Bahrain in unrest

BY LINDEN FIGGIE
NEWS EDITOR

After riotous outbursts and continuing violence, few would believe Bahrain to be a nation of previous peace and contentment.

While Northwestern watches the events with a foreign and disconnected eye, one of the college's very own international students, junior Christine Roy, experiences heartfelt pain and distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitous distress as she can only hear over the phone or witness through the news of her home country's precipitious turmoil.

Roy informed that Bahrain's political dynamics present conflict as the monarchy's leader is a practicing Sunni while 70 percent of Bahrainians are declared Shiiite's. Though disconnect is prevalent between the two religious groups, peace has been generally familiar to Bahrainians, sending the country out of its way to respond," Keith said.

"It was really inconvenient, especially in the summer with my job."

Junior Tanya Woodward, who is currently taking an online class from another community college in Iowa, is having a much more negative online experience. Woodward now knows the importance of having a good professor, even if one never meets the professor in person.

Another great thing about taking online classes from NW is the proximity as well as the quality of the professors. Keith's biggest issue with her online classes was how difficult the online, impersonal format made it for her to ask questions. "If I had a question, I would have to e-mail the professor and wait for them to respond," Keith said.

"I have to design and implement a proctor," said Hillenga. "It was horrible, and admits to not learning as much as he was likely supposed to."

"That took his classes in his high school's computer lab, sitting next to his friends who were taking the same courses at the same time."

"We helped each other all the time," said Saint. "It was the easiest thing ever."

"Online classes through NW will not have a goal of making their courses simpler or easier for students. According to Lesage, on or offline, NW plans to uphold, "the same quality in all of our classes."
NOT a poem about chick-flick love, Disney cartoons, or that expected-happenstances that you mistake for a fluke

How **serendipitous**!
You reach for gum in your pocket and pull out 2 wrinkled $1 bills instead

**Hallelujah**, my friends

**skittles** on me

How completely unexpected
When you find
The **soul** mate to your lonely sock

Tucked deep in the back of your drawer

**GADZOOCKS**
Can this really be happening?
You woke up and realized that it was Saturday

**Yipee**!

Now get out of your bunny slippers and crawl back into bed
Because that’s what people do when they have

No **commitments**
An **A** on a test is not quite as pleasing
Because you knew it was coming, didn’t you?

**Surprise parties** can never measure up
The guest of honor knows that he’s special for some reason

**IT MUST BE THE** simple **THINGS**
That give you that **MILLION-DOLLAR** look, baby

What shall we do with our newfound fortune?

Ask Phineas
Ferb never speaks
But when he does

It is entirely

Serendipitous

---

I might just shoot your eye out

Absolute terror with no understanding as to
Where it is coming from. Kind of like the hiccups
Coughing
Or Sneeze that show up out of nowhere. I might bite
Your head off if you say something even remotely within my

Danger zone, so steep clear of “clever jokes,” urges to make me smile
Or “are you okay”s?
Frankly, No

---

I’m not okay, but thanks for being the millionth person to ask
Maybe I should offer you some sort of prize for being the last being to

Get on my nerves.
I want to be left alone
To cry
To scream
To perish into my own little state of insanity.

Let me cope, you good-for-nothing robots of concern
I will not seek a gun, rope, or dagger to reach suicidal measures
I am not that far gone.

Let me be the pessimist for a moment, for an hour, a day
Just stay out of my path
Or I’ll have to pull your hair out
And mine as well.

I’m not ok, ok?

What is O.K.? Definitely not hunky dory as my mother might say
Perhaps it stands for “on Krack” (and yes, I know, Krack is usually spelled with a ‘c’)
Or “overwhelmingly Kahooted”—who knows?
But I am none of these, so I will not lie and say that I am “OK”

BOOM, BOOM, POW goes the bass
It urges me to shrivel up and then explode into miniscule pieces of light

Ok, go away. Ignore my antisocial retreats and I’ll ignore your existence
But just for now, or until this feeling subsides into the air and passes from

My difficult personality to another soul.
Pity, for them not me
Or I might have to kick you where it counts.

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Photos submitted by Katherine Wallin.
So, Egypt fell this week...

Tunisia’s president was also ousted a few weeks ago, but there’s a universal consensus amongst prominent political theorists that no one cares about Tunisafishia. Nothing’s happened there since they filmed the Tateoeone scenes of the first Star Wars movie 35 years ago.

I’ll bet half of you are reaching for an atlas right now to see if this country actually exists. Look at the part of North Africa that Italy looks like it’s ready to give a good swift kick to... No, not the island.

That’s Sicily. A little farther south. I swear, it’s there.

But the real story’s in Egypt. For a while Pharaoh Mubarak (He’s actually a Prime Minister, but why confuse the issue?) reminded us all a little bit of Al Gore in 2000. He promised to get out, but then said he was back in. But everyone told him to get and he did... maybe. It’s all very confusing. Anyway, I think he’s officially dead now.

So Egypt is completely without a government. Don’t worry though; the military graciously took control. And civil-unrest-sparked military coups in the Middle East have a spotless track record of resulting in stable and flourishing democracies.

Take my word for it.

In the editor’s words

BY EMILY GOWING
FEATURES EDITOR

For as long as I can remember, I’ve done things exactly the way my brother did them. When I followed him to Northwestern, however, I knew it was time to deviate from the shadow. He pursued a religion major; I would never have been cut out for that.

Weighing my options, my talents and my passions, I stumbled upon the journalism major and have only looked back once or twice. The way my class schedule worked out freshman year, I was en route to knock out my gen ed requirements the first two years and finish my major by the end of my third.

Game on.

So, from the spring semester of my freshman year, I knew I’d only have three short years to live the college life. Those three years have somehow turned into three short months.

