PHOTO SUBMITTED BY NORI ODATE

Fumiko Morii, senior Jasmine Smith, sophomore Honna Brown, Risako Yajima, Sani Okada and Maki Oka hang out in the Fern lounge. The Japanese students have already experienced much in their time at Northwestern’s long-awaited English camp.

See “Students” on Page 5

BY BRIAN BRANDAU

The land of the rising sun has come to the land of the falling snow.

For the past two weeks, Northwestern has been host to an English camp for 15 Japanese high school seniors. The students came from Meiji Gakuin High School in a suburb of Tokyo called Ogawa.

The camp is a result of a long-time coordination effort between Nori Odate, a 1980 graduate of NW and English instructor at the high school, and Kevin McMahan, head of NW’s multicultural office.

“Mr. Odate talked to Kevin for four years before there were enough students interested to come,” said the coordinator of the camp Kari Beadner. “They finally decided to do it in September.”

McMahan was excited about the prospect of an

BY ALYSSA CURRIER

NEWS EDITOR

Students across campus have been preparing since last semester for Northwestern’s annual production of RUSH next week.

More than 200 students will dance in 16 different dances created and taught by 23 student choreographers. Styles range from hip-hop, jazz and gypsy to Steampunk, salsa, Romanian and some that cannot be so easily labeled.

Junior choreographer, Joel Hegeman, described his dance.

“It’s lyrical hip-hop meets robots, meets partner dancing, meets Michael Jackson, meets Chachi Gonzales, meets awesome fun,” Hegeman said.

Like Hegeman, there are many new choreographers participating in this year’s production.

“My first dance experience was RUSH last year, and I’ve been dancing as much as I can ever since,” said sophomore choreographer Tyler Gleason. “Seeing your choreography come to life within other dancers is pretty cool.”

However, not all the first-time choreographers’ love for dancing has translated into a love for putting a dance together and teaching it to others.

“As RUSH draws closer, I will be dropping in on the dances, making sure that they are on track and reporting things back to the stage manager and student producers,” Amundson said.

A dedicated group of student leaders in years past has contributed to RUSH becoming an anticipated event within the community that draws students, not only from NW, but from Dordt and Northwest Iowa Community College as well.

“I’m excited to be a part of a dance crew,” said Miguel Dortian, a junior at Dordt who is dancing in RUSH. “It’s something I’ve always wanted to do and I’m happy I have a chance to be in it.”

Sophomore Jessica Mars, a freshman at NCC, is also participating in RUSH.

“I’ve met a lot of new friends through RUSH,” Mars said. “I’ve really been accepted even though I don’t go to school here and it feels good.”

Students involved in RUSH choose to put school rivalry aside for the sake of artistic expression.

“The students from Dordt and NCC add a lot of personality to our group,” said junior choreographer Emily Loveland.

During the weeks leading up to RUSH, students dedicate significant amounts of time and energy to practicing. It is not uncommon for practices to go until midnight.

“Having RUSH on top of all my homework makes it difficult to have a social life,” said sophomore Kori Heidebrink.

This time commitment is a deterrent for some.

“I decided not to do RUSH this year because I really didn’t enjoy my dance this year and it just wasn’t worth the time commitment to me,” said sophomore Lauren Van’t Hof.

That doesn’t mean I won’t do it next year.”

To others, sacrificing time and sleep is a small price to pay for the experience of being in RUSH.

“The memories and the people you meet make it worth

See “RUSH” on Page 8

Students unite through show & dance

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“The memories and the people you meet make it worth
Beyond this world

BY KATI HENG

For anyone bored with rappers trying to prove their own worth or blackness or player power, for those bored with the ‘girls and money’ themes running wild through the indie-rap scene, for those buying the ‘clean’ versions of songs and still wishing they were cleaner—we proudly present Jay–Rah and his first solo release “Life Beyond Living.”

“Life Beyond Living” says our life here on earth is only a part of our life—there’s more,” said Jeriah Dunk, the sophomore at Northwestern College who has been performing and recording under the name Jay–Rah. “The album is about finding life, finding rebirth in this life through Christ; a life beyond selfish ambitions, one lived for Christ.”

As a member of another rap group from campus, Unique, Dunk has been rapping for a while, and found certain advantages a solo album can bring.

“By yourself, you have the option of making a story,” Dunk said. “You’re in every verse, so you have to bring all the energy yourself.”

Dunk began writing words, laying down beats and recording it all in the VPH recording studio last March, but he’s been building inspirations for the album his whole life.

“I had a whole lot of music growing up,” Dunk said. The gospel influence came from his home church, while instrumental and technical knowledge came from orchestra experience throughout his elementary and high school years.

Asforlyrics, Dunk writes on themes of what he’s learned growing up and still learning now. Dunk’s dedication to creating music true to the Scripture is clear.

