the Acts exhibit the directors’ semester-long projects, they are also an opportunity for all students and staff to be involved with the theatre department.

“I loved doing theatre in high school, but since I am an elementary education major, I don't have a lot of time to be involved in NW's theatre department,” Van Gorp said. “Being in the One Acts allows me to still act on stage, but the commitment is more manageable.”

Van Gorp is acting in “Amicable Parting,” a drama directed by junior Greta Hays. The play follows the relational struggle of a young couple, Bill, staged by junior Aaron Bauer, and Alicia, played by Van Gorp, as they work through the many layers of divorce.

“The process of creating this one-act has been a lot of fun and very enjoyable for me,” Van Gorp said. “It has been great to work with Greta and Aaron developing our characters and the blocking of the show.”

Be sure to see “Amicable Parting” on Wednesday at approximately 7:39 p.m., along with other performances.

SWING TO SPIRIT

SAC to host winter ball

BY KATE WALLIN

Contributing Writer

'Twas the weeks before Christmas, when all throughout campus not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The projects were done in the late night with care, in hopes that Winter Break soon would be here.

Then, from out on the Green, there arose such a clatter that we sprang from our dorms to see what was the matter. Realizing it was time for Winter Formal, away to the RSC we flew with a flash. Trading in our normal wear, we got on our dance. That’s right, Northwestern, close the books and put the projects on hold! This Saturday at 9:30 p.m., come boogie the night away in the RSC at NW’s annual Winter Formal.

The dance is a chance to dress up in your finest before finals. While many NW dances tend towards a more casual atmosphere, this event offers a merry and sophisticated setting to celebrate the upcoming holidays.

SAC member Holly Lawrence said, “The holiday spirit will be in full swing. There’s going to be lots of Christmas trees and lights and cream puffs. SAC is putting a lot of work into it, and I think it’ll pay off in a really fun night for everyone.”

Sophomore Charlotte Richards said, “I think people should definitely go! It’s so much fun. I love dressing up with the girls on my wing and having fun with them.”

Freshman Shannon Gier agrees. “I keep hearing how it’s an awesome bonding experience because you get to get ready with all the girls on your floor. I can’t wait! It’s an excuse to dress up, and it’s fun to dance away the stress that upcoming finals bring.”

Sophomore Tyler Zeutenhorst said, “I went last year and it was a lot of fun. I liked the formal atmosphere, and the Christmas decorations were great.”

See “Dancing” on pg. 2.
Work, wilderness and worship
A look into A Christian Ministry in National Parks

BY JULIA LANTZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A Christian Ministry in National Parks (ACMNP) extends the ministry of Jesus Christ to the people who live, work and vacation in national parks by offering interdenominational Sunday worship services in the parks' natural sanctuaries. ACMNP brings Christian teaching and community to people who are often isolated from contact with local churches and to millions of visitors who come to relish in God's creation.

Every year from October to April, ACMNP recruits at colleges, universities and seminaries across the country to be a part of the Ministry Staff. ACMNP has 25 national parks across the country, from Alaska to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The experience of ACMNP is best described in three words: work, wilderness and worship.

Each ministry staff member is employed by a concessionaire in the park and works as a desk clerk, housekeeper, bellhop, store clerk, a housekeeper, bellhop, store clerk, a housekeeper, bellhop, store clerk, a housekeeper, bellhop, store clerk, a housekeeper, bellhop, store clerk, a housekeeper, bellhop, store clerk, a housekeeper, bellhop, store clerk, a housekeeper, bellhop, store clerk, a housekeeper, bellhop, store clerk, a housekeeper, bellhop, store clerk, a housekeeper, bellhop, store clerk, a housekeeper, bellhop, store clerk, a housekeeper, bellhop, store clerk, a housekeeper, bellhop, or bus rides, tours and equipment rentals. ACMNP expects each staff member to explore the park only with the proper equipment and preparation.

The ministry of ACMNP is both formal and informal. Sunday worship services are held in amphitheaters and lodges located across the parks. Ministry Team members are expected to participate in preparing and leading worship services which consist of short sermons, prayers, responsive readings and music. All staff members have the chance to preach during some point in their time of serving at the National Park.

