**Across Campus**

**Art Exhibit**
Eric Anderson will be displaying his woodcut and wood engraving prints in the Te Paske Gallery. The show will open with a public reception Friday, February 4 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Gala Auction**
Silent auction bidding will begin at 3 p.m. on February 5. Sandwiches will be served in the audible auction starting at 7 p.m.

**Cashore Marionettes**
A show of life-like marionette performances will take place in NWC’s England Proscenium Theatre on Tuesday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m.

**Iowa Public Hearing**
DES MOINES, IA—On Monday, a statewide discussion on repealing legal gay marriage legalization was held in Des Moines. Further debate will follow on the Supreme Court ruling that legalized gay marriage in Iowa in 2009. Look for further details in next week’s Beacon.

**Submit Events**
Submit your campus happenings and events to the Beacon for inclusion in this column. Submissions should be roughly 50 words or less and be emailed to beacon@nwciowa.edu.

**Chapel**

**Monday**
- Matthew Hulst

**Tuesday**
- Chapel Music Team
- John Hubers, Religion Professor
- Spanish Chapel

**Wednesday**
- John Hubers, Religion Professor
- Spanish Chapel

**Friday**
- Marit Langley ’11

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**BY TYLER LEHMANN**
**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

All semester long, Matthew Hulst anticipated the day his friend would return from abroad, but he never expected the surprise their reunion would bring. After an overseas mission, Hulst’s friend returned to Bethel College reborn.

“He went for a semester and came back radically different,” Hulst said. “I wanted that.”

Since that pivotal moment in 2001, Hulst has dedicated his life to giving people around the world “a picture of the real God who loves them.” Hulst will draw on his experiences through missions in his chapel appearance next week.

Hulst, an Orange City native, put his education on hold in 2002 and joined Youth With A Mission, an international volunteer movement of Christians who seek “to know God and to make Him known,” according to the organization’s mission statement.

After attending YWAM discipleship training in Taiwan, Hulst began sharing the Gospel around the world. Guided by his belief that “God has such a bigger plan than just giving handouts,” Hulst has ministered in 24 countries including Cambodia, Haiti and China.

“He’s passionate about knowing people, learning their story and telling them about Jesus,” said Matthew’s mother Kay Hulst, an Orange City resident, “whether it be someone in Orange City or someone far away, he wants them to know Jesus. That is the crux of Matt.”

Hulst said his biggest calling lies in northern India among Tibetan exiles. He has spoken to leaders who work directly with the Dalai Lama in attempt to find favor.

“They have very, very little knowledge of God,” he said, “but they are some of the nicest people in the world. They are so hospitable. The story of their culture is amazing.”

Hulst said he connects with people all over the world by “serving community, sharing grace and respectfully engaging people.”

At his home in Taiwan, he minister by teaching English in a local coffee shop and playing sports with young men at a nearby university.

“He has an amazing ability to connect with people, to love them, to hear their story and to see them in a way Christ might see them,” said Dr. Tara Dekkers, an adjunct professor at Northwestern who suggested Hulst’s visit.

Between YWAM missions, Hulst found time to complete his education, and he graduated from Bethel in 2009.

“When he went back to school after all this, he had more of a purpose. He saw what was relevant,” Mrs. Hulst said.

Hulst said he realized that “the God of the Bible is still the God of today…. Our God is huge – he’s so big – and he’s for us.”

Performing missions awakened Hulst, and students across campus have experienced similar transformations.

Amber Maloney, a junior at Northwestern who spent 10 weeks in India, attended church in a slum with two young girls whom she described as “little sisters.”

“During worship services they would sit on my lap, and I would see the joy on their faces. They were poor materially, but blessed when it came to happiness,” Maloney said.

Daniel Unekis, a NW senior who traveled to Spain, said of his experience, “God has formed me into a more giving, servant-hearted person. My worldview has been rocked.”

NW senior Ansley Griess spent two months in Zimbabwe during last year’s Summer of Service. She said, “The most impactful thing was to see God in a different culture and realize that he is in fact the same everywhere. It was really cool to see people on the other side of the globe worship the same God.”

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**BY JULIA LANTZ**
**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

Russians suffer 9/11-like terrors

5,102 miles away from our quiet hamlet of Orange City sits the booming metropolis of Moscow, capital of the largest country in the world. Despite different cultures, languages and time zones, twelve days ago Americans could understand the feelings of terror and confusion of countless Russians in a very real way.

Families who waited with expectation in the ornate International arrivals Hall recall the sound vividly. A loud boom, followed by a billowing plume of orange and black smoke. A sound of holy terror that has shaken Russia's Pacific coast, opposite the United States.