Life Beyond Living’ explores the meaning of a new life, granted in Christ.

whether listening to his album or talking to him in person.

“I check myself before I check the mic,” Dunk said. “If you put ‘rap music’ in front of Christian music, it’s not going to work.”

But unlike so many of the Christian rappers around, Jay–Rah has some terrific beats, splices from friends like Soul Sista and Big Nash and instrumental sections backing up his stuff.

It’s not just simple rhythms holding the tempo for his words—the instrumentals, all written by Dunk himself, sound so intimately familiar, it almost sounds like Dunk has been stealing lines from Mozart, or some other composer you recognize but can’t quite pick up, to get his sound.

Combine that with his crisp, youthful voice, “Life Beyond Living” isn’t just a great Christian-rap album; it’s a great album in every sense of the word.

Yeah, it gets bogged down at times with stretches of preaching, but almost every rap-album has that long, spoken bridge, and since it’s there, it’s refreshing to hear a rapper talk about something other than his own creed.

Finishing this album doesn’t mean Dunk is going to be slowing down anytime soon. After putting his album up for sale on iTunes, Dunk plans on spending more time in the recording studio and with Unique.

Make sure to check out the album “Life Beyond Living,” available on iTunes.

Life Beyond Living

ALBUM REVIEW

BY MATT LATCHAW

The Big Pink is what pop music could be.

Their latest album, “Future This,” stands out with upbeat and catchy choruses, and while the band sticks to the basics of pop structure, remains unafraid to break away from the barriers of popular music.

Those who aren’t familiar with The Big Pink may have heard their older song “Dominos” sampled in Nicki Minaj’s hit “Girls Fall Like Dominos.”

The sound is a wonderful amalgamation of Band of Horses-style vocals, MB3-level explosions of synth sound, The Flaming Lips-like weirdness, and even house beats that channel Daft Punk’s danceable rhythms.

The Big Pink distinguishes itself from bands like Talk Talk, or Duran Duran with their massive production value and additions of grunge-like power. Noisy, overpowering walls of distortion from the pair’s guitars and synthesizers fill in and carry the sound in powerful roars.

The album does come with its pitfalls, such as a weakness in lyrical strength. However, “Future This” takes a turn for the better as simple anthems at the beginning of the album give way to more contemplative songs like “Future This” and “???”

Nada Surf reminisces on youth

ALBUM REVIEW

BY LYRIC MORRIS

It’s hard to imagine anything typical sprouting from a dreadlock-sporting, MTV performing group of 45-year-olds, and yet, Nada Surf’s most recent release “The Stars are Indifferent to Astronomy” has proven to be a typical piece of work to add to the band’s discography.

While advancing years have not dulled their passion, Nada Surf has run their race. And they realize this. “Stars” is a refreshingly sentimental reflection on the band’s glory days and timeline of the band’s story as a whole. Tracks such as “When I Was Young” and “Teenage Dreams” speak about the band’s memories of 90’s MTV appearances and concerts alongside big names like Death Cab For Cutie.

When it comes to the music, past fans will be comforted to hear the same fast-paced drumming, layered vocals and predictably 90’s rock styled guitar riffs that Nada Surf seems to have perfected over the course of their previous six albums. Those who are more interested in stimulating melodies, however, will need to look somewhere else.

The album’s lyrics have reached an new level of sophistication for the group. Nada Surf is best known for their 1996 hit “Popular,” which quotes, “I’m popular, I’m never last picked/I got a cheerleader chick”—catchy, but meaningless.

While many songs on “Stars” stick to Nada Surf’s tried and true themes of love, heartache and angst, they do seem to be widening their horizons with thought provoking lines addressing environmental issues, the meaning of human existence and the band’s future.

The album raises several questions regarding the future of the group—is this the final “hoorah” of a 20 year-long musical career? Whether or not Nada Surf answers these questions just yet, their fans have been left with another solid album to record the legacy that is Nada Surf.
Stained glass shines in Te Paske Gallery

BY BRITTANY LEIKVOLL

Although stained glass is often immediately connected with lavish cathedral-style churches and other places of worship, three local artists are working to make an impact in the industry by viewing this medium as an art form for all occasions. The show includes in-progress design templates as well as finished works that highlight the tedious and detailed process from coming up with a concept to producing the final work. This is not just the typical art exhibit.

The works are stunning on their own, but come to life when illuminated from the inside out. The gallery becomes no longer a place of display, but is completely transformed into an active, living space.

Mark Bogenrief, along with his wife Jeanne, are self-taught and have been in the trade for about 30 years. Gifted with the ability to transform hundreds and sometimes thousands of individual pieces of glass into flawless works of art, the couple run Bogenrief Studios located in Sutherland.

One of their pieces, entitled “The Jungle,” containing over 20,000 pieces of individual glass and measuring ten by twelve feet, took three years of devotion to complete.