I once thought this was the best four-year-plan ever. So good, in fact, it didn’t even require a fourth year on campus! Now that spring break is around the corner, I’m beginning to question the push I felt to graduate early.

I know the money was a huge factor and I’m sure I’ll be glad to not have the year’s worth of extra loans to pay off. I was also so excited to get into my career that I figured an extra year in the classroom probably wasn’t worth it. And, sorry Northwestern, I’m not saying your education isn’t grand – it certainly is.

Missing out on a fourth year of classes, chapel, caf food, etc. will be sad, but it’s the friendships I’ve formed and the people in which I’ve invested myself that make me want to cling to these last three months with all I’ve got.

Some students get the pleasure of being known as the “super senior,” five years at Northwestern to soak up all it has to offer. I can see how this status can be difficult as well. All of your classmates have graduated and moved on while you’re sitting in Western Cw with 25 other freshmen.

So where’s the balance? Most Northwesterners – most college students – don’t think about things like “balance” in regards to how many years they’ll spend in school.

It’s a four-year program; they’re here for four years. So is the balance of time really the question at hand? Or instead should we be focusing on what we do with that time? A chapel speaker last semester challenged us to “live in the now.” It was a call to not dwell on what the future may or may not hold but just make the most of every opportunity as it’s presented to you.

The friends you make in college are most likely the ones you’ll have for the rest of your life. Invest in them – in their social lives, in their academic lives, and in their spiritual lives as well. Ask hard questions; dig deeply.

When it comes time for you to separate – whether that’s after three, four or five years – we all can rest assured that “friends forever” doesn’t have to be as cliché as we once thought.

Before the Bibles start thumping

In American society today, things are very seldom black and white. It can even be difficult to determine when something should either legal or not; for instance, the ban on marijuana.

Although it is a federal crime to sell or possess the substance, 15 states have begun to blur the line of its legality by instating laws that allow the distribution of medical marijuana.

I know what you are thinking: marijuana is evil, and no good Christian could consciously vote in favor of supporting something so vile as marijuana in any way, but before fists start shaking and Bibles start thumping, you should know a few facts.

Marijuana was used as the active ingredient in many pain medications for over 4,000 years, until America banned it in 1937. It is still very commonly legal for medical use in many countries today.

There is not a single reported death or overdose in history caused directly and exclusively by marijuana. More importantly, its most severe known side effects are feelings of unease, anxiety, or restlessness, which usually pass without outside intervention. This is a huge contrast to the hundreds of thousands that die from overdose of prescription medication every year.

I am not proposing we all go light up and enjoy some pot today, or revert back to the nostalgia of Woodstock. I am simply fighting for a safer and more effective alternative of medication for those with pain from cancer, glaucoma and AIDS. For many suffering with those diseases, marijuana is the only chance of relief they can get from medication.

If helping the suffering and ultimately saving people’s lives aren’t enough good reasons, you might be interested in knowing that the federal court would approve medical marijuana if it could be taxed. It is estimated that from taxation alone, 1.4 trillion dollars could be collected yearly, just from California. That amount is only from one state. Imagine if all 50 were involved. The economic state our nation is in would be turned upside down.

This law doesn’t help junkies get easier access, or give kids a better chance to light up. Instead, it gives having possession of marijuana a purpose.

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It was minus-31-degree wind chill last week. Wrap your mind around that one.

You all experienced it, so it’s not like you really have to try too hard to imagine the bitter winds whipping your face, your eyes stinging and welling up with tears or your face tightening up so you found yourself making weird faces to stretch it out whenever you went inside a building.

But did you see those two Northwestern students who, even on one of the coldest days of the year, were wearing shorts around campus? Yes, shorts.

Some of you maybe even commented under your frosty breath or put forth the lung-contracting effort to yell at them and ask them, “Are you crazy?”

It’s a question senior Dan Unekis and junior Danie Fry hear all too often.

Their simple responses are a justified, “No.”

Although drastically different, Dan’s and Danie’s stories are unique—stories that take longer than the 15 seconds you might give them on the sidewalk when you exclaim, “You’re wearing shorts!”

Danie enjoys wearing shorts year-round for several reasons. “I save money on laundry and I don’t have to deal with wet pant legs.” Some mornings, however, she looks at the thermometer and wonders if she’s brave enough to face the negative numbers.

She’d gotten a text message from her friend, junior Liz Stevens, on Tuesday morning last week. It read, “Wear pants.” Although Danie is thankful that her friends look out for her, she admitted that wearing shorts is “an internal challenge for me; I’m a competitive person.”

Wearing pants on Tuesday, when it was minus-30-degree wind chill made her think she had “caved in.”

It’s a mind game of “Can I do this?” but feeding her competitive edge also has its setbacks. “I keep my window open all the time, so I have to keep my door closed because of the draft. I feel closed off from my wing roommate. But I do it to keep them happy.”

It’s a two-way street, however. Her former roommate, senior Sara Bolkema, who graduated at semester, was fine with the climate control Danie needed in the room. “She slept in sweatpants and a sweatshirt and was covered in more blankets than I’d ever seen, but was a good sport about it all,” Danie said.

She’s comfortable with the fact that she’s known around campus as “the girl who wears shorts,” but because heat intolerance could happen to anyone, Danie admitted, “I really thought there’d be someone else.”

Danie often has people comment under her frosty breath or put forth the lung-contracting effort to yell at her and Danie is always ready with “Yeah,” he’ll say, “but it’s warm in here.”

Words cannot express our gratitude for your generous gift earlier this year. Not only did you conserve energy and save the college money, but you gave back to ministries and organizations in the community. Your example of servant leadership and sacrificial giving is commendable. Because of your generosity, Bethany is able to continue serving children by caring for women experiencing unplanned pregnancies, as well as couples desiring to expand their families through adoption. Your work through ConServe has the potential to touch the life of a child forever. Your gift will enable us to continue serving children and families, and for that we are grateful.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of those in need.