ACMNP provides Regional Training Conferences each spring to prepare Staff Members for park ministry and individual responsibilities. Staff members actually start working sometime between Memorial Day and Labor Day and work for a period of 90 days or longer. Preferences for the different parks and locations may be indicated on the application form.

Melody Kennell, an ACMNP representative, will be coming to NW on Tuesday, Dec. 7, to share more about the ministry. Additional information and applications can be found online at www.acmnp.com.

Dancing into the most wonderful time of year

Cont. from pg. 1

Still, two age-old questions remain: who to go with and what to wear. Like the formal events from high school eras gone-by, some suggest bringing a date, while others encourage going with a group of friends or floor mates.

Nate Johnston recalls asking his date to the last year’s formal. “I went over to where she was sitting in the Caf one night at dinner and just said, ‘You’re going with me to Winter Formal’. And she said, ‘Um... okay.’ And the rest is history.”

His advice to NW’s young men considering asking a special young lady to accompany them this year is: “Be bold and confident. And just ask!”

He adds, “It helps if the girl you’re asking doesn’t already have a date.”

Morgan Stahl recommends sharing and borrowing dresses among friends. “Last year, our floor was like one big closet. We had a pre-dance fashion show to figure out what dress to wear. It was a really fun way to start off the evening.”

No matter what you choose to wear or whom you choose to go with, Zeutenhorst encouraged everyone to “link arms and head over to the winter ball” to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year. Admission is three dollars and a free photo booth is provided.

Remainder
Bella Ruse Concert
Friday, Dec. 3
8 p.m. at the Old Factory

By The Numbers:
125 Personal kills Jack Bauer has had in his five seasons of “24.”
300 Feet the Cosmopolitan Sail Fish can travel in three seconds.
20 Hours spent stranded on I-90 by New York motorists after heavy snowfall this week.
25 Years Oprah Winfrey has hosted her popular daytime talk show.
800,000 Gallons of water required to fill an Olympic-size pool.
Maybe Good Ol’ Saint Nick is not so good

BY ZACHARY VAULT

There is nothing magical about Santa Claus. The magic of magic can cause many parents to teach their children about Santa Claus. Our society expects and, in many ways, exploits this. Santa has become a conduit for the vices of our society, a weight problem, materialism, corporate greed and, of course, has become domination by the media. His weight problem is not seen as an issue by many people and yet, by looking up to his respected and beloved image, he encourages children to gain weight. He gives out sweets, which by their nature can cause weight gain.

Santa Claus is a symbol for materialism. Good Ol’ Saint Nick actively promotes children to ask for things that they feel that they cannot get. This can distract from the meaning of the season - peace, love, goodwill and hope - replacing it instead with envy, gluttony and impatience.

With corporate greed and the media domination tied together, it is unfortunate Santa has fallen into their marketing hands. Santa is used in many advertising campaigns, including his appearances for Mac, M&Ms, and of course the immortal Coca-Cola Santa. These ads fill our television, newspapers and store displays from the middle of October through the departure. Hence, a full weekend of snow from atop the mountains waiting in hopes of seeing snow on the Transylvanian Alps before our return. Here we are back in Lupeni thanks to a glorious weekend of snow.

Other than the many papers completed, here are some of my make-you-jealous highlights of the weekend: Good conversation with great company; a den-like living room for cozying up with a good book; a nearly constant snowfall; huge windows overlooking the fog-covered mountains, town, valley and steady stream of children and sleds flying down the hill; laughing at (and later joining) Kelly and Julie as they danced around the living room to the sounds of Lutheran College Choral Christmas music; and hiking up to the Straja Cross and then through snowy pine woods down a darling little trail.

As I sit on the couch in Apartment Lucy on Monday, three of my four papers have been turned in. “Aha, you’ve finally learned!” one might say. But one would be wrong. It is not that I have suddenly, halfway through my senior year, learned to work on my papers in a timely manner. This beautiful, momentous occasion is due entirely to a weekend at the Cabana.

The FNO Cabana sits in the small ski-village of Straja atop Mt. Straja, nine kilometers due “up” from Lupeni. Straja is home to the summer Viata camp, and the Cabana at Straja is home to Viata’s summer leaders. In the winter, though, it is home to Adi and, for the past weekend, Kadie and us students.