Their work attracts some high profile individuals. For instance, “The Jungle” currently resides in the home of film maker Tyler Perry. Bogenrief is also known for his series of art nouveau inspired “Lady” windows. Bruce Medema has been in the stained glass business for 14 years, and is a freelance glass painter with his self-established Medema Glass Works in Inwood.

After graduating from Dordt College, Medema spent a decade apprenticing at Conrad Schmitt Studios in Berlin, Wis. There, he discovered the art of painting glass, using a technique common in the 19th century, in which firing makes the paint fuse and become one with the glass itself.

He continues to work with this approach today, believing that these glass works can bring beauty not only to traditional settings but to individuals and communities as a whole.

Lauren Ochsner has been familiar with the stained glass art form for 25 years, and along with his wife, Barb, operate Golden Prairie Art in Maurice. He has a gift for creating dome designs, often used for chandeliers and other unique glasswork requests.

His work can be seen not only in the gallery, but also in several local churches throughout the area.

The Regional Stained Glass Exhibition will be on display in the Te Paske Gallery until Feb. 17.

Markie-Mark shoots and scores once again

MOVIE REVIEW

BY JEFFREY HUBERS

Mark Wahlberg, known for his multi-faceted roles and emotional acting range, is great for awhile, before time runs out on his debt that has his family’s smuggling in order to pay “cleaned-up” act on hold, although Wahlberg returns to the world of smuggling in order to pay the debt that has his family’s lives on the line.

“Contraband” is the classic action-packed race to get the job done before the bad guys, or in this case, the worse guys, harm Wahlberg’s family.

Markie Mark uses all his signature moves to play this concerned “family man” bad boy: foul temper, foul language and a carefree attitude that says, “I don’t really care what you think… I’m still going to punch you in the face.”

As far as action movies have gone, “Contraband” is no “Mission Impossible 4”, but it gets the job done, just like Wahlberg’s world-class smuggling skills.

The movie has plenty of gunfights, explosions and criminal intrigue to fill a Friday night, and it entertainingly tries to give smuggling an “Ocean’s 11” kind of appeal.

“Contraband” features some great actors like Ben Foster, Giovanni Ribisi and Kate Beckinsale, who add spice to the criminal world.

The plot is not complex, but it does give the viewer an interesting story. Think of it as a “how-to” on smuggling, with the sum being a “get rich or get busted” scenario, and it almost makes the film educational.

The movie’s fast pace, with the clock ticking on Wahlberg as he rushes to complete the smuggling job before time runs out on his family, is great for awhile, but by the end, leaves viewers wondering, “How did we get here again?”

Overall, the ocean tanker’s worth of action, crude humor and violence combined with Wahlberg’s classic “tough guy” character make “Contraband” worth checking out for any action fan who can take some serious elements.

Rating: ★★★

It’s not ‘Incredible’

MOVIE REVIEW

BY KAMERON TOEWS

“Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close” has been nominated for a 2012 Academy Award as Best Picture, a surprising compliment based on the film’s lackluster flow.

The film follows a young boy, Oskar Schell (Thomas Horn) after his father (Tom Hanks) dies in a World Trade tower on what Oskar calls “The Worst Day,” leaving him with his mother (Sandra Bullock). Dealing with such a tragedy cannot be easy on anyone, but it hits Oskar especially hard, wreaking havoc on his relationship with his mother.

Oskar scours New York City in search of one mysterious person who might be able to provide him with a link to his father. The people he meets along the journey mold young Oskar into a hardened, and enlightened man through a number of tearful scenes.

This may seem to be just another September 11 movie coming out of Hollywood, but this is not the case. The film uses 9/11 as a backdrop for the story, as an initiating device, while at the same time connecting an American audience back to “The Worst Day.”

Through abstract cinematography and a wonderful performance from young Horn, the film explores the confusion of contradictions, such as how can a family, broken from the death of a father, make sense of the struggle. Oskar attempts to make order from the chaos and his findings are astonishing.

Although the movie has an enticing title, it lands short of cinematic excellence. Had it taken a deeper look into character relationships and filled in the bounty of story holes, this film would see thumbs raised a little higher.
Northwestern graduate running across Iowa

BY KATI HENG

At about 9:15 a.m., after an hour of running, Jim Ellis realized his water, the only clean, bottled water he would see for miles, had frozen.

Hitching a ride with a trucker traveling the same road and calling his friend to ask for fresh water, Ellis found a few minutes of relief in the warm vehicle. Jim explained what he was doing running with a stroller packed to the tipping point, and it was a comfortable break from the 20 mph headwinds he faced as he made the 34.1 mile trek from Kingsley to Orange City this past Monday.