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW

PHOTO BY BOB LATCHAW
How to: remain cool while speed dating

1. Come with a lap full of tennis balls.

Not literal tennis balls, of course. The tennis balls represent questions that you can continue to throw out at your date when silence falls. Avoid typical questions like “What do you do for fun?” Instead, try reframing that question to say, “What is something you’re passionate about?” Come prepared, or you could find yourself discussing awkward topics such as, cats, her dead plant or everything you ate last night.

2. Keep it light; don’t interrogate your date.

Though there’s a good chance speed dating will lead to marriage, asking questions about wedding colors, middle names and desired number of grandchildren tends to scare off prospective spouses. This is not a litmus test to evaluate someone, but a conversation to get to know someone better.

3. Pay attention to your date.

It can be very tempting to continue to acknowledge the partner with whom you just had the best one-minute conversation of your life. Don’t. It’s disrespectful to the person sitting across from you and may look creepy to the one with whom you just conversed.


Intentionality is a good thing. But if you only ask the other person questions, you may come off looking like a creeper. A minute is not a lot of time, so allow them time to ask questions, too. Make the most of every second by revealing what makes you distinctive. You like sports and music; so does everybody else. Instead, talk about your unique ability to lick your elbow or impersonate monkeys.

Photo courtesy of Speed Dating Los Angeles

Northwestern’s Student Activities Council is hosting the second Speed Dating event on Friday, Feb. 18 in the RSC’s mini-gym area.

Senior Glory Bensen, attended last year’s speed dating. She and a small group of friends dressed up and made a night out of this annual NW tradition. “We wanted to look cute,” Bensen said. “Some of the guys dressed up in suits and it was funny.”

Last year, the event was held in the Hub, which caused crowding issues. “It was super packed,” Bensen said. Another problem that came up was the lack of male participation. “There were more girls than guys, which made it hard to rotate. There was a line of girls just waiting to sit down with a guy. It took a really long time,” said Bensen. Bensen reports that “the funniest moments were when guys weren’t taking it seriously, when they were trying to act suave, charming or just goofy.”

Though it may come as a surprise, not everyone who goes speed dating is single. “It’s always a little awkward when you find out a guy has a girlfriend,” Bensen said. However, she stressed the importance of not taking the event too seriously. “It’s all about having fun, meeting new faces and maybe finding a common interest in the minute you have.”

Senior Jeff Lanser also attended last year’s speed dating. “I went with my friends for something to do on a Friday night,” Lanser said. However, he admitted it wasn’t exactly what he expected. “I thought it was going to be serious with people trying to find their spouses.”

Lanser’s strategy for avoiding awkwardness? “Go with your friends and sit next to them. They can bail you out.”

According to Lanser, speed dating comes with its fair share of awkward moments. “Many times I would have to do all the talking and then I’d get one word answers in return. I’d be looking at the clock every few seconds.”

To help ease some of the tension, SAC provided games and questions. “They made it fast . . . for people who were there to be serious,” said Lanser. Lanser’s strategy for avoiding awkwardness? “Go with your friends and sit next to them. They can bail you out.”

This seasoned speed dater also offered some other advice. “Try to remember people’s names. Go with questions planned, and watch out for the desperate, single seniors. They’re on the prowl.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPEED DATING LOS ANGELES
STAFF WRITER

SHELBY VANDER MOLEN

Give your opinion and get over it

As a student, do you get peeved when your professors require you to make insightful comments as part of your participation grade?

Does it annoy you when they make you cite your sources instead of just pulling claims out of thin air?

Life as a student is rough with homework, balancing schedules and paying tuition, not to mention enduring our wizened professors. But what about the profs? Don’t kid yourself into thinking students can’t be freakishly annoying, too.

For mathematics professor Dr. Kim Jongerius, her biggest annoyance is sloppy homework. She said that since mathematical symbols take a lot of time to insert on a computer, she allows students to turn in written homework. Unfortunately “some students don’t seem to mind making me take a lot of extra time to decipher their work.” She said it’s such a hassle that “one messy paper in a stack of 20 or 30 can put me in a bad frame of mind for the whole time I’m grading that stack.”

Though she, too, understands that procrastination is bound to happen at times, in her time as a student she made a point never to let her own procrastination “lead to a messy result that added to someone else’s workload.” Now as a professional, she has reaped the benefits of establishing the habit. To all you messy math students, Jongerius advised, “If it’s worth doing, it’s worth rewriting so that the result looks good.”

For professor Karen Bohm Barker, class. Advice to all you theatre students: learn the art of punctuality. To students everywhere, where have your writing skills gone? For Dr. Michael Kensak, his greatest pet peeve is trying to deal with students who have been strongly influenced by the age of technology. “Today, texting and e-mail have turned mechanical writing informal, and that has driven an informality in student writing,” he said. About a decade ago, apostrophes began “vanishing from places they should be and surfaces in places they should not. Over the last few years, question marks have followed the apostrophe and the dodo on the road to extinction,” said Kensak.

He said that while he can swallow the misuse of the apostrophe only because it was invented in the 17th century based on a mistaken interpretation of Old English, he cannot so easily accept having to constantly insert question marks in interrogatory sentences.

In the history department, Dr. Michael Kugler is most irritated by students who go to a liberal arts college like Northwestern and don’t expect to have to read a fair amount for his classes. Besides also being annoyed at students because he can’t teach from a bathing pool, he puzzles over how students will come to class only to do homework for another class.