On Thursday night, after a beautiful Thanksgiving Day of fellowship and food at the Bates’ home, we five students, Kadie and Adi drove up Strada Straja (Straja Road) to the town of Straja where we intended to stay two nights and return on Saturday evening. Upon our departure, we laughed at ourselves for the excessive quantity of food we had packed, but by this morning, we had just about finished it. I worried beforehand about how much homework I would get done, locked in a cabin on a mountain with a mess of fun people for the weekend. By last night, however, I had accomplished a good deal more than I ever would have Lupeni. So now, an extra two nights later, here we are back in Lupeni thanks to a glorious weekend of snow.

There is simply nothing more delightful than being snowed into a warm cabin in the mountains on the weekend with no urgent need to leave. And the extra time just made it even more relaxing, productive and delightful. We had spent much of our semester until this weekend waiting in hopes of seeing snow on the Transylvanian Alps before our departure. Hence, a full weekend of snow from atop the mountains was simply heavenly!

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I wrap up my time in Romania very much in agreement with this quote from “Reading Lolita in Tehran” by Azar Nafisi: “You get a strange feeling when you’re about to leave a place...like you’ll not only miss the people you love but you’ll miss the person you are.” I b e l i e v e  t h a t  S a n t a  i s  n e a r l y  i m m o r t a l  C o c a-C o l a  S a n t a.  These products even if they are especially graced by untainted joy. And the extra time just made it even more relaxing, productive and delightful. We had spent much of our semester until this weekend waiting in hopes of seeing snow on the Transylvanian Alps before our departure. Hence, a full weekend of snow from atop the mountains was simply heavenly!

Romanian Rumination

Musings by Marit Langley

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A jolly old man that radiates cheer lives up at the North Pole and makes it his life’s mission to spread merriment to all of the children of the world. All year he prepares presents for the children, and on one special quiet night he flies all over the globe to every child’s home, climbs down the chimney and fills the red and green stockings hanging over the fireplace. It is important that children learn about the Christmas story and the true meaning behind Christmas. Yet there is only this small time frame in a person’s life when they can believe that there is something absolutely magical and bright about the world that is purely good. It is an extraordinary time that should be cherished and fully celebrated.

SANTA IS PART OF THE MAGIC CHRISTMAS SEASON

By DANI MAURER

There’s something about Christmas that raises spirits and lifts a hopeful sentiment deep in the soul. Shimmering snowflakes cascade down on city streets while paper snowflakes are strewn from ceilings. The sustained scent of sugar cookies, rolled out, cut into characters of the Christmas tradition, baked and iced by small, pudgy hands. A magical essence swoops all over creation during this season and children are especially graced by untainted joy.

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It’s the day Americans go crazy; annually

Emily Gowing
Features Editor

Turkey, stuffing, potatoes and pie. Enjoy the fellowship with family while scarfing down platefuls of food. Unbutton the top of your jeans if you forgot to wear your stretchy ones. Now clear the dishes and spread out the catalogs; it’s time to get down to business.

The Thanksgiving holiday can look vastly different from family to family but a scene at least relatively similar to this probably took place in your cozy home or the home of one of your relatives. Another scene that by now is all too familiar is that of overly eager shoppers waiting in line outside of retail stores early in the morning on one of the best days for America’s consumerist economy – Black Friday. (The day after Thanksgiving has been given the name “Black Friday” because retailer’s profits go from red to black.) If you’re from a small town, Wal-Mart, Target and a few hometown stores might be your only options for the busiest—and craziest—shopping day of the year. But oftentimes those big-name chain stores are the ones with the best deals. It’s just a shame you have to stand outside in the cold that long. Small-town Iowa has seen the lines used to start forming maybe an hour before the store doors opened and by 10:05 drivers were parking their cars in a field two blocks away. "It was a sight to see," said sophomore Nicki Schlickbernd. "I think I've been too busy to even think about Christmas at this point. This is said because Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year, but the workload and pressure of finals is taking away my spirit for Christmas this season," said freshman Aaron DeBoer.

Sophomore Keely Wright agreed that the stress of finals week brings down the Christmas spirit but says she tries “to make sure I give myself plenty of study breaks to enjoy some good winter activities with my roommate.”

On the other hand, some students refuse to let finals week bring them down. “Nothing can break my Christmas spirit! I look forward to it for way too long,” said freshman Jake Gilleland.