Following Monday's bombings, which killed 35 and injured hundreds more, Russian officials disclosed that the publicly unnamed but identified 20-year-old suicide bomber was in fact a member of one such ethnic minority, the largely religiously Islamic Chechen people of southwestern Russia.

"For me, it feels a little bit like New York after 9/11," said Josselyn-Cranson. "But for me, my concerns for the SSA are still the same, like someone not looking when you cross the street. It's the little attentions that cause trouble when you're traveling. You don't let terrorists win by changing your plans."
**News**

**February 4, 2011**

**Around The Globe**

**Continued unrest in Egypt**

CAIRO, Egypt - As protesters continue to rally and demand change, the long-time leader President Hosni Mubarak says he fears what might happen if he immediately surrenders power.

**Monster storm hits midwest**

UNITED STATES - Schools across the Midwest closed early or cancelled classes this week as a “Monster” storm dumped snow on the area. The storm was also responsible for 2,500 flight cancellations.

**Guantanamo Bay inmate dies**

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba - Prisoner Anwar Guli collapsed after a workout at the U.S. prison. His death is still under investigation but appears to be caused by either a heart attack or a pulmonary embolism.

**One in 10 adults considered obese**

U.K./U.S. - A joint study by Harvard and Imperial College London researchers found body mass indexes of adults around the world to show that one in 10 adults fall into the category of obese.

**54 possibly habitable planets found**

BBC - Astronomers have located 68 newly discovered Earth-sized planets, 54 of which they believe may be able to support life. These new finds are credited to the Kepler Space Telescope.

**New mosquito type**

PARIS, France - A new subtype of the mosquito that is responsible for most of the transmission of malaria in Africa has been discovered. Scientists are still unsure what new insight this mosquito may provide into the knowledge of malaria transmission.

**Texting vs. writing: context and convenience collide**

**BY KATI HENG**

**OPINION EDITOR**

Cell phones have created a constant battle of good vs. evil. Professors ask that they be turned off in class, laws are being passed to limit their usage while driving, and now there are even reports on the health risks associated with spending too much time on the phone.

Yet the majority of our generation owns a cell phone. Parents trust their teens to use them in emergencies; employers use them to keep in touch with their workers. Some of the biggest news in the business world occurred earlier this month when Verizon announced it would now be carrying the iPhone, making the popular gadget available to a whole new group of consumers.

How does this all add up?

Ann Lundberg, an English professor at Northwestern, said that she has not noticed a drastic decline in the quality of students’ writing due to the increase of texting and cellular phones, contrary to what some reports would lead us to believe. However, she has noticed a change in students’ e-mails.

“This new age of technology has lead to a lot of students being unaware of when to use formal and when to use informal language,” said Lundberg. Although the papers are free of text shortcuts such as “u,” “r,” or “2,” she still receives e-mails full of them.

“And they’re sending me these e-mails, fully knowing I’m an English professor!” said Lundberg. Lundberg asks her students to keep cell phones off during class, and says she has not had a problem with texting during class. “But if it did happen,” she said, “I would find it extremely rude.”

Orange City resident Marilyn Bruyvoort was much quicker to voice her displeasure with the way in which she sees cell phones being used.

“We’re people on the phones, they don’t tend to their driving,” said Bruyvoort. “They should park, and then talk. Otherwise, other people could get killed. It’s not respecting life.”

NW students are seeing the negatives of phones as well. Chantelle Reno, a junior at NW, said she is “not a big fan” of mobile devices. “I like them for pager purposes, but I don’t like the fact that people can reach me anytime that they want,” said Reno. “Texting or talking on your phone all the time interferes with living in the moment and communicating with the people you are presently with.”

Despite how she doesn’t “like how dependent we’ve become” to phones, and how “for some people, life would cease to exist without a phone,” Kristin Trease, junior at NW, admits phones do make life simpler. “Trease’s roommate, junior Aly Cooper, agrees.

“Whoever created cell phones did it with the best of intentions, but the society has perverted those intentions with the way we now use phones.”

Recently, magazines such as Vogue and the online Newsweek have published articles warning about the dangers of cell phone radiation. The radiation is similar, but a lower frequency, of the same waves found in microwaves and X-rays. Research has not yet found a link between cell phones and cancerous tumors, but tumors can take decades to develop – longer than the average customer has owned their devices.

So why do we continue to use cell phones?

“It’s convenient,” said Art Hielkma, an Orange City resident. After Hielkma’s wife died over a year ago, he has gotten rid of his landline and switched completely to the cell. “It’s cheaper, especially since I’m the only phone caller at home.”