"It was fun," Ellis said with a laugh. Since completing his first marathon in high school in a futile attempt to impress a girl, a 2006 Northwestern graduate Jim Ellis knew he had a passion for running long distances. "So far, the longest I've run has been 61.05 miles," Ellis said, "but I'll be running 68 miles from Grinnell to Iowa City later this year."

Ellis is devoting his year to running 1,500 miles across Iowa, stopping each week in different towns to speak at churches, schools and colleges such as NW in a journey called 'Awake My Sole.'

Jim Ellis arrives in Orange City after running 34.1 miles from Kingsley. Jim’s advice for those wanting to run in the winter? “Don’t.”

Ellis said, "but I'll be running for running long distances. NorthWestern graduate Jim Ellis says that he did his job just to pay for a house. I'm hoping to encourage people to use what they are passionate about.

"Running this journey has taught me about the connection of spiritual life to the race of life," Ellis said. "We begin, we run the race, we finish. Not only do I want to run well physically, I want to run well in everything I do—in my relationships, in my career, in my spiritual life—everything."

Ellis was quick to point out that 'Awake My Sole' is less about his run and more about the stops along the way.

"I don't think it matters that I ran across Iowa if I did it just for the sake of running across Iowa," Ellis said. "I'm not trying to get people to quit college or leave their jobs and go run around Iowa, but I'm hoping that I will make them start thinking about whether or not how they are living is meaningful and has a purpose. It's not about 'skipping town,' running away—it's like running in the winter—you have to keep going, even when the wind is blowing in your face and it's zero degrees out and you'd rather be at home. It's all about finishing the race."

Of course, Ellis' trip would have been impossible without some help. Even though he is running alone on all but a few miles, Ellis is supported the whole way. "I'm using other people's talents and passions during this trip—for instance, Mark [Alsum] loves to make these graphic t-shirts, so he's making shirts for 'Awake My Sole,'" Ellis said. "Another guy is great with social-networking, so he's doing all that for me."

And in places like Sanborn, where Ellis is heading next, he's got a host-family to stay with and places to speak despite not knowing a single person from the town.

There are struggles along the way—water bottles freezing, muscles tiring, mental obstacles necessary to convince the body to run 30 miles at a time, but for Ellis, the pain is worth it.

"I got a couple mantras that keep me going, such as 'I run because I love to run, not because I have to,' and 'One step at a time,'" Ellis said. "One of the reasons I love running is just seeing how far I can push myself, and when I can do something good with running, it's even better."


Barker brings back art of storytelling

BY KATE WALLIN

Speak with any number of students on campus about worship in the Church and you’ll undoubtedly hear that something is missing.

What does Jeff Barker, professor of theater, believe is missing? Story.

Barker's most recently published project is "The Storytelling Church," a full length book.

It's a collection of stories illuminating Barker's own storytelling journey and the need for story in the midst of modern worship.

"The Storytelling Church" is about telling family stories. Barker said, "Stories about who we are and whose we are. From the moment God created people, he's been revealing himself saying, 'Here I am,' inviting us to be a part of his story in the world. I see the church as the family Jesus instituted when he said, 'God is my Father, you are my brothers and sisters.'"

Barker has been telling these family stories as a professor of theater and speech at NW for over twenty years. Most recently, over winter break, nine NW students toured his play "Iowa Ethiopia" in Ethiopia. It tells the story of local missionary nurse Arlene Schuiteman. Her story is one such example of the power in a storytelling church.

"People tend to forget easily," Barker said. "God has given us the gift of tools for memory. One of the most blessed tools is the gift of storytelling."

The stories Barker refers to come from a patchwork of sources: the ancient Hebrew Scriptures, the life of Christ, thousands of years of church tradition and the people sitting next to you in the pews today.

"God makes things happen in our lives so we can tell others the story," Barker said. "God blesses us so we will tell someone. The end game is the story, not the blessing. The story is the point and any story that's a good story can be revisited. There's a kind of thrill in being able to go back over a story and say, 'I was there.'"
Students experience cold, college and pizza

FROM PAGE 1

English camp for Japanese students, but knew his office wouldn’t be able to handle the additional workload of organizing and putting on the camp. Dean of Students John Brogan then approached Beadner, whose husband Aaron started as the head of Student Activities this semester, to ask if she would be willing to take on the responsibility.

Beadner was particularly well-suited for the job. She spent three years planting churches in Japan, where she learned a bit about Japanese language and culture.

Furthermore, as a new member of the NW community, she felt that running the camp confirmed her family’s choice to move to Orange City and would give her an opportunity to get to know faculty, staff and students better.

During their two weeks here, students have had many opportunities to engage American culture and improve their English. Each day, the students have a two hour class on American culture and a two hour Oral English class. In between that time, students work with five NW students who volunteered to be tutors.

Sophomore Sarah Shapiro is one of those tutors. She recalled an amusing anecdote from her time eating lunch with the Japanese students.