He said, “Do they think that even when I notice that they are not paying attention—and I do—that I’ll still give them credit for their physical presence?” So to students all over campus, don’t whine about reading and don’t do other homework in class. Professors don’t like it. And if you should happen to do so, consider bringing your pet to class and they may not get so annoyed. At least in Dr. Kugler’s classroom, that is.

What did you really do on Wednesday?

STAFF WRITER

HOLLY STEWART

Students took advantage of Wednesday’s Day of Learning in Community (DLC) – even if it wasn’t in the manner Northwestern was hoping.

There are many reasons to look forward to the annual event, whether it’s for extra chapel credits given at each keynote address, attending the sessions to learn more about balancing our faith in the world or even catching a few extra “zzzs.”

Some students chose to attend one or two of the day’s activities and spent the rest of the day catching up on other pressing issues. While NW faculty firmly encourage students to attend sessions and some professors assign written activities based on sessions most students have the option to use the day as a learning experience or a resting experience—both of which are valuable to students.

“Since I knew I didn’t have any scheduled classes on Wednesday, and neither did any of my friends, I decided that staying up until 4:30 a.m. sounded fun,” said senior Ashley Larson. Tuesday night she was being offered, but this year the Day of Learning snuck up on me, and I didn’t get the chance to plan very well.” Larson has been attending Day of Learning activities since her freshman year and, along with many other students on campus, thinks that it is beneficial for students.

Some students in West Hall deemed it Day Off Learning and spent the day playing video games, catching up on sleep or spending quality time in with their friends. “I didn’t think there were enough controversial topics to make it interesting,” junior Joel Koster claimed. “Plus, I’m a computer science major and there were not any sessions geared toward us.” Because of this, Koster used his free time to get ahead on – or catch up on – his homework assignments.

Some students were thankful for the opportunities for which DLC was intended. “I got so many chapel credits,” beamed sophomore Becca Reints. “I enjoyed all the sessions I went to. It’s fun to learn about things you’re not going to be tested over,” sophomore Elisa Banninga stated. “The media fast in Steggy encouraged me to find different ways to spend my free time, too.”

After admitting to attending the keynote sessions solely for the chapel credit, sophomore Nathan Mastbergen said, “I went to seminars that I felt would help me learn things that are applicable to what I am trying to learn here at Northwestern. I feel like some of these seminars are great opportunities to learn something you maybe wouldn’t in your regular classes.”

Sophomore Nate Johnston used the day partially as intended and partially for himself. “I went to Bibeck Karki’s seminar about diversity in the workplace. I really enjoyed that seminar.” After this session, however, Johnston headed downtown to spend time with friends at the Old Factory Coffee Shop.

The question is, if professors didn’t require their students to attend sessions, would DLC still be as successful as it appears to be?
Grammys don’t got Bieber Fever

BY KATHY HENG

Hell hath no fury like a Bieber fan scorned. Nor does hell know how to pour and throw an online hissy fit so well.

In case you missed the results of this year’s Grammy awards, jazz artist Esperanza Spalding won the award for Best New Artist, beating out Justin Bieber, Drake, Florence & The Machine and Mumford & Sons.

Many students at NW may have cocked their heads to the side and asked “Esperanza who?” I had to stop and wonder: when did she become famous?

I first heard of Spalding a couple of summers ago when I went to the Twin Cities Jazz Festival and saw her perform live. I have to admit, her music is undoubtedly unique. It showcases her feminine voice that sounds like Billie Holiday whispering softly in French, and is backed up by a bass that does not encourage her audience to hum along, or even follow the song too closely.

Spalding gave her concert on a stage set up in a park somewhere in downtown St. Paul, collected no stage set up in a park somewhere and at 8 p.m. it was still running. Her band members were being nominated for the same award! We might as well have a contest choosing a winner between Skittles and watches.

The Grammys should give their viewers a clearer explanation of the qualifications for Best New Artist. Are they basing their choice on who gets the biggest bag of cash at the end of the day or the most prestigious shows? On who has the most willing-to-kill-their-bff-just-to-get-a-date-with-him fans or supporters in the White House? On who is newly respected in the world of jazz or newly born into the world?

Perhaps the Grammys have reached the point where Esperanza Spalding is a better artist than Justin Bieber in the same way that “The King’s Speech” is a better movie than “Toy Story 3.” If this is true, it would be nice to know.

Unique presentation brings life to unbound pages

BY AARON BAUER

Michael Carson had been on the run for 22 years, venturing through Europe and India in an effort to avoid prison. His sister, author Anne Carson, hardly heard from him in all those years, save for various postcards, a handful of phone calls, and a single letter. It should come as no surprise that it took two weeks for Michael’s widow to find a phone number for Anne, at which time she finally learned of her brother’s death.

Anne headed to Copenhagen to meet Michael’s widow, gather some of his things, and collect her thoughts. Carson then reproduced her journal: mourning his death, it compiled a book of nearly 200 pages containing photographs, typographical scraps, and letters as a sort of elegy for Michael, titling it “Nox,” the Latin word for “night.” Opening the ash-colored box that holds the “book,” you soon realize it is made up of a single accordioned page, creating a brilliant flow in the story.

The story begins with the Latin poem “Catullus 101” which was, by no coincidence, written as an elegy to his brother. On most left-side pages, Carson defines each word from the poem. It is incredible how many different ways Catullus’s work can be interpreted, but it ends with arguably his most famous words, “Ave atque vale,” or “Hail and farewell.” Carson gives a full translation near the end of the book, and it is a fantastic heartfelt prayer to a brother so far gone.

One of the most impressive characteristics of “Nox” is Carson’s incorporation of history as discussed by the Greek writer Herodotos, who believes history is “by far the strangest thing that humans do…For often it produces no clear or helpful account.” Carson expounds on this by explaining our satisfaction with unclear answers to our questions, including silence. On this topic, she writes her favorite line in the book, “Note that the word ‘mute’ is regarded by linguists as an onomatopoeic formation referring not to silence but to a fundamental opacity of human being, which likes to show the truth by allowing it to be seen hiding.” With this, Carson brings Herodotos’s ancient definitions of a historian to life beautifully telling the lack of a story in her brother’s personal life.