Larry Korver, a former football coach at NW, gave his opinion on cell phones while spending the day with his grandchildren. Although they are young and do not have their own phones, Korver is not against his grandchildren getting phones in the future. “They’ll be taught how and when to use them,” Korver said. “They’ll know what phones are meant to be used for.”

Maybe that’s the key – know the facts, know when to use your phone and when to turn it off, and maybe we can get back to appreciating the convenience and other benefits cell phones bring us.

**Student success bigger than “A’s” and athletics**

**BY JULIA LANTZ**

**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

The New York Times has noted that some of the schools with the best mental health programs “have been spurred by some of the worst tragedies.”

Suicides and shootings have struck the campuses of New York University, Virginia Tech and MIT, but have had positive impact on each campus’s mental health programs, mostly through the expansion of services.

Stating questions the future actions of Pima Community College, the alma mater of the man charged with the Tucson shooting, Jared L. Loughner.

Pima has reported that Loughner had encounters with the campus police due to complaints about him from faculty members and students and was later asked to leave the college last September.

College officials suspected that Loughner was mentally ill, but he did not receive mental health care because Pima does not offer mental health care programs.

In response to these recent articles, Dr. Sally Edman, the head of counseling services at Northwestern, says, “Our students should take seriously how much something like a depressive episode, serious disruption in the family or the grieving of a loss can impact a person socially or academically.

“The wellness center encourages students who don’t feel like they can deal with tough situations on their own to set up an appointment.” Edman said.

“NW NW students share what stresses them out the most.

Senior Marji Mulder finds that she especially stresses out about big assignments. When asked what relieves her stress, she replied, “I usually sleep or knit. I also try to just get the assignment done and when it is done I try to relax.”

Senior Daniel Unekis finds that he is most stressed when he has procrastinated and small tasks build up at once. He also comments, “I usually find stress to be a highly motivating force. I try to harness the extra energy it gives me and use it to get on top of things. I am most productive when stressed.”

Freshman Christa Curl finds that papers and exams cause her the most stress. Curl tries to escape stress by getting enough sleep and avoiding procrastination.

Curl is involved in women’s choir, theatre, and an intramural basketball team and to avoid becoming stressed she says, “I have to get things done ahead of time and try to plan around my activities.”

According to Edman, “Awareness about mental health is a part of the education that NW tries to offer.”

The Wellness Center provides individual and group counseling. “We have counseled roommates, couples, and other groups,” said Edman.

The Wellness Center also does campus outreach activities to create awareness about depression, eating disorders and other health-related topics.

Edman gives some last advice, stating, “When your body is sleep-deprived and you are not eating healthy foods, your body is not getting the support it needs to function. Exercise is hugely effective in regulating mood.”

Stress from activities, academics, sports and personal affairs are inevitable. Therefore, it is even more crucial to be aware of what our bodies need to be whole and well.

NW provides the means and support not only for academic and intellectual success, but physical and emotional wellness as well.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NWCIOWA.EDU
A proud Packer fan speaks

This Sunday will be witness to Super Bowl XLV. Packers versus Steelers, Black and Gold vs. Green and Gold.

Since I am from Green Bay, I know what it is like to live Green and Gold. Why am I a Packers fan? I think the better question is “why not?” My parents were both Packers fans and I grew up as one. Aside from just following blindly what my parents did, how could I not cheer on a team that is all about the fans? For evidence of this, just take a quick look at where Lambeau Field is located. Residential areas are to the north and south and local businesses are to the west.

With Lambeau so close to the fans, they never cease to support the Pack at home games. Fans start tailgating hours before games, no matter how bad the weather. Over 50,000 attended the Ice Bowl where the temperature was double digits below zero. The 2007 NFC Championship (Favre's last game with the Pack) brought in over 72,500 people, despite temperatures hovering near zero.

There is no lack of desire to watch a game in person. I got put on the waiting list for season tickets in 2000. I’m still somewhere in the 40,000s. And it’s not just at home that the fans make their presence known. They will flock to support their team all over the nation. Two great teams will clash on the gridiron for the ultimate prize in football. Who do I expect to win? Obviously I hope the Packers will, but I also have reasons for thinking they will.

The road to Dallas has been a difficult one for them. In the middle of December, they were 8-6 after a hard-fought battle and a Rodger-less loss to the Lions. It appeared that the season was over. Backed up against the wall, the Pack had two home games left against the Giants, who were looking for redemption after an embarrassment against the Eagles. The other game was against the Bears, who had secured the second seed but were as always looking for a win against their hated rivals to the north. The game against the Giants was easily won. The one against the Bears was much harder fought. In the closing seconds, Nick Collins provided the game-saving interception to propel the Pack to the playoffs for the second year in a row.