“I pointed out this pizza (and said) ‘Here’s taco pizza,’” Shapiro said.

Hayato Mori, one of the students, recalled his initial confusion at Shapiro’s identification.


Risako Yajima had her own problems with the food.

“I don’t like the food here. It makes me fatter,” she said. “I want to stay here longer, except I miss Japanese food. Other than that, I could stay here forever.”

The students have had the chance to see more than just Cafe food in their introduction to American culture. So far, the group of students has visited classes on campus, the Vogel Paint plant, the Blue Bunny Ice Cream Parlor in Le Mars, a basketball game and several activities at American Reformed Church. They even got to visit Minneapolis.

Many of the Japanese students enjoyed getting to know more about the religious aspect of American culture. Meiji Gakuin is a private Christian high school that teaches the faith openly.

“Students learn about Christianity and the teachings of Christ in the classroom,” Beadner said. “But Japanese culture is so closely tied to traditional religions like Shintoism and Buddhism . . . it’s a long road for Japanese students to become Christians.”

Of the 15 students on the trip, only two of them are professing Christians. One of them is Ayane Kyo, an ethnic Korean who was born in Japan.

“How about (American) religion is very interesting,” Kyo said. “American churches are very big and very luxurious.”

Fumiko Mori found American religious culture to be very diverse after visiting St. Paul’s Cathedral in Minneapolis.

“There are many varieties of people,” Mori said. “Young people through old people. There are a lot of kinds of Christians.”

The students have also had to come to terms with one less pleasant aspect of Iowa. “It’s very, very cold,” Rikuto Nagai said. Many other students shared his discomfort at the frigid temperatures, comparing them to Japan’s much milder wintertime climate.

“I worry about snow,” Morii said. She has good reason to worry. On the way back from Minneapolis, one van full of students slipped on the ice and slid forty feet off the road into a ditch. Fortunately, no one was harmed.

During their visit, the girls have stayed on campus in Hospers Hall while the boys have been split between host homes in Sioux Center and Orange City. All the students were very happy with the hospitality shown by their hosts.

“Americans are very kind to us,” Yajima said. “They do not know us but they always say to us, ‘Hi.’”

“I think she meant octopus pizza.”

- Hayato Mori, Japanese student

“’Taco’ means ‘octopus.’ I thought she meant octopus pizza.”

PHOTO BY NATE JOHNSTON

Visiting Japanese students practice English during class about American culture in the Franken Center.
I was wrong about Tim Tebow

**ETHAN RASBY**

I am a political junkie. I grew up in a household where the nightly news was on frequently, and my father enjoyed watching political news stations. Whether good or bad, I take after him. I get excited for debates; I enjoy volunteering for campaigns; and I even take those annoying polls over the phone.

Even though the candidates, phone calls, flyers in the mail and commercials got really annoying, I decided to attend the Iowa caucus.

Before this caucus I had not been to one since my mom and dad took me when I was young, I do not remember much from that caucus though. This most likely is because I was too young to care and had a Gameboy Advance to keep me occupied.

While this was true then, I am now more interested in politics and was intrigued to see how the Iowa caucus works. It is not often when Iowa, a small Midwestern state, gets the chance to lead the nation and take center stage.

While it is true that since 1972 only three non-incumbent candidates who won the Iowa caucus have gone on to win the presidency, no candidate who has finished worse than fourth place in Iowa has won the Democratic or Republican nomination.

As we know now, this will again be true. Only the top four finishers in the Iowa caucus are left in the race for the Republican nomination.

This shows that Iowa caucus voters truly have a say in narrowing down the nation’s choice of candidates and do make a difference, whether good or bad.

Keeping in mind how important the Iowa caucus is, I headed to East High School in Sioux City to caucus with my mom.

Upon arrival we waited in a long line to be checked in. When checked in we headed into the auditorium to await the start. One representative from each campaign was allowed to speak on their candidate’s behalf.

In the end, the majority of the votes in our precinct went to Rick Santorum. Santorum also ended up winning the Iowa caucus by less than fifty votes, which is quite amazing considering more than 120,000 voters showed up to the polls. Reflecting back, I learned something valuable. We can make a difference.

If only a few more supporters had showed up to vote for Mitt Romney, who knows what would have happened.

Before, I did not believe my vote mattered. Now, I may be naive, but I believe my vote makes a difference, and yours does too.

Those of us who live in Iowa need to take advantage of the opportunity we have of being one of the leading political states in the country. In Iowa we are blessed to be able to meet the candidates, see their faces, and hopefully vote with confidence for who we think will lead our great nation courageously and loyally in this decade and beyond.

Iowa caucus is a unique blessing

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**Andrew Lowgren**

I can think of few organizations on campus that do less than the Student Activities Council. I don’t mean this in the lack of actual work, others have easier jobs. What the SAC does in labor and time, they make up for in effort as to bringing in events campus cares about.