Carson tells us of her brother in simple terms, never going into much detail (a couple pages at best) on their lives together prior to 1978. What is most interesting is the fact that he is never described as an especially wonderful man. Carson writes of how he was madly in love with a girl and heartbroken when she died, but this is about the most redeeming quality she gives of him. Even their conversation after the death of their mother lacked depth and substance.

Out of curiosity, I carefully spread this entire book out on the floor when I read it through the second time. It felt like something that should be on display in a museum, something that you would pass on to your grandchildren, or something that should have only been one original copy. Reading through the story was a comfortable invasion into the lack of relationship between Anne and her brother; at times I felt like I should back away and stop asking questions, but in a bizarre way it was as if I was the one person who needed to hear this story in order for Anne to finally be at peace.

Carson states in the beginning of the book, “I wanted to tell my elegy with light of all kinds. But death makes us stingy.” This statement makes sense of the ash-colored cover, aged letters, fragmented photos and ripped pages inside. An elegy does not need to be light to be redemptive, freeing and beautiful; it needs only to truly encompass the life of the deceased, and Anne Carson brings the life of her brother to the page perfectly.
In her newest book, “Unbroken,” Laura Hillenbrand (“Seabiscuit”) follows the real-life story of Louis Zamperini, Louie for short. The biography traces his years growing up, his experiences in World War II and his attempt at piecing together a life afterwards. Louie Zamperini is a troublemaker. He grows up in an Italian family in Torrence, California, the neighborhood snitch. His parents are distraught about what to do with their taxing son when Louie’s brother, Pete, encourages Louie to join the cross country team. Running saves Louie: no longer a menace, he trains to become an Olympic track athlete.

After competing in the 1936 Olympics, Louie is drafted for the Second World War. He joins the United States Air Force and begins to train. There are a few close calls, but it isn’t until 1943 that Louie crosses real danger. The “Green Hornet,” the plane in which Louie is flying, crashes in the Pacific Ocean. Several men die instantly, but Louie and two of his friends, Phil and Mac, miraculously survive the plane’s crash. Marooned on a life raft for three weeks after the crash that they spot land. After being given food and shelter, the men’s lives take a turn for the worse when they realize they’ve been captured by Japanese military in the Marshall Islands as prisoners of war.

From this point forward, the men wish they could go back to life marooned in a raft in the Pacific. They get transferred to camp after camp, each more awful than the previous one. The worst of these is in Omori, where the head of the camp is infamous for his brutality. And “the Bird,” as he is nicknamed, picks out Louie as his target victim. He beats him day after day, often flogging him in the head with a belt, stick or baseball bat. The Bird has Louie perform demoralizing work, such as cleaning a pigsty with only his hands. This is lowest point in Louie’s life, and he cannot erase the torture on his body, dignity, or identity.

When America A-bombs Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the torture finally subsides. Louie and his fellow prisoners of war are sent back to America where they slowly recover. But sadly this is not the end of Louie’s story. He is haunted with dreams and visions of the Bird following him everywhere, beating him viciously. He marries a woman after knowing her for only weeks, becomes an alcoholic and plots to hunt down the Bird and murder him. His wife has a baby, and he does not change; she threatens to divorce him.

At the point where it seems Louie cannot be saved, he goes to hear the Reverend Billy Graham speak. Although he is reluctant at first about the idea, his life makes a complete turnaround after hearing the speaker. Louie becomes a Christian and is able to recope from the psychological damage of his war experiences.

Hillenbrand has a way of crafting this intimate biography so that the reader is in the story, not simply a disinterested bystander. She shows the helpless suffering of an innocent man, breaks the heart of the reader, and demonstrates redemption through it all. Even though the story has a happy ending, the book is certainly not all flowers. Hillenbrand doesn’t leave anything out; she relays the gritty, unsavory details of a life unknown to many people—from severe hunger to savage beatings.

If you’re willing to take the time to brave 400 pages of brutal war-time reality, “Unbroken” is a fulfilling read. Hillenbrand’s subject and writing change the reader’s perspective on hardship in spectacular ways.

Louie Zamperini was an Olympic runner and a World War II survivor. “Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption,” is the third book dedicated to his life story.

Civil Wars release record made to help coffee go down smooth

By Lisa Walters

Jan. 31 was just as exciting as Christmas Eve for any fans of the folk acoustic band, The Civil Wars. It marked the day before the release of their first full-length album “Barton Hollow.”

It was a year ago that I was first exposed to the music of The Civil Wars, an intriguing blend of passionate acoustic sound and soothing harmonies. Shortly after having their signature song, “Poison & Wine” featured on Grey’s Anatomy. The Civil Wars began receiving recognition. They were selected as an iTunes “Best of 2010” singer/songwriter album and were also named Paste Magazine’s “Best of What’s Next.”

This past fall, I was able to see The Civil Wars perform twice (first in Atlanta, then a month later in Nashville). It isn’t very often that a band can claim they are “better live,” but that is completely the case with The Civil Wars. I was blown away by their stage presence and lively sound, which was nothing like their “Live at Eddie’s Attic” album. Perhaps that is because “Eddie’s Attic,” which has been downloaded by over 100,000 people, was only their second performance together, ever.

I also had the opportunity to meet the duo when I was down in Atlanta. Joy Williams, once a contemporary Christian artist, and John Paul White, once a solo indie artist, created an all-together amazing musical experience. They are fun to be around, and they create a great environment at their shows. The duo has just as much chemistry off stage as they do on stage, and that definitely shines through their music.