“More than the Christmas spirit brings my mood up during finals week,” agreed sophomore Sarah Licis.

For some students, Christmas music helps. “Christmas music even in a time of stress. Students disagree on when Christmas music should start playing. The general notion is that it should be played after Thanksgiving, but some students appreciate Christmas tunes year round.”

Many students agree that Christmas music should not be played before Thanksgiving. Sophomore Michael Gutsche thinks that it should not be played until about two weeks before Christmas. "It's okay for a day or two, but after that, you end up hating all things festive. At least I do.”

"Personally I believe that Christmas music should not be played until the day after Thanksgiving. While I do love Christmas music, I feel that listening to it on the radio takes my attention away from spending time getting and on the true reason for the season, our Savior's birth," advised sophomore Jennifer Angus.

"I think about all of the people who can't celebrate Christmas the way that I can, and it helps me not to get caught up in the greediness," added sophomore Erin Ogden.

"I donate all of my gently used things to people who I know need it. If I get double of something for finals, I donate what I don't need," said sophomore Michelle Kraayenbrink.

The transition from the gratefulfulness of Thanksgiving and the greediness of Christmas is quick and sometimes we get caught up in the business of the Christmas season. "Focus on giving and not taking, and remember the true reason for the season," advised sophomore Michelle Mether.

"My philosophy is, listen to whatever music makes you happy. If that happens to be Christmas music in the middle of spring, then so be it," said sophomore Michelle Kraayenbrink.

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Pam Vlieger is happy to help anyone who comes into her office with printing needs.
This documentary follows a journey into the holiday spirit with the film "Restrepo." The film has been widely praised for its realistic and harrowing depiction of the war in Afghanistan. For a more in-depth look at this war-torn area, the DVD "Restrepo" is highly recommended.

As a detective novel, none are better than those which Larsson produced. As a detective, Larsson left unpublished at his untimely death in November 2004. In this novel, Blomkvist casually hooking up with a variety of women and, more importantly, many of the women are sexually abused. Understandably, the original title in Swedish translates "Men Who Hate Women." Supposedly, Larsson wrote this novel after seeing a woman named Lisbeth being violently raped. Frustrated with his inability to help the woman, he decided to write this novel himself.

Disney lets down its hair, finds gold in old conventions

The trend of overhyped, underachieving 3-D CGI films has broken, and it took the classic Disney recipe to do it. Their latest animated epic, "Tangled," displays a fresh take on the classic story of Rapunzel and her first journey outside her keep. Following the underperforming, though wonderful, hand-drawn "Princess and the Frog," Disney once again conforms to modern movie-making trends. As much as I enjoyed the classic feel to their previous film, the 3-D CGI effects created a brilliantly painted world and enticing effects, which impress even those, such as me, who remain opposed to the trend of the added "dimension."

What really gives the film an edge on their more recent works is their return to the characteristic Disney formula. The company used to be associated with dramatic, musically-invigorating fairytales filled with action, adventure and an unrealistic, sappy love story that inspired all ages.

"Tangled" unexpectedly fulfills that brilliant formula. The simple, fun songs and strong character development keep their tradition of animated brilliance alive, adding Rapunzel to the ranks of the elite Disney princesses. If I had to make a complaint, however, it would be that I wanted more of the same. The catchy tunes, primarily sung by Rapunzel, played by Mandy Moore, were mostly toward the front of the film and left me longing for more dramatic, show-stopping tunes to keep up the warm pace.

To add to the nostalgic journey, the orphaned Flynn Rider’s love affair with the restless princess who longs for the outside world, albeit from a lone keep rather than a palace, drew constant comparisons to Aladdin. Aided by music from Alan Menken ("Aladdin," "Beauty and the Beast") and an Abu-esque chameleon, the characters and antics were wonderfully familiar. Still, "Tangled" is much more than just characters plugged into an equation; the lighthearted film carried me through, entertaining and lifting my spirits from beginning to end.

One of the movie’s strongest strengths is Disney’s handling of scary material. Most “children’s movies are either devoid of dark material or overproduced and too frightening for their intended audience (Disney’s “Christmas Carol,” “Megamind,” “Cars”). Though admittedly not needed in all kid flicks, the inevitable victory of good over evil is played out with poise and suspense, thrilling without succumbing to the pointless dramas of any recent animated epics (the recent 3-D flop “The Nutcracker,” for example).

