

Kelso: Accusations are untrue

Assistant Kenton County Attorney alleges misconduct by Dean

By Sean Dressman

News Editor
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In a search of e-mails provided by NKU Legal Services, Northernner editors have found no evidence of Dean of Students Kent Kelso using his office computer or resources to find a campaign.

The Northernner completed an open records request yesterday regarding Kelso's campaign for Kenton County Commissioner.

The Northernner asked for the records following reports that Assistant Kenton County Attorney Brandon Voelker

had filed a request under Kentucky Open Records Act for phone records, emails, work schedules, and budget information. Prior to the release of the records, Cathy Dewberry, Assistant to Vice President of Legal Services, said, "We screen all requested records to remove any information pertaining to students before we release them."

Voelker made the request because he believed that Kelso was using his time on campus and his influence as a university administrator to forward his political campaign.

Voelker's wife, Sara Voelker, is running against Kelso in the May 16 Republican pri-

mary for Kenton County Commissioner.

The request was filed by Covington lawyer Paul Vesper, a Democrat, and drafted by Voelker, a Republican.

In an interview last week, Voelker said there was merit to his request. He said several e-mails indicated improper use.

The Northernner did not find the e-mails Voelker referenced.

When asked why a fax containing notations on Kelso's phone records came from a fax number listed to the Kenton County Attorney's office, Voelker responded by saying that the fax num-

ber was a general number that everyone in the building used.

Voelker also denied calling university officials to accuse Kelso of using the student newspaper to further his campaign.

The Northernner Editor-in-Chief Sarah Loman said the paper is an independent publication, and students make all decisions.

"Dean Kelso has not, at any time, exerted pressure or influence on The Northernner for any reason," Loman said. "No one outside of The Northernner staff has any influence on the content of this paper, nor will they ever."

Vesper also requested NKU President James Votrubas's schedules and appointments to determine if Kelso and Votrubas were involved in any political activity.

Votrubas has said repeatedly that the university promotes civic involvement by faculty, staff, and students.

Kelso has also said that he is not campaigning from his office, and is not worried by the accusations.

"No, I don't think it will have an adverse effect on my campaign," he said.

Kenton Revised Statutes say, in part, that state or federal employees can't use their positions to influence anyone

who is voting or deciding on any issue in any state or local election. Also, they say that no state or federal employees will use their positions to try and secure an appointment or advance on office time.

These statutes were last in the news in 2000 when former Lieutenant Governor Steve Henry was accused of planning his wedding to former Miss America Heather French-Henry with state resources and on office time.

Henry was required to repay some of the cost of wedding planning after the investigation.

Go Cheer Yourself



Photographs contributed by Sarah Wittkater and the NKU Cheerleaders

Above, the NKU Cheerleading Team performs in Regents Hall. The team also poses with their trophy at the National Championships after winning the competition.

New grading passes

Board of Regents approves plus-minus 12-0

By Audrey Kunkel

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Despite voiced disapproval by many students, the Board of Regents unanimously passed the new plus/minus grading system at their Jan. 11th meeting. Plus and minus grades will begin being passed out in Fall 2007.

Instructors will have the choice whether or not to use them in their classrooms.

Some students attended the meeting to protest the new grading system.

"The student body as a whole is against this totally," said Brandon Kiely, the Student Government Association's Vice President of Administrative Affairs and one of the protestors.

"This is going to hurt more students than it helps," said sophomore Cory Bankemper. "There was nothing wrong with the old grading system."

Bankemper held a sign that read, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

President Votrubas commented before the vote that he highly supported plus and minus grades because they provide a more accurate assessment that would benefit employers. "Students and the public should expect the most precise evaluation of student performance," he said.

The Faculty Senate approved the plus/minus system in September and Provost Gail Wells and President Votrubas subsequently approved it for submission to the Board of Regents for final approval.

The Faculty Senate gave the following rationale for the grading change, including:

"Plus and minus grades will allow for a more precise measurement of student performance."

"A tighter range for a particular grade will be fairer to students. Currently an 88 and an 82 average would both result in a B, but under the new system an 88 average should result in a better grade. The Senate expects that the new system will increase student's motivation."

"Many universities have switched to a plus and minus system in recent years."

Chase College of Law already uses plus and minus grades.

The 12 to 0 vote in favor of plus/minus grading came as a shock to some students. Several SGA members were protesting during the vote and had expected SGA President Jennifer Perry to dissent.