Since I’ve been here, we’ve lost events like Air Band and Ballyhoo (though back under a hip, new name last year) and gained nothing. Northwestern’s Best Dance Crew. Not quite universal.

SAC creates events that their members care about, along with perhaps another 10 percent of campus. Sure, there’s something to do almost every weekend, sponsored by the SAC, but most of it is unattended and unpopular, making many of the events a waste of money.

I get that we are a small campus with a small budget, but if we can afford to purchase pullowers and sweatpants for the council members, surely we can afford to bring some real concerts, host real events and provide quality entertainment that makes students want to stay on campus on the weekend.

Campus may want only dance events all year long. Maybe everyone but me wants to go to the Club at N-dub, whether it be with full or partial awareness.

I don’t know what students want to see on campus. I don’t know what will make them stay and make campus life better and neither does the SAC. The difference is it’s not my job to. But remember, your social life matters.

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**Michael Stofener**

Tim Tebow and I were wrong. That sounds like a rather uninteresting statement doesn’t it? Well, I’ll at least speak for myself and admit I was wrong.

I was wrong in believing that God didn’t really care about the outcome of Bronco games this past season. Maybe his 316 passing yards and a winning win over my beloved Steelers did have some importance.

I was one of those who was caught up in being annoyed with the Tebow that was talked about everyday on ESPN and took up so many Facebook posts, rather than remembering to pray for and support the man who was witnessing for Christ on one of the biggest stages in the world.

It wasn’t until watching and listening to the TV and radio programs called “Wretched”, hosted by Todd Friel, that I decided that I was wrong. Friel discussed the fact that if we didn’t think that God cared about the outcome of an NFL football game, then we were forgetting about God’s sovereignty.

What was I saying about God when I was saying that he most likely didn’t care about the outcome of a game? What if people are opening up a Bible or going to a local church to find out about this Jesus that Tim Tebow speaks of after victories and even defeats?

What if just one person learned about salvation through grace alone, by their faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone? Isn’t our God big enough to do that? He created a seemingly endless universe and sent his only Son to die on a cross for the sins of the entire world.

I write this having acknowledged that maybe I was wrong, and I hope that Tebow will, too. Now of course David Tosh, Conan O’Brien, and Saturday Night Live would ridicule the polarized Tebow, and Skip Bayless might be speechless, but I think Tebow should admit that God at least might have divinely intervened in the outcomes of Bronco games.

Now yes, the outcry from some heathens and even some Christians would be apalled that Tebow would say that. Remember that they hated Christ first, and because we love him, the world will hate us as well.

So remember how big our God is and remember that he can change the outcome of a game for better or for worse if he is glorified.

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**Opinion**

**Take the leap and learn abroad**

**Dana Franken**

I think every one of us has a story or two about an adventurous trip. Whether that story is filled with excitement and thrills or the frustrations of things gone horribly wrong, we can all say we have learned from it.

This is the beauty of travel. One goes in with only an idea of what is ahead or planned but this may not always happen. These experiences teach us not only about the area we are in, but also about the people we are with and about ourselves.

So what do I suggest? Keep on traveling. Keep learning about people, places and cultures.

During the past four years at Northwestern I have been blessed with the opportunity to go on choir tour to the Czech Republic, Austria and Poland; a Summer Study abroad trip to Turkey; and a Semester Study abroad program to Romania. Yet each trip I make, I realize how much I have yet to learn and how valuable each of these trips have been.

People ask me which program is better, a Summer Study abroad or semester-long program. If I had to give an answer I would have to say both, if possible, or whichever can fit into your schedule, because each program has its joys and struggles.

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**Iowa caucus is a unique blessing**

While this was true then, I am now more interested in politics and was intrigued to see how the Iowa caucus works. It is not often when Iowa, a small Midwestern state, gets the chance to lead the nation and take center stage.

While it is true that since 1972 only three non-incumbent candidates who won the Iowa caucus have gone on to win the presidency, no candidate who has finished worse than fourth place in Iowa has won the Democratic or Republican nomination.

As we know now, this will again be true. Only the top four finishers in the Iowa caucus are left in the race for the Republican nomination.

This shows that Iowa caucus voters truly have a say in narrowing down the nation’s choice of candidates and do make a difference, whether good or bad.

Keeping in mind how important the Iowa caucus is, I headed to East High School in Sioux City to caucus with my mom.

Upon arrival we waited in a long line to be checked in. When checked in we headed into the auditorium to await the start. One representative from each campaign was allowed to speak on their candidate’s behalf.

In the end, the majority of the votes in our precinct went to Rick Santorum. Santorum also ended up winning the Iowa caucus by less than fifty votes, which is quite amazing considering more than 120,000 voters showed up to the polls. Reflecting back, I learned something valuable. We can make a difference.