As with any quality Disney villain, Rapunzel’s kidnapper is a menacing, despicable being, able only to be loathed. Greedy, selfish and disturbing to look upon, her darkness is well-known and prevalent, yet emphasized just enough to create depth rather than terrifying intensity. Also in true Disney fashion, evil is conquered in their trademark, dramatic manner that may cause children, and a college student or two, to loosen their grip on the popcorn.

Although we would all love to have the hand-drawn excellence of our childhood back, the animated powerhouse has sent a reminder to the likes of Pixar and Dreamworks as to just who is in charge of the fairytales. Rather than succumbing to using dramatic visuals to cover up a sub-par plot, their most recent animated epic implements music, story and character development with engaging effects to capture the audience. This holiday season, amid other animated flops and disappointments, students should wrap themselves up in “Tangled” and rekindle their imaginations with Disney’s continued brilliance.

Best-selling novel better than its flashy cover would suggest

A cheesy, glossy yellow-green cover with a silly, pulpy-sounding title to boot I’ll admit it, I judged a book by its cover. Were I not looking past its gaudy, distracting cover.

Disney’s “Tangled” shows the studio’s knack for the magical.

了一份已经读过的书。作家不是引导你进入问题的作者，而是你要自己想办法解决。这本小说是三部曲中的第一部。斯蒂格·拉森在书中留下了未被发表的结局，他在2004年11月不情愿地去世。在这本书中，布洛姆克维斯特，一位调查记者，在被控谋杀的重要罪证之后，聘请了米克尔·瓦格纳为律师——后者在四十年前租用Lisbeth。布洛姆克维斯特设法帮助她，工作起来毫不留情。当他看到瓦格纳和Lisbeth开始重新勾搭时，他开始怀疑瓦格纳试图利用Lisbeth来让他聘请他进行研究。
Kanye’s “Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy”

BY JORDAN LANGER

Do you remember when Kanye told us that “Jesus Walks” with “the hustlers, murderers, drug dealers, even the strippers”? He isn’t St. Augustine, but he had the basic theology, right? Isn’t it something you believe? Or are you one to push redemption away from theranters, Swift interrupters and anybody who has the gall to Tweet about ritzy merchandising?

It’s okay if you are. It all adds to Kanye’s hell-bent energy. In his “Dark Twisted Fantasy,” he’ll be honest with you: he carries a little bit of Satan with him, too. He describes himself with an array of diabolic, villainous images, his life filled with exotic fishes, a Murcielago and flesh-ed out sexual fetishes — is at times enticing (“Hell of a Life”); lovely (“Devil In a New Dress”); ridiculous (“So Appalled”); alienating (“Runaway”); and cold (“Blame Game”). “Screams from the haters” are his superhero theme music (“Power”).

“Every bag, every blouse, every bracelet comes with a price tag,” he says in the anathemic “Runaway” before giving “a toast to the douche bags.” Its “ladies and gentlemen” sample, hilariously perverted ethos and sing-along nature makes it seem like it’s being set up as a self-celebration that can shared by everybody. After all, America’s full of jerk-offs, right?

But he knows that he’s alone, the only one willing to see the self with the disdain he respects it deserves. The track is bookended with contrasted loneliness—starting with a ultra-minimalistic, solitary-feeling piano stroke and ending with him crossing into a vocoder like a dying machine. The same kind of contrast is used in the supersized “All of the Lights,” which seems like it would have plenty of company with its over-the-top 11-person guest list (which includes everybody from Rihanna to Elton John) and majestic horns for backbone. But what is the song about? How his failures move him away from any kind of real love.

All of the glamour and devastation of the American dream are given auditory representation on “Beautiful Twisted Fantasy.” Kanye has always been the king of sampling, but he’s outdone himself with some truly special choices. For instance, “Lost in the World” features the monkish mythos of Bon Iver’s “Woods” and a 1970 spoken-word clip from Gil-Scott Heron. Kanye also returns to some of the vocal manipulation that he took up in “808s and Heartbreak.” This time, though, it’s used to get some of these themes that Kanye, despite all of his bravado and deserved bravo, has had his voice filtered from the public. And actually he lets his guests do much of the talking. Jay-Z, RZA, Raekwon — they’re all great in themselves, and even better for Kanye’s writing and producing. I’ll give Nicki Minaj a special nod for giving the most wicked, rad performance I’ve ever heard on “Monster.”