The next week’s game against the Eagles proved just as difficult but ended with a pick in the end zone, this time by Tramon Williams, sending the Packers to face the No. 1 seed in the NFC. The game against Atlanta was arguably also decided by an interception that was provided again by Tramon Williams, who brought it back for six, put Green Bay up 28-14 at the half and no doubt took all the life out of Atlanta. Two more interceptions against the Bears propelled the Packers into the Super Bowl. A pick-six by B.J. Raji and one more in the closing minute by the rookie Sam Shields secured the victory.

The Steelers, on the other hand, haven’t scored since the second quarter against the Jets and nearly gave the game to them, allowing 19 unanswered points. The last two games of the regular season were indeed wins, but they came against the Browns and Panthers, who had a combined seven wins. The Giants and Bears had more than three times that amount.

The Packers have momentum on their side. Five straight wins have given them an edge that will carry them to their sixth straight win on Sunday. The Vince Lombardi Trophy is coming home.

They’re nothing but a pack of chumps

This coming Sunday, we will be watching a football game of some importance to those who concern themselves with such things.

The champion of the American Football League, the Pittsburgh Steelers will face off against the champion of the National Football League, the…um…well the other team. Being a Minnesota Vikings fan, feeling the bitter… bitter, bitter, bitter… disappointment of yet another lost opportunity is crushing. It was a tough year for us all.

However, in the spirit of goodwill and sportsmanship, I am letting go the stubborn pride of team spirit which insists that the Vikings must be victorious, even if that’s not even possible. It really doesn’t matter to me whether or not the Steelers win or lose this year.

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In the editor’s words

It’s human, it’s ugly, it’s wrong and we know it. Maybe we are forgetting that it’s not wrong only because it’s another one of those behaviors good Christians should avoid, such as mowing the lawn on Sundays.

Gossip is wrong because it hurts. It hurts those who are innocent of the rumors we are spreading just as much as it hurts those who were guilty. And when gossip becomes our first choice of conversation, it can even hurt our reputations. After all, who wants to tell personal things to someone who is known to share secrets?

So before you tell your friend that fascinating tidbit you picked up from some guy who knows a guy whose brother overheard… stop and think.

By Seth Herning

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So before you tell your friend that fascinating tidbit you picked up from some guy who knows a guy whose brother overheard… stop and think.
West Slide Story set to dance into the sunset with final show

By Alyssa Currier
Contributing Writer

For the past month, dance has owned the lives of nearly half the student body as they’ve prepared and performed for RUSH.

Choreographers have been working on their pieces since before Christmas. But for senior Alex Menning, dance has been going on for a lot longer than that.

Menning first fell in love with dance when he performed on a co-ed RUSH team his freshman year of college. The next year, he helped orchestrate one of the most popular NWC events, Northwestern’s Best Dance Crew. It was this competition that led to the creation of the most famous dance crew on campus, West Slide Story.

“I used to watch America’s Best Dance Crew, so I got some guys together from West and told them we could probably dominate this thing. I choreographed and we won. Then we won the next year, and now we’re a featured performance in this year’s RUSH,” said Menning.

West Slide Story has six members: Menning, seniors Ed Rodriguez and Dan Laird and juniors Joel Hegeman, Aaron Bauer and Dan Sikkema.

“My favorite performance ever was probably NBDC this year. We did some really cool stunts that I didn’t think we could pull off, but we did,” said Menning.

Menning said his choreography is inspired by a combination of High School Musical, Step Up 2 and Stop the Yard.

West Slide Story will perform for the last time ever at Saturday’s ten-o’clock RUSH. The tears in Menning’s eyes showed how truly invested he has become in this group when he admitted he is “pretty sad” that this will be their last time dancing together.

In response to rumors that a group of girls may be conspiring to put together an “East Slide Story” next year, Menning said, “If that’s true, those girls are probably from Fern because they copy everything West does. Hopefully, they just don’t scare anyone.”

As Menning and the other senior theology student have to say about this? Alex Menning is currently taking theology and chose to save the class for his senior year because he wanted “to get more grounded in my faith and what I believe.”

General education classes range from religion to math, science to history, fine arts to philosophy. Philosophy professor Randy Jensen has 11 graduating seniors out of a total of 86 students in his gen ed classes. “Some put off philosophy for as long as possible, to be sure! But a few may have waited for the particular class they wanted to take.”

Kevin Wallace can testify to that. He said, “I’m still taking gen eds: namely my philosophy requirement. I decided to wait because I’d heard great things about the class I’m in (Philosophy and Science Fiction) from some Heemstra guys who’d taken it two years ago. Since it’s only offered every other year I had to wait until my senior year, which has turned out to be a huge blessing. Since gen eds are lower level classes (in general) that means that I can relax a bit more with my school work and focus on hanging out with the guys before I’m gone.”