In a statement made previous to the vote, Jennifer Perry said that she had "exhausted" all of her resources in order to decide whether a new grading system was in the best interest of the student body.

"I polled the current Student Government," she said, "asking them if they were in favor of this proposal or not. 3 were in favor and 11 were against."

Perry said that she took this into sincere consideration and had great respect and understanding for how her fellow students felt. However, she said that she

sincerely believed the new grading system was in the best interests of the students.

"I have concluded that this proposed grading system will prove to be very advantageous to students at the individual level, to the student body as a whole, as well as the university in its pursuit to progress positively in the competitive higher education system," Perry's statement read.

"(Jennifer Perry) was deeply troubled over which way to go," said Kiely afterwards. "I'm still surprised that she went that way, but it was totally her decision."

There are some senators that are mad," said Kiely. "But you can't make everybody happy. I think a lot of people were opposed to it because they've heard the negative. You're always going to hear the negative before the positive."

"We were shocked," said Senator Paul Myers. "I don't think it should have been up to her. She should represent the student body and it couldn't have been clearer that we were against this. Almost all of the (SGA) senators were opposed."

"Some of the people protesting had been at odds before but they were there together protesting. It just shows how united students were over this and we feel Jennifer Perry turned her back on the student body."

"One of her titles is Student Regent, but her other one is Student Body President, and her

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Chase employee assists 'homesick students'

Academic assistant immigrates to U.S. in 1976 from war-torn Gaza Strip

By Mears Green

Reporter
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"There was never a night or a problem that could defeat sunrise or hope."

-Bern Williams

This quote can be found, among other places, at the close of every e-mail message Ferial Ware sends. Ware, a number of reasons believes in the sentiment behind these words. When she came to the United States in 1976 as a college freshman from the war-torn Gaza Strip, which shares a border between feuding Israel and Egypt, she said she was so terrified, she didn't think she would survive the plane trip.

Almost 30 years later, Ware

is still helping homesick students and people who have left their homes for America cope in difficult times. Ware is one of 3,165 people living in Kentucky who speak Arabic, according to the 2000 Census. While more than 99 percent of the 1.37 million Palestinians who live on the Gaza Strip are Muslim, Ware and her family are part of the less than 1 percent Christian minority. She was raised Greek Orthodox, attended a Baptist church in Gaza and is now an active member of the Erlanger Baptist Church where she teaches Sunday school to second graders. For the last seven years, she has offered interpretation and translation services to the International Family Resources Center's Language Bank in Cincinnati.

The increase in Arabic-speaking immigrants to America is due in part to the violence and fighting between Sudanese government and the rebel militia, according to news reports. Those people are coming to the United States with virtually nothing but the clothes on their backs, and finding help is very difficult. From her home, Ware translates Arabic documents into English, and vice versa, to help them find contacts for housing, employment and health care.

The driving force behind Ferial Ware is her strong sense of faith and courage. "I see some of the children who have such a strong commitment and good understanding of their faith and spirituality, and some who are only at church because their parents

drop them off," she said. "I think it's kind of sad they don't understand how important spiritual growth is, and how helpful it can be." It is Ware's spirituality and faith that in a roundabout way brought her to the United States in 1976. She was working at a Baptist hospital in Gaza when she met an American doctor and his wife. The couple was working as American missionaries and Wartulaw had been taught English in school, taught them Arabic. The doctor and his wife convinced Ware to go to school in the United States. So she earned a full 4 year scholarship to Corpus Christi State University in Texas, but could not afford the plane ticket. She worked in the hospital in Gaza, saving money until she could depart. "I am really proud of myself," Ware

said with a smile. "I bought my plane ticket, I came to the United States and I went to college. I didn't have to ask my family for any money."

Life in America was not easy at first for Ware. She didn't return to see her family the entire time she was in school; they kept in touch by telephone calls and letters. She came to a classmate's home during her first weekend at school. She recalls other girls coming to her dorm and crying on her shoulder. She says she thinks they felt close to her and that she could relate, because she was the furthest from her home. In her college classes, she was surprised to find out that how people spoke English was not how she was taught. "I expected



Nicole Jones/Photo Editor

Ferial Ware

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WARE *Continued from page one*

every word they said to be in the dictionary, and it wasn't," she said. "People would shorten words and it seemed sometimes like they would make words up. It was very confusing for me."