So, to say all of this more generally: this is one of the most musically expansive things you will ever hear. Its palte alone makes it the best album of the year.

Kanye knows that—perhaps all too well as you’re concerned. Yes, his egomaniac is in full force within his “Twisted Fantasy.” He describes himself as being on top of Mount Olympus. But as far as I’m concerned, he earns every one of his claims. And even though his egotism makes him a villain, I find him all the more compelling for it. But maybe that’s just because I have a pretty clear sense of my own demons—the ones I hate and the ones I love.

Consumer expectations keep games bland

BY MICHAEL GUTSCHE

One of the greatest problems facing the gaming industry today is the expectations of the consumer. For instance, a game’s visuals are expected to be realistic more than they’re expected to be communicative. Games must both not contain any filler to pad their title—not a part of a series’ story environment—it is still pitted against the precedent of other games in its so-called genre. Take graphics, for instance. Some games don’t have a photorealistic look, or even attempt to — whether the reason be a chosen artistic style, the developer’s budget, or even just a different priority within the game. Even so, this visual criteria is almost always the basis for instant judgment. This is probably because we gather information fastest through our eyes. Altogether, it leads to something you’ve heard before: “Those graphics suck, dude!” And then the game is written off as bad based on this butter-thin point.

With expectations so broadly defined, we get exactly what we ask for: very few games, made on flabbergastingly large budgets by armies of developers, focus-tested to death, and marketed to as broad of an audience as possible, thus making oceans of money. It’s a repeat cycle.

The value we place on things like photorealistic graphics can discourage those developers from making anything but a brown and grey first person shooter. After all, Call of Duty made a tidy pile of money, didn’t it? It’s sitting up there on that pile in its money-throne, wearing clothes sewn from currency, twirling it’s money-stache, eating soup. And it thinks it’s better than you.

When expectation rules what we eat, we can see the reasoning behind the gaming industry’s actions, and how they could be improved. Video games are still in their relative infancy, and if they become too machined, too precise, then they may collapse on themselves. And that’d be terrible.

Send your Campus Quotes, with context, to beacon@nwciowa.edu.
SPORTS
December 3, 2010

Miles ends career at national meet
BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT
SPORTS EDITOR
Senior Charity Miles finished an impressive collegiate career at the NAIA National Championship meet in Vancouver, Wash., on Saturday, Nov. 20. Miles placed 79th in the race with a five-kilometer time of 19:11. She was the fifth runner from the Great Plains Athletic Conference to cross the finish line. Michelle Steiger from Dordt earned All-American honors with a 21st place finish. Kara Nelson and Jessica Hudelson from Missouri State-San Marcos, who finished 39 points ahead of second place with a team total of 88 points.

Miles ran at nationals every year as a Red Raider, with finishes of 55th, 31st and an All-American fifth place as a freshman. She closes out her career holding the second-fastest 5K time in NW history with 17:49.

Volleyball shocked by Point Loma
BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
SPORTS EDITOR
The fourth-ranked Northwestern volleyball team tasted bitter defeat for the first time this season on Wednesday, Dec. 1, after falling in pool play to 17th ranked Point Loma Nazarene 3-1 (30-28, 25-16, 25-20, 25-23). NW is now 36-1 on the year.

NW hit .171 on the match and was led by senior Hillary Hanno's 15 kills. Junior Kylee Hulstein added nine kills. Senior Bobbie Jean Rich and sophomore Kate Buyert each had eight kills and five blocks. Senior Kaitlin Beaver added five blocks to her 38 assists. Sophomore Jaci Moret and Hulstein combined to lead the Raiders with 15 digs.

The Raiders could not find an answer for junior All-American Hannah Nelson and Jessica Hudelson from Point Loma, who tallied 28 kills on the match.

Women's basketball dominates the court
BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT
SPORTS EDITOR
Northwestern women's basketball team defeated Central and William Penn in the Pizza Ranch Classic on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 26-27.