Some students think waiting is best, but others were happy to be done after their sophomore year. Professors acknowledge that although they see the importance in establishing the liberal arts education early on, sometimes waiting for the class you want to take is better than sitting through one you won’t be as interested in.

Information provided about Northwestern’s general education requirement tells prospective students to “start with a foundation,” and perhaps that’s why Kinsinger apologetically states, “it’s not (the students’) fault; the college is the one who has said it is acceptable [to wait].” In order to prepare students early on, “this is something I hope we can change in the future.”

Saving the best for last? Maybe think twice

BY EMILY GOWING
FEATURES EDITOR

There are few things more intimidating than being the lone senior in a class full of freshmen.

However, few things are more disconcerting than being the lone senior in a room full of freshmen, a common sight in several general education class rooms.

“Being a liberal arts school, it’s a no-brainer that you’ll be spending many of your credit hours on classes that don’t directly apply to your major. For some, such as senior Heidi Hildebrandt, the general education requirement was extremely helpful in determining which field of study she wanted to major in. Now that it’s her final semester she’s not taking any gen ed classes because she “took them all right away because I kept changing my mind on my major.”

Senior David Butler didn’t leave any of his gen ed classes until his senior year either, but he gave some insight as to why some seniors might. “I think one reason that seniors would wait this long is so that they can have an easy last semester and focus on things like getting a job next year instead of having to worry about upper-level classes pertaining to their majors.”

Senior Kristen Neth agrees with Butler. She said, “I waited because I wanted to take all of my credits for my final semester she’s not taking any of her gen ed classes because she “took them all right away because I kept changing my mind on my major.”

But what does a senior theology student have to say about this? Alex Menning is currently taking theology and chose to save the class for his senior year because he wanted “to get more grounded in my faith and what I believe.”

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Finding love in literature

BY SHELBY VANDER MOLEN
STAFF WRITER

Two English majors meet, fall in love, and then both end up working at their alma mater’s rival school. This is the story of Keith Fynaardt, a professor in the English Department, and his wife Tamara, Associate Director of Public Relations, are one of many of the couples who are both employed at Northwestern College.

Both Dordt grads and converts to NWC, they received their 15-year award last spring, and, for them, working together at NWC just one building away from one another has a lot of perks. “We have lunch a lot, and I make her coffee every morning,” says Keith, not to mention being able to share rides when the weather gets bad.

With Tamara’s office in De Vries Cottage and Keith’s in Granberg, even their two boys, 11-year-old Kit and 9-year-old Gideon, end up hanging out on campus. Tamara says that managing childcare and two full-time jobs is a challenge, but the flexibility of working nearby helps. “We tag team and work around his classes,” she explains.

Tamara remembers when the couple lived in DeKalb, Illinois. She completed her masters and then worked full time as Keith worked on his Ph.D. Work days took away a lot of together time. “We kind of take this for granted now, but then, we kind of led our own lives during the day,” Keith agrees. “For a working couple, we see an awful lot of each other. It’s really nice for us.”

With work being such a major part of the couple’s lives, the Fynaardts say it’s nice to be a part of the same thing and not have to catch up on so many things once they get to spend time at home. They also say that since many faculty don’t have family in the area, the campus community truly becomes like an extended family, and it’s nice that they can be a part of that together.

The downside, however, is that since they work at the same place, it is easy “to talk shop at home” when sometimes it’s nice to be able to leave work at work, says Keith. However, like Tamara points out, “It helps a marriage when you both really like what you do. We both have jobs that we both really like and they happen to be in the same place.” Because reading and writing are so integral to their identities, at least when the work comes home, “it’s all stuff that we like anyway,” says Tamara.

Sometimes at home she has to remind him, “You can drop the professor voice now. I don’t need you to conduct a class with me,” Tamara says with a smile. Whether it’s coffee in the mornings, lunch dates at noon, or simply sharing the fulfillment of working together at a place that shares their values, for the Fynaardts, working at NWC has been a blessing. Like Keith said, “It really suits us.”

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How to: Get well on a college schedule

1. Talk to your R.A.
   - They can contact your professors for you to let them know about your absence from class.
   - They can also take your temperature and determine whether you should be in isolation.

2. Make an appointment at the wellness center.
   - Michelle Van Wyhe is the nurse on campus and she can diagnose you and give you a prescription.

3. Get your prescription.
   - Meds can be purchased at Dutchmill Pharmacy, Fareway Pharmacy or at Wal Mart in Sioux Center.

4. Get some rest.
   - Stay in the dorm and get some rest. In college, it is easy to overwork yourself which can make you more sick.