Viki Kimball, Director of International Student Affairs at NKU, describes Ware as a "friendly, supportive person who knows how to really help a student adjust to this area. She never appears patronizing or all-knowing." Kimball has worked with Ware on many projects for the department of International Student Affairs. "She does not dismiss anyone when she thinks they no longer need her help."

Ware says she tries to give back as much of herself as she can. "I helped deliver a washer and dryer to a family who came to this country as refugees with their five children," she said. "The gratitude and appreciation they showed when we arrived at the door was incredible. We think nothing of being able to walk down the aisle at the grocery store and have hundreds of cereals to choose from."

Betty Weber-Reinke, a library assistant at NKU Chase College of Law Library, works closely with Ware and says she is special and courageous. "She's one of

our best citizens," Weber-Reinke said. "When she became a citizen, it meant so much to her. When we are born in this country, we become very complacent about being a citizen. The things we take for granted mean much more to her, because she could not have had the life she has now had she stayed in Gaza."

True to form, Ware answers probing questions about her personal life with grace. She lost her father at 18, right before she moved to this country. She met her husband in New Orleans where she was studying religious education. They were married in 1981 and had a daughter, Georgena in 1983. The family moved to Erlanger in 1989. Her husband, a Louisville native, died of a rare type of anemia in 1994, leaving Ware with a young daughter to raise. Although Ware said some people might see this as a reason to give up, she says she saw her husband's death as a reason to keep going. "His faith was incredible to me," she said. "Even when he was weak with very low blood count, he would reassure me by saying 'Don't worry, it will be better tomorrow.'"

Picking a minuscule piece of lint off of her crisp black suit, she takes a deep breath. Her warm face doesn't fall as

she talks about her personal tragedies; it almost lights up. Her sense of duty is admirable and unshakable. "I cannot stop what I am doing," she said. "I have a responsibility. People in the United States have been so nice to me. I have to give back to them," Erlanger Baptist Church held a bone marrow drive for her late husband, which connected a little girl from Austria, Europe who needed bone marrow to a donor in Erlanger, Kentucky, USA. "I have a lot to be thankful for," she said. "I am not angry about my sad experiences; they have been tests of my faith. My husband's death helped someone else find life." Last year, her mother died.

Ware thinks about her homeland, but will not move back. She says she believes Gaza will one day find peace, although it is a long way away. "I cannot remember a time of peace, but one day it will happen," she said with confidence. She does not blame the Palestinians or the Israelis, but instead she blames the fear she thinks grows in everyone. "I feel sorry for them, and anyone who feels it necessary to fight because they are afraid, wish they could understand it doesn't have to be that way."



Nicole Jones/Photo Editor

Ware

newsbriefs**New nurse practitioner fees**

Effective immediately, the fees to see the nurse practitioner in the Health, Counseling and Prevention Services Office (UC 300) will be as follows: physicals \$20, sick visits \$15. Call X-5650 for more information.

Norse helmets due in UC 10 by noon Jan. 23

More than two dozen offices have picked up Norse helmets to decorate. If you want your helmet to be displayed and judged, deliver it to UC 10 by noon Jan. 23. Your office is welcome to model the helmet with students at the annual Yell Like Hell competition on Jan. 25. First, second and third-place office winners will be announced at the Gold and White Gala on Jan. 26. Tickets available in Student Life.

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)

This is a free service provided by trained volunteers from Chase College of Law and the community. Brighton Center will be open on Saturdays Jan. 28-April 15. Hours of operation for January 28, February 4 and February 11 are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The remaining Saturday hours will be noon-3 p.m. For information on income guidelines, other locations, dates and times of operation, visit the website at <http://access.nku.edu/life>.

More on taxes

NKU will be mailing W2s to all employees' home addresses in late January. They will all be postmarked by Jan. 31. If you

have an address change, contact Human Resources. Students will need to contact Financial Assistance for any address changes.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

On January 18-25, the Interfaith Council will present a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This will offer Christians and annual opportunity to de-emphasize differences. For more information, please visit <http://www.geii.org/>.

Chair Massages are still available

There are still chair massages left, but please act fast. The cost is \$13, and these are brought to you by campus rec. For more information and available time slots, please visit campus recreation's website, www.nku.edu/~camprec.

APB and ISA sponsors cultural Coffee Hour...

In celebration of "Tales from the