If only a few more supporters had showed up to vote for Mitt Romney, who knows what would have happened.

Before, I did not believe my vote mattered. Now, I may be naive, but I believe my vote makes a difference, and yours does too.

Those of us who live in Iowa need to take advantage of the opportunity we have of being one of the leading political states in the country.

In Iowa we are blessed to be able to meet the candidates, see their faces, and hopefully vote with confidence for who we think will lead our great nation courageously and loyally in this decade and beyond.

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Men’s basketball humbled in GPAC match-up

The Northwestern men’s basketball team fell to Briar Cliff Wednesday evening 82-60. Briar Cliff averaged their 30-point loss at the hands of the Raiders earlier this season, dominating the Raiders in Sioux City.

Coming into the game, NW was ranked 12th in the nation and second in the GPAC, while Briar Cliff was 14th in the nation and third in the GPAC.

“Going into the game our mentality was good,” said senior guard Walker Seim. “We were on a winning streak and playing good basketball. Going on the road in the GPAC is never easy, but we knew that going in.”

The Raiders struggled to score all night, managing just 25 points in the first half. BC swarmed NW in the post, preventing easy baskets from junior post players Stu Goslinga and Daniel Van Kalsbeek.

When the Raiders got easy shots, nothing seemed to fall. NW shot 31 percent from the field and 27 percent from behind the three point line. As a team, the Raiders managed only nine assists to 11 turnovers.

“We were out of sorts on offense,” Seim said. “But I would have to say that their size and length was able to bother us around the basket.”

Briar Cliff was scraching from the three point line, shooting 43 percent from beyond the arc. When the Raiders starters left the game, the bench made the final score look more respectable. Senior Kurt Korver dropped 10 points and junior Jacey Hoegh put in eight of his own.

But NW is making a point not to let the loss affect them mentally as the regular season has less than a month left.

“I feel like there are positives in any situation,” Seim said. “Some are harder to find than others, but the biggest thing we need to realize is that the season is not over. We still have seven GPAC games left and a good shot at winning the conference. As long as we take care of ourselves, we do not need to worry about what other teams do. We need to realize that last night is over and move on.”

On Jan. 18, NW beat Morningside at the Bultman Center 96-86. The Raiders took care of the ball, giving it up only 13 times, and were efficient from the field, shooting 49 percent.

Junior Ben Miller scored 23 points on 8-13 shooting, and junior Zack Leeper was 6-13 from the field, adding 14 points.

With the Mustangs trying to neutralize Goslinga after he exploded for 33 points in their first meeting, Van Kalsbeek picked up the scoring in the paint, scoring 13 points. Seim also added 13 points off the bench.

NW’s next game is this Saturday against Hastings.

Tip-off is at 4 p.m.

“Hastings is another quality team so we need to prepare for them as if we were playing the number one team in the nation,” Seim said.

Lady Raiders notch road win at Briar Cliff

Freshman Tim Stephens fights for position on Jan. 11 in the team’s dual against Concordia. Stephens lost his closely contested match, but the Raiders picked up a 27-19 decision on the night. The win was also the 250th victory in the program’s history.

Wrestlers pick up milestone win; send more to national tournament

The Northwestern wrestling team has been rolling of late, defeating Hastings 36-9 on Friday, Jan. 20.

Individuals winning were junior Diego Quintana (decision), freshman Ricky Ortiz (pin), senior Jostah Simburger (major decision), freshman Zach Fishman (pin), freshman Tyler Schaefer (pin), senior David Carter (major decision), freshman Tim Stephens (decision) and senior Nic Leither (major decision).

On Jan. 11, the Raiders beat Concordia 27-19, with Quintana (pin), senior Matt Dowell (decision), Schaefer (pin), Carter (decision) and Leither (pin) all winning individually.

“The Concordia dual was a big win for us,” said Fishman. “I think that it has given us confidence for these upcoming weeks, as we have two big duals against Morningside and Hastings coming up.”

Meanwhile, in a recent match against Buena Vista, both Fishman and Simburger qualified for the NAIA National Tournament, which begins in March. Simburger took first in his division, needing to be in the top six to qualify. Fishman took third, needing to be in the top eight.

“It was a good tournament overall,” Fishman said. “Simburger probably had one of the most exciting finals matches that I have seen in quite a while, coming back from a 9-2 deficit to win 16-15.”

Fishman said he was excited for the tournament while expressing high hopes for the NW wrestling team.

“I feel great right now going into nationals and I believe that we as a team can get at least four guys to place the way we have all been wrestling lately,” Fishman said. “The whole team this year is capable of placing if we really set our minds to it. We have nine guys qualified so far.”

Those nine wrestlers are Quintana, Ortiz, Dowell, Simburger, Fishman, Carter, Leither, freshman Brett Gudeman and sophomore Ariel Bosque.