The duo’s first full-length album “Barton Hollow” was released on the first of February, and within the first day became the No. 1 album on iTunes and Amazon.com. “Barton Hollow” has a simple, beautiful aesthetic. In general, its sound is reminiscent of Robert Plant and Allison Krauss’ collaborative album, “Raising Sand.” Even so, each song offers something unique to the album on the whole—for instance, a cover of the Jackson 5 song, “I Want You Back.”

This is one musical duo you definitely want to keep your eye on. “Barton Hollow” is still on the top 20 album list on iTunes, and also debuted at No. 12 on the Billboard charts, a place its held relatively close to since its early February release.

I was one of the many who were counting down, and waiting with excitement on the 31st of January, and I must say that I definitely was not disappointed. I had such high hopes for this album, and they managed to exceed even my highest expectations.

I would highly recommend purchasing “Barton Hollow,” and their EP “Poison & Wine,” as well. If you just want to get your feet wet, however, they still have their “Live at Eddie’s Attic” album available for free on their website, as well as a free download of their new single, “Barton Hollow,” the title track of the album.

Check Out

Music: Radiohead’s “The King of Limbs”

Best in the world? Many think so. And this Saturday, you’ll be able to download their latest if you pre-order the physical release online.

Music: PJ Harvey’s “Let England Shake”

The shrieky-voiced singer has received unanimous critical praise for this, her delicately lyrical anti-war record made over three years.
The basics of your wardrobe

BY GRETA FLOODING
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Someone once said that an outfit needs to be constructed. I don’t remember who said that but whatever, that’s not important. What matters is that they were right. Putting together an outfit is like a project. You begin with the basics. I realized just how important those basics were when I was standing with my mother in her room trying to help her find an outfit for New Year’s. It was going to be a casual affair, hor dourves, dinner and some sort of adult entertainment (and I mean that in a Uno or Scene It kind of way).

So what to wear? My mom was, until recently, under the impression that jeans were so casual one could wear them while exercising. They certainly weren’t something you go to a party in, which brings me to my first basic dress jeans. Denim jeans of the darker variety (dark is slimming and versatile) without whiskers, stone washing or too much embroidery on the pockets.

Just as important is the fit. And with jeans, it’s all about the lines. Lengthen legs with a good inseam, with jeans, it’s all about the lines. Lengthen legs with a good inseam, with jeans, it’s all about the lines. Lengthen legs with a good inseam, with jeans, it’s all about the lines. Lengthen legs with a good inseam, with jeans, it’s all about the lines. Lengthen legs with a good inseam, with jeans, it’s all about the lines. Lengthen legs with a good inseam, with jeans, it’s all about the lines. Lengthen legs with a good inseam, with jeans, it’s all about the lines. Lengthen legs with a good inseam, with jeans, it’s all about the lines. Lengthen legs with a good inseam, with jeans, it’s all about the lines. Lengthen legs with a good inseam, with jeans, it’s all about the lines.

In my mom’s case she pulled out a pair of riding boots from the ’70s, and they were brilliant. A few don’t: hooker boots from the ’90s—never okay. Skinny pleather? Nuh huh, and heels that are above three inches on your destы. You never know. The reason you never know is that the other person playing controls everything else. Literally everything else.

Here’s how it works: the player controlling Everything Else sets up a scene. This guy’s name from now on is Nick. The game’s simple graphics and tile-based construction allow you to quickly build fairly detailed set pieces, complete with background, scenery, buildings and other characters.

A lot of these pieces are already put together, such as trees, doors or people, and anything you create is saved and can be accessed later in the game. This allows you to quickly react and rebuild the setting as necessary, as the player’s interaction with it will, no doubt, mess everything up. Nick’s got a story in mind that he wants to tell, and he sets things up accordingly. It’ll be a crime drama that starts in an office building. A scene is built. Nick’s the One Person player’s turn, henceforth to be referred to as Douglas. Douglas sees everything that Nick has put together, and has thirty seconds to take in his surroundings, move his avatar around, and either say something (presumably to another character) or to make a verb. That’s a weird sentence.

The way verbing works is that it’s simply a speech bubble with an arrow attached, to indicate what it is you want to verb. Pick up, inspect, punch, lick… whatever. Any action you can manage to get from brain to keyboard, you can “do.” So Douglas does a thing, and then it’s back to Nick. Now, Nick is back in control of everything, but it’s his job to make sure that whatever Douglas tried to do actually happens.

Douglas pointed “Pick up” at a flashlight or a mug of coffee or something, then Nick can simply attach that to his avatar, and then pass the turn to Douglas again.

Douglas now exits the office and goes to make small talk with some poor confused soul in the middle of the street. Now, Nick’s job gets tricky and far more interesting when Douglas decides to do something a little more, well, extreme. Like leaving his office building and going to the zoo.

Now Nick has to build an entirely new set for the zoo. In 30 seconds. Perhaps Douglas, instead of picking up a coffee cup, instead tries to pick up the moon. One would reasonably expect this to fail, but hey, it’s up to Nick.

Anything Douglas does could start a chain of events that drastically alters the story—from talking to one character instead of another to burning down his workplace or inspiring a group of revolutionaries to take over a small, inexplicably explosive South Pacific island—as long as Nick makes it so.

This goes back and forth, with Douglas doing things and Nick responding, the 30 second time limit for turns begins to seem shorter and shorter. And then it’s gone from attaching objects to Douglas’s character to how do I even build a burning library staffed entirely by alligators.

The panic that comes with the turn length forces both players to act quickly and decisively, not letting either hem or haw about any decision. They’ve gotta work, now. For the sake of the story.

Now this is a pretty important idea, but it’s one that’s been around for Forever and-a-Half. Having one person act and the other one react is a simple improvisation exercise, as well as the premise for countless board games.