It can be more than you think

Erin Ogden, a sophomore at NW, was playing golf last year when she twisted her back. Later that day, she jumped out of her bed and herniated a disk. She went to the emergency room, but they were not sure what happened, so she returned to her room in Fern and tried to deal with the pain.

She then called her mother who, along with Erin, contacted the hospital and the wellness center to figure out a plan of action. They easily scheduled an MRI and X-ray. Erin had to miss a lot of class due to this injury, and she was worried because it was about two weeks before finals. However, Northwestern faculty showed grace.

“They were really nice about it,” Erin remembers. They excused Erin from classes and gave her ample time to catch up on class work. Erin got her back surgery shortly after school ended in May last year.

Ignoring it won’t make it go away

Brandon Ogren, a senior at NW, had mono last spring. He was sick for over a month. When he first got sick, he continued to go to class for the first week. He then made an appointment at the wellness center where he had blood taken to determine his illness.

He found out he got mono and began to make arrangements with his professors. Even though he got out of going to class, he still had to make sure that he did the reading and the assignments for each of his classes.

While his professors were accommodating, his workplace was not, and Brandon was still required to either work or find a replacement for each shift. Brandon tried to get a lot of rest and took vitamin C.

“I drank a lot of Naked,” said Brandon. Brandon’s sickness affected his productivity and made it hard for him to catch up toward the end of the semester.

With the variety of medications out there for any number of symptoms, it’s often difficult to choose the one that’s best for you. To save costs, purchase the off-brand of the same drugs and be sure to take a daily vitamin. When in doubt, ask the pharmacist what they recommend for your array of symptoms.
Art & Culture | 6

‘Swan’ a dark, graceful thriller

BY BETSY DE GLOPPER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When I heard that Darren Aronofsky was working on a new project, my mind instantly recalled some of his past films, which were rich with dark storylines, thrilling plot twists and superb acting.

Aronofsky, who directed films like “Requiem for a Dream” and “The Wrestler,” has produced arguably his best work yet in “Black Swan,” starring Natalie Portman, Mila Kunis and Vincent Cassel.

“Black Swan” follows the story of Nina (Portman), a dedicated and passionate ballerina in a New York City ballet company. When the company’s director, Thomas Leroy (Cassel), decides to go in a new direction for this season’s production of Swan Lake, Nina is his first choice in replacing the washed-up, former top ballerina Beth MacIntyre (Winona Ryder).

The lead role of Swan Lake requires a kind of double identity: that of the technically precise White Swan, at which Nina is a natural, as well as the hedonistic, somewhat heedless Black Swan, which Nina is not. Bad-girl Lily (Kunis) is the Black Swan to Nina’s White, and soon their competition for the lead role of the technically precise White Swan to Nina’s White, and soon building tension through their backstage rivalry and jealousy. Also, Ryder’s interpretation of the former prima ballerina who can’t quite go on really ups the ante, adding a chilling perspective to an already intense film.

Portman’s performance has several sources viewing her as the frontrunner for Best Actress at this year’s Academy Awards. While Portman is not a newcomer to the Oscar scene (she received a Best Supporting Actress nomination for her role in 2004’s “Closer”), this will be her first time up for Best Actress. Portman underwent months of training and dieting to get in shape for the role, and it shows. The film, made for a reported $13 million, has already grossed over $90 million at the box office, and has been a top contender throughout the award season. To go along with Portman’s Best Actress nod, the film has also received Academy Award nominations for Cinematography, Directing, Film Editing and the coveted Best Picture.

Aronofsky is a seasoned veteran when it comes to creating dark atmospheres and playing with emotions. He is known for shooting his movies on 16mm film, which is smaller and allows for a lot of atmospheres and playing with emotions. He is known for shooting his movies on 16mm film, which is smaller and allows for a lot of movement. For example, all of the rehearsal scenes were shot with handheld cameras, allowing the cinematographer, Matthew Libatique, to immerse himself in the action, bringing the audience into a first-person view of the ballet world instead of viewing it from the usual third-person point of view.

Ask anyone of Northwestern’s viewers and you’re sure to get mixed reviews. The film is provocative, thrilling and will probably make you squirm. It is not an innocent movie about nice ballerinas, but it is a masterpiece that blurs the lines of reality and dream. Aronofsky delivers on one of his best, if not best, works of art to date.

Regardless, in 83 years of nominating, overlooking a few gems is inevitable. Just last year, the Best Picture category was moved from five to ten nominees. But it seems highly unlikely that the Academy will be able to include those perhaps less deserving blockbusters, along with the unknown cinematic gems that are out there.