The Red Raiders decimated Central, 90-52. The beginning of the game was tight, but after Central tied the score at 33, NW went on a 13-0 run to take a 46-33 halftime lead. The Raiders held the Dutch's offense to 18 percent shooting from the field in the second half to seal the deal.

The Raiders shot 49 percent for the game, 32 percent behind the three-point-line. Four Raiders scored in double figures, led by sophomore Kendra De Jong with 18 points. Senior Becca Hurley and junior Kari Kuhlman, chipped in 17 and 15, respectively, and senior Allison Hulst scored 10 off the bench. NW had the rebounding advantage, 43-39. De Jong pulled down nine rebounds and Hulst had seven, while De Jong and Hurley dished out eight and seven assists, respectively.

NW defeated the Statesman 88-64. Hurley scored a career-high 36 points, shooting 10 of 17 from the field and 13 of 14 from the free throw line. De Jong followed with 22 points, while Kuhlman had a season-high 20. NW shot 33 percent from the field and held the Statesmen to 34 percent.


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Four other Raiders won matches in the tournament: junior Matt Dowell by major decision, 9-0, in the 141-pound Gold Division; sophomore Jerod Flores won by decision at 141, 12-10, and at 157, freshman Mark Evjen won by fall in 5:11.

Freshman Jesse McCann beat his opponent by decision, 11-9, at 165. At 184, freshman Chris Michael got a pin in 5:35, and senior Zane Platt rounded out the lineup with a 9-4 win by decision at 285.

Three Red Raiders fought their way through a field of 500 wrestlers placed in the Augie Brute Adidas Open in Minneapolis, Minn., on Nov. 20.

PLAYER PROFILE
Kristin Neth
BY ANDREA OCHSNR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Kristin Neth has been playing basketball since she was in fifth grade. “The first year I played, I was awful and super clumsy. I just loved it. I practiced all the time in the summer and got good.”

Despite a rough start, basketball has become a huge part of her life. “It was a big part of my decision to come to Northwestern because I wanted to play basketball, but it wasn’t the full reason because there were a lot of schools in the GPAC that were recruiting me. I had a full ride to go to Mount Marty, but I wanted to come to NW because it had more of the authentic Christian aspect, and it wasn’t just a title of the school.”

Neth will be graduating in the spring with a degree in Exercise Science. “I originally started going for Physical Therapy, but decided I wasn’t as passionate about it.” After switching to an Exercise Science major, Neth discovered a field within it known as Wellness Coaching.

“My sophomore year, I became a D-group leader and became really passionate about discipling women. I’m really excited to be able to sit down with people who are really struggling with something and helping them find that deeper wellness. I want to be able to partner with women and disciple them.”

In her time at NW, Neth has learned to accept God’s plan and leaving the control up to Him. “Basketball is something that I hope God will use to refine me. I’ve learned a lot through basketball. The biggest thing I’ve learned is how to work my butt off and give up control and just trust God in His plans. His plan is beautiful, and I need to trust that and not make my own plans. There’s only so much you can control.”

Neth leaves NW with this piece of advice: “Matthew 6:33, ‘Seek first His Kingdom.’ This verse is also the team’s theme for the year. ‘No matter what you do, no matter what you spend your time doing, make sure to keep your focus on what’s important and that’s seeking Him first. We struggle to find life in the things that aren’t going to give us life, when Christ is really going to give us life and enjoyment in all those things.”

After graduating in May, Neth is scheduled to travel to Israel with Athletes in Action for their wedding ceremony. It is also the planned wedding date for Kristin and her fiancé, Tyler Tigges, former NW basketball player.

The Northwestern wrestlers defeated Wayne State on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 13-31.

Sophomore Diego Quintana pinned his opponent in 2:46 at 125 pounds to kick off the night. Freshman J.L. Mayow won by major decision, 18-7, at 141. Sophomore Jerod Flores won by decision at 141, 12-10, and at 157, freshman Mark Evjen won by fall in 5:11.

Freshman Jesse McCann beat his opponent by decision, 11-9, at 165. At 184, freshman Chris Michael got a pin in 5:35, and senior Zane Platt rounded out the lineup with a 9-4 win by decision at 285.

Three Red Raiders fought their way through a field of 500 wrestlers placed in the Augie Brute Adidas Open in Minneapolis, Minn., on Nov. 20.

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