However, it’s the purity of the implementation here that makes Sleep is Death really shine. It’s no-frills creativity. A conversation between two people working together to tell a story, even if they’re trying to do completely separate things within that story.

Douglas and Nick can tell whatever story they want. Heck, they probably will end up doing something that neither of them really expected, given the back-and-forth nature of the game.

Whatever the outcome, any new objects or scenes can be uploaded to an online database so that in case anyone else ever needs quick access to a burning alligator library, the in-game search function might be able to provide them with one. This means that as time goes on, it becomes easier and easier to tell more elaborate and affecting stories about anything the players can imagine.

This two-person narrative is an incredible experience, often hilarious and absurd, but equally something real and profound. Because with a practiced manager like Nick, literally anything can happen. It’s a wonderful thing, and made entirely by one person with an impressive-as-ducks creative streak.

Between all the half-hearted cash-ins on Call of Duty’s success and all the miserably meaningless games out there, it’s reassuring to find something like Sleep is Death. It’s an inspiring experiment, bursting with hope for the medium. It’s this sort of thing that makes games worth it.
Hard work pays off for Red Raider wrestlers

BY NATASHA FERNANDO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It was another successful weekend for the Red Raider wrestlers as they competed at Briar Cliff on Saturday, Feb. 5. The sprinting, repetitions and 6 a.m. workouts have been paying off, especially for two Raiders in particular.

Two notable successes were delivered by freshman Dan Rodriguez and sophomore Aaron Ruskell, who won their first matches of the season.

“These two guys put in the work and have done something that most young men in college wrestling cannot,” said Coach Rik Dahl. “They persevered.”

Rodriguez exhibited his hard work in the consolation match with his Minnesota West opponent, whom he defeated in a 6-4 decision. For Ruskell, the win came in a tight match against Wayne State. Joining Rodriguez and Ruskell in the winner’s column were freshman J.J. Mayo, freshman Ariel Bosque, sophomore Pedro Ruiz and senior Brad Hughes.

Feb. 11 was the final GPAC duel for the Raiders. Though the men fought hard, they fell to host Midland-Lutheran 35-12.

Two Raiders picked up wins on the day by pinning their opponents. Sophomore Jerod Flores won his 149-pound match by pinning his foe in an impressive one minute, 31 seconds. Flores improved to 30-10 on the year.

Senior Luke Evjen walked away with his win in 3:23. The 184-pounder picked up his 22nd win of the season on the match.

The Raiders are looking forward to the NAIA National Qualifier on Feb. 19, held here at Northwesterns.

Track closes indoor season, looks to GPAC Championship next

BY NATASHA FERNANDO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Looking back at the indoor season, head coach Nate Wolf could not help but reflect on the dedication of his athletes.

Wolf noted that the “hallmark of this team is effort and consistency. The team has recognized that they are physically capable of competing with some of the best athletes in the conference and even nationally.” With the physical and mental demands of track, one often wonders from where the drive to keep pressing on comes.

“I like to remind them of all the work they have put in,” says Wolf, “and I think they provide most of the motivation themselves. The end of the season is where the athletes get to enjoy their hard work the most.”

This season the freshman class contributed some noteworthy results to the team. When asked how the freshman athletes adapted, Wolf said they had to “accept the ups and downs that come with their first collegiate season. We relied heavily on the underclassmen this season and they have responded well.”

As the regular indoor season comes to a close, the Raiders are looking ahead to their next endeavor: the GPAC Indoor Championships. Expectations are high, and Coach Wolf’s hopes are that the team will “compete fearlessly and with effort.” For some, the qualifying mark is just within reach and hopefully will be attained this weekend.

“For some of us, it’s our last hoohah before Nationals,” says sophomore pole-vaulter Jana Olson. “The conference meet is where we represent ourselves and all of Northwestern track by bringing it all when we compete.”

Freshman Jeriah Dunk also realizes the expectations of the conference meet. “The stakes are higher,” he says, “and it’s all go-hard-or-go-home, but in the end it’s just another track meet.”

Scoreboard

Baseball
Coming Up
Feb. 27 & 28 @ Joplin, Miss

Softball
Coming Up
Mar. 7-12 @ Tuscon, Ariz

Men’s Basketball
Coming Up
Wednesday @ DWU - L 90-87

Coming Up
Feb. 19 @ 8:30 vs. Sioux Falls

Women’s Basketball
Coming Up
Wednesday @ DWU - W 108-56

Coming Up
Feb. 19 @ 6:30 vs. Sioux Falls

Wrestling
Friday, Feb. 11 @ Midland

Coming Up
Qualifier on Feb. 19 @ 9 a.m.

Track & Field
Saturday @ Dordt Invite

GPAC Indoor on Feb. 19-20

NAIA Nationals on Mar. 3
Men’s basketball fall on last-second shot

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
SPORTS EDITOR

The No. 10 Northwestern men’s basketball team lost 88-87 to No. 23 Dakota Wesleyan on Wednesday night. Chase Walder of the Tigers drained a 30-foot-three pointer with 3.9 seconds left in regulation to pick up the win, which dropped the Raiders to 21-6 overall, and 14-3 in the conference. The benefactors of a late game trey only three weeks ago against Dordt, the Raiders were on the other side this time, mounting a late comeback that just wasn’t enough.

With 1:14 left to play, the Raiders were down 84-78. Key buckets by sophomore Ben Miller, junior Walker Seim and senior Ryan Hoogevest got the Raiders within striking distance, down 87-85. With four seconds left, senior Brent Dunkelberger capitalized on a Tiger turnover and made a floater to tie it at 87. Head Coach Kris Korver said, “[Dunkelberger] came off the bench and played really well, especially in the second half.” Despite the Raiders’ best efforts, DWU inbounded the ball to Walder, who hit the game-winner.