No matter how much viewers may whine, the Academy Awards are not a popularity contest. The reason Avatar didn’t win Best Picture was because it arguably was not the Best Picture. If you want a popularity based award system, I warn you to stop and look at the People’s Choice Awards, which recently gave “Twilight” five awards. Popular or not, stone-faced Kristen Stewart’s “performance” deserves best scenery over best actress. While it’s true that box office giants like “Inception” and “Dark Knight” deserve recognition, the idea that your favorite movie is the best movie here is the only time a film may have won an Oscar.

It’s a matter of defining what we think of as a movie. What is a good movie? Yes, the Oscars nominations and award winners are sometimes hit or miss. And yes, what I’ve enjoyed and what is truly great may be one in the same. However, when you’ve not seen maybe three of the 10 nominated for Best Picture, how can you really decide what you think of as a movie we like and what is the best movie needs to be radically reconsidered. My borderline-obsessive love for “Legends of the Guardians” does not, by any stretch of the imagination, mean it should have been nominated for Best Animated Picture over “Toy Story 3.”

“What wins an Oscar?”

BY ANDREW LOVGREN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

“The Dark Knight” wasn’t even nominated for Best Picture in 2009, despite its gross revenue of over $1 billion and widespread critical accolades. Were the nominations wrong?

“Aватar,” a record-setting sci-fi film that grossed $2.75 billion, lost out to “Hurt Locker,” a lesser-known story of a soldier’s recovery. A movie that made more money than twice the GDP of Liberia wasn’t the best picture of the year?

While many moviegoers cry foul, it’s important to look at what the Academy awards are and, perhaps even more importantly, what they are not.

Now in its 83rd year, the Oscars have a strong tradition of recognizing quality storytelling, but it is true that they have had their share of snubs in the past.

“2001: A Space Odyssey,” though widely thought to be one of the best sci-fi, if not overall, films of all time, was never nominated for Best Picture. “Vertigo,” acclaimed as a suspense legend Alfred Hitchcock’s masterpiece, suffered the same fate.

Perhaps the most notable Oscar snub is Orson Welles’ “Citizen Kane.” The only win for this timeless classic was for Best Screenplay. Not only did Welles help revolutionize the way movies were made with his cinematography, innovate storytelling and sound mixing, the 25-year-old film genius should have also taken the statue for Best Lead Actor.

Director Christopher Nolan, known for blockbusters such as “Inception,” “Dark Knight” and the 2010 blockbuster “Inception,” is once again noticeably absent from the nominations.

What are the Oscars for? The purpose of the Awards, though results have been hit or miss, is to recognize quality film-making. Take the time to watch past winners and see the difference in normal movies we all watch for their entertainment value. It may be the difference between adding a packet of hot chocolate to coffee and a pure, full flavor cup of dark roast.

It may be tough, but the more you get a taste, the more appreciation you will have. And perhaps you’ll see why, though run, “Dark Knight” was best suited for the sidelines.

Campus Quotes

“Don’t you hate when your gloves fall into the toilet?” - Professor of English Richard Stawienski, opening class.

“Nothing goes into The Beacon about my love of bestiality.” - Professor of History Mike Kagler, in a lecture on the French revolution and appropriate conduct.

“It’s like comparing a tricycle to Nascar.” - Senior Steven DeVries, on the difference between cross dressing and transgender.

Send your Campus Quotes, with context, to beacon@nwciowa.edu.
Iron & Wine’s funky new sound

BY JORDAN LANGER
ASS. ED. WRITER

Sam Beam’s now decade-old, home-recorded “The Creek That Drank the Cradle” nestled a stripped-down sound of Americana with his bearded, bookish meekness. His became the crooning voice of the well-worn, of intimate human stories and of a soft-stated Gnosticism. It was raw, real, a herald to the ubiquitous folk vogue and eventually to the Heemstra everyman of the last five years or so.

Each release after his debut gave an invigorating add-on to this base sound, chorus- less and melody heavy. “Our Endless Numbered Days” cleaned up some of the tarnish of the crappy stories and of a soft-stated Gnosticism. It was raw, real, a herald to the ubiquitous folk vogue and eventually to the Heemstra everyman of the last five years or so.

That Drank the Cradle” nestled a bare-bone sound of Americana with his bearded, bookish meekness. His became the crooning voice of the well-worn, of intimate human stories and of a soft-stated Gnosticism. It was raw, real, a herald to the ubiquitous folk vogue and eventually to the Heemstra everyman of the last five years or so.

The withdrawn author of “The Catcher in the Rye” did not put out much material. Even so, he managed to be a dominant literary figure in the last century.