De Jong provided consistent scoring for the Raiders, dropping 27 points on 10-18 shooting while grabbing eight rebounds and picking up three steals.

Sophomore Ailli Dunkelberger was team leader in rebounds, ripping down nine. Kuhlmann played all 40 minutes of the game, and added 18 points and six assists.

Despite losing the turnover battle 21-16, NW dominated the rebounding margin, outmuscling Briar Cliff 44-30 on the glass.

On Jan. 18, the Raiders dropped a closely-knit contest with No. 7 Morningside in the Bultman Center 76-74. Their perimeter defense could not keep up with the Morningside outside shooting, as the Mustangs went 40 percent from beyond the arc. The Raiders were far less lucky, knocking down only 25 percent of their attempts.

De Jong once again led the Raiders in scoring, earning 22 points and nine boards. She also dished out five assists and forced three steals on the night.

As a team, the Raiders managed only nine assists to 11 turnovers, the Raider missed 15 of 21 free throws to close the game.

Tip-off is at 4 p.m.

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Studying abroad this summer
BY GILLIAN ANDERSON
This summer, students have the opportunity to study abroad. Each Summer Study Abroad lasts approximately one month and fulfills a general education requirement. This year there are SSAs to India, Austria, Great Britain, Ecuador and Ethiopia.

Before going on an SSA, students meet with their faculty leaders to prepare. “We would practice table manners,” said sophomore Tyler Zeutenhorst who went on the SSA to Germany last summer. “We watched a couple of movies and we got to choose German names.”

Experiencing a different culture is a primary part of each SSA. “My favorite part was speaking German and talking to the people,” said junior Jon Holm who also went on the SSA to Germany. “You can’t really know your own culture until you experience other cultures.”

Professor Joel Westerholm will lead the SSA to India where students will focus on Indian cultural studies July 1-July 23. Students will study music history in Austria on an SSA led by professors Juyeon Kang and Luke Dahn May 14-June 5.

Professors Bob Hubbard and Jeff Taylor will lead the SSA to Great Britain where students will study culture through art and theatre May 16-June 7.

Students will focus on topics in cross-cultural studies in Ecuador on an SSA led by professor Rick Clark May 13-June 10. Professor Arnold Carlson will lead the SSA to Ethiopia where students will study visual culture May 14-June 2.

The cost of going on an SSA ranges from $3,400-$5,100. Applications are due Wednesday, Feb. 1 and may be dropped off in Suite 201 of the Franken Center. For more information, contact the study abroad coordinator, Dr. Boryana Dobreva at boryana.dobreva@nwciowa.edu.

New scanning system frustrates students in Cafe and Hub
BY JOLEEN WILHELM
Students on campus have encountered some changes in the Cafe and Hub since their return from Christmas break, all of which are centered around Sodexo’s new scanning system known as “Halo.”

“It was time for an upgrade,” Chef BJ Whitmore said. “The old system gave out several times and was 10 years out of date.”

Due to the old system’s malfunctions, students often had to write down their names and ID numbers instead of getting their cards scanned which created longer Cafe lines. However, long lines are an inconvenience still present with the new system.

“The system is cloud based,” Whitmoresaid. “This means it individually checks each card with the online data base to track meals which unfortunately slows down the process.”

Many students have expressed frustration with the new system. “The scanner is a lot slower,” said sophomore Kyle Stanek. “Stanek is not alone in his sentiments.”

“The new system is annoying,” said junior Eric Posthuma. “It’s tough to get mad though, because Kathy is so nice.”

Freshman Tyler Farr agrees that three meal exchanges per week are not enough. “I tried to be honest with the meal exchange system,” Farr said. “But now that they’re cracking down I need to put more thought into where and when I’m eating. This can be a real challenge for students involved in extracurricular activities.”

Both Cafe and Hub employees agree that the new system is better. “The new system is a lot more organized,” said freshman Hub employee Ishayah Wainscoat. “Learning the location of everything was a little tricky, but the new system is actually easier to use.”

Whitmore defended the good aspects of the new system. “Halo has better reporting features,” said Whitmore. “It can better track who is eating which meals when and where. The system is customized for our location and is not tied to the college’s Internet.”

Sodexo plans to set up an online meal account feature that will allow students to see how many meals they have and how much flex money is in their account.

RUSH choreographers watch their work come to life
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the hours you put in,” said senior Courtney Hughes. “I’m so glad for the opportunity to shake my groove thing,” senior Rachel Peterson said.

RUSH will be held in the Procenium Theatre at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3; and 4, 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4. Tickets are available through the box office on a first-come, first-serve basis.

“Dancers and designers have worked so hard. I’m excited for everyone to see the show,” said senior choreographer Lindsay Boulais. “My favorite part is the beautiful moment when what was in your mind turns into something 22 people are having fun doing.”