Many stats indicate just how close of a battle the contest was.

Senior Night approaches

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
SPORTS EDITOR

As the regular season comes to a close, the Northwestern Red Raider basketball team faces off against the University of Sioux Falls before the GPAC tournament starts on Feb. 24.

The women, ranked second nationally, will go for an undefeated conference season in the contest. Their opponents, the No. 4 squad from Sioux Falls, will provide a substantial test for the defending champs. Last time out, the hot-shooting Raiders held the lead for 25 minutes and finished with a 97-83 victory of the road.

Sioux Falls is one of the few teams in the country who can hang with coach Earl Woudstra’s group in three key categories: rebounding, points in the paint, and scoring off of the bench. The Cougars create turnovers and pound the ball inside to their post players. Expect them to target sophomore Kendra De Jong and forward Mackenzie Small scored 16 points of her own while tying her career high of 10 points coming off the bench.

There were 16 lead changes and 15 ties from the squads. Both teams shot 47 percent from the field and went 29-37 (79 percent) from the free throw line. The Raiders held a slight advantage on the glass of 35-34. Perhaps the deciding difference of the game, DWU shot an efficient 43 percent from behind the arc, and NW could only muster 27 percent on 4-15 shooting from downtown.

Korver said, “We put ourselves in a position to send this game into overtime with great execution... [Walder] misses that shot, and it is overtime; and I like our chances.” Seim’s 21 points led the Raiders, while Miller put up 18 and Hoogevest and Dunkelberger ranked up 14 of their own. Sophomore Daniel Van Kalsbeek ripped down nine boards to lead NW before fouling out. Stoppy defense haunted the Raiders, as sophomore Stu Goslinga and Seim also fouled out of the contest.

Head coach Kris Korver commented, “At the end of the day, we played hard but we did not defend the way we needed to all game long.”

Lady Raiders cruise again

BY MICHAEL SIMMELINK
SPORTS EDITOR

The Northwestern Lady Raiders dominated in Wednesday night’s game by dismissing host Dakota Wesleyan with a score 108-56. The Raiders had already clinched the conference before the start of the game, but that did not seem to stop them from coming out to quick and unselfish start. NW led for the entirety of the contest, and the team as whole recorded 32 assists.

“Thirty-two assists in the game was outstanding; I think the school record is 35. Our women are so unselfish, and the ball was really moving at different times in the head coach Earl Woudstra commented.

Senior Becca Hurley was once again the leading scorer with 27 points. She went 11-15 from the field and also dished out six assists. Junior Kami Kuhlmann contributed 16 points of her own while tying a career-high with seven assists. Freshman Mackenzie Small scored 16 points, eight rebounds and two assists.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT KELLER
Junior Val Klinke HT3 shoots a free throw as fellow junior Kami Kuhlmann looks on. The Raider picked up an easy win Wednesday night and will have one final game against Sioux Falls to prepare for the GPAC Tournament.

Tom’s picks for your NBA viewing pleasure

BY TOM WESTERHOLM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

These are my picks for the best upcoming NBA games:

1. All Star Weekend, Feb. 18-20 on TNT

Why You Should Watch: This is the biggest night in the NBA, and it’s a chance to see all the best players in the league in one place.

My Pick: Minnesota Timberwolves vs. Miami Heat

Why You Should Watch: Blake Griffin is one of the best young players in the league, and he’s got a great chance to shine in the spotlight.

My Pick: Minnesota is the closest thing Iowa has to a hometown team, so they should be supported. But don’t watch them for that reason. Watch them because Kevin Love has the longest streak of consecutive double doubles since the 82-83 NBA season.

And watch this game because of Kevin Love. Minnesota is the closest thing Iowa has to a hometown team, so they should be supported. But don’t watch them for that reason. Watch them because Kevin Love has the longest streak of consecutive double doubles since the 82-83 NBA season.

The Timberwolves’ 13 wins this season, two of them have been against the playoff-bound Hornets. But I don’t think it’ll continue...
**What’s the “major” deal? Workshop, gov’t job tool dispell career fears**

**By JEBIDIAH RACH CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

January topped cakes with candles and marked a momentous birthday celebration, as the first of about 76 million baby boomers turned 65.

According to Brent Green, an expert in generational marketing, “Around 10,000 will reach the milestone daily for the next 19 years.” This Post-World-War-II generation is looking forward to a life expectancy that is higher than that of any previous generation.

This places concerns on the U.S., most of them being monetary, as the nation has never had to deal with a aging population of this degree.

The U.Nestimates that worldwide there will be about 1.5 billion people 65 and older by the year 2050. This more than doubles the current number of 752 million. For the first time ever, people 65 and older will soon outnumber children under the age of five.

As a consequence, many people may have to delay their retirement or never fully retire in order to maintain sustainable incomes. Many industries have shied away from the older demographic group and focused on reaching the younger spenders.

With 76 million baby boomers on the road to retirement over the next two decades, a new business opportunity and target market is being unraveled, and according to the founder of the AgeLab, may “make gray the new green” for the marketplace.

Many industries have shied away from the older demographic group and focused on reaching the younger spenders.

According to Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an understanding of the target market is the key to being successful. Recently the AgeLab at M.I.T. created an Age Gain Now Empathy System. The age-gaining suit called Ages impairs vision and movement, realistically adding decades.

AgeLab, like other research centers around the country, develops technologies to help older adults maintain their health, independence and quality of life. Companies go to the M.I.T.’s AgeLab to understand what the audience they are trying to target and to have their products, mobility and autonomy to the aging generation create a multibillion-dollar market. Such innovations have to promote health and independence; postponing entry into long-term care, the potential savings to the health care system could be even greater.

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