BY ALENA SCHUESSLER
STAFF WRITER

A unique art form is scheduled to be on display next week at Northwestern. The Cashore Marionettes, a show consisting entirely of lifelike puppets, will perform at the English Department’s Proseminum Theatre on Tuesday, February 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Creator of the Cashore Marionettes is Joseph Cashore, winner of a Henderson Foundation Grant and a Pew Fellowship for Performance Art for artistic accomplishment. Cashore has been designing and performing with marionettes for over 30 years. The show, called “Life in Motion,” consists of a sequence of vignettes portraying daily life. Scenes range from a child doing schoolwork to a horse galloping across a field to a mother comforting her baby. The scenes are set to Beethoven, Copland, Vivaldi, Strauss and other composers. Each marionette is intricately designed to move from head to toe. Past audience members of the touring show have described it as “exquisite.” Tickets purchased before February 8 are $8 for adults and $6 for students. If tickets are purchased on February 8, they are $10 for adults and $8 for students. The show is sponsored by the NW theatre department and the Orange City Arts Council. To reserve tickets, call the Orange City Arts Council at 712-707-4885 or email oarts@orangecityiowa.com.

Check Out

**Book: J.D. Salinger: A Life**
The withdrawn author of “The Catcher in the Rye” did not put out much material. Even so, he managed to be a dominant literary figure in the last century.

**Music: James Blake’s Self-Titled Debut**
After a cover of Feist’s “Limit To Your Love” went viral, it became that Blake’s minimal sound (think The XX) would again redefine UK dub.

**Movie: David Russell’s “The Fighter”**
Christian Bale underwent a dramatic physical transformation to prepare for his Oscar nominated role. Go see him in Sioux Center.
Kramer hits buzzer-beater, Bultman Center erupts

By Michael Simmelink

In yet another episode of the Dordt/Northwestern rivalry, junior Jon Kramer hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to down the Defenders 85-82 Saturday night. NW improved to 18-5 overall and 11-2 in the GPAC standings. The Raiders continued to stay in control of the lead with a score of 7-12. Dordt stayed in control of the lead and were up by as much as 13 until the Raiders began their charge on a four-point play by junior Walker Seim. The Dordt Defenders took a 45-35 lead into halftime.

Sophomore Daniel Van Kalsbeek's lay-up with 6:39 to go gave NW its first lead of the game, 65-64. With 17 seconds left to play, Kramer went to the line and sank two free throws to put the Raiders up 82-79. Dordt sophomore Cliff Warner inbounded the ball to Kramer, who drove the right wing and put up his game-winner from 25 feet out.

Miller (16 pts, 11 reb) and Van Kalsbeek (12 pts, 10 reb) both registered double-doubles to led the Raiders. Seim also led NW in points with 16, and senior Ryan Hoogeveen added 10. Kramer dropped a career high 13 off the bench. Sophomore Stu Grootinga ripped down 10 boards on the night. With the win, the Raiders remain alone atop the GPAC standings.

Raiders finish 4th at Conference

By Natasha Fernando

It was a great weekend for Raider wrestling at the conference meet in Hastings, Neb. Senior Luke Evjen and Sophomore Jerod Flores brought home GPAC championship titles as the Raiders finished fourth overall at the meet.

Flores added two more falls on the year and an injury default, ending the season 28-10 with 13 falls. In the finals match-up he challenged Concordia's Stacie and pinned him in five minutes. This is Flores' first title this year and second GPAC conference champion honor.

Evjen earned his second tournament championship (first in the York Open) and secured the conference championship in the semi final match by major decision fall. He went on to win the final 11-10 against Morningside when he worked for a reversal with time running out. Evjen ended the season 19-7 with six falls.

Women stay undefeated in GPAC

By Michael Simmelink

The Northwestern women (22-1, 13-0) continued their GPAC dominance with a 75-60 win over rival Dordt (13-8, 4-7) at the Bultman Center Saturday afternoon.

The Raiders were down 19-13 before going on a 12-0 run to take the lead back for good. They led by as much as 20 in the second half. The Raiders' press trap forced 26 Dordt turnovers on the afternoon.

Sophomore Kendra De Jong put in 21 points and grabbed 11 boards to lead the Raiders in both categories. Senior Becca Hurley contributed 20 points and junior Kami Kuhlmann added 16. Senior Allison Hulst dished out six assists and scored five points.

Northwestern also defeated Mt. Marty, 88-59 on Wednesday night to stay undefeated against Dordt on Saturday, January 29.

Coming Up

1/29 @ BV Open

2/2 @ Mount Marty - W 80-66

1/29 vs Dordt - W 88-82

Men's Basketball

1/29 vs Dordt - W 85-82

Coming Up

2/5 vs Hastings @ 4 p.m.

2/9 vs Morningside @ 8 p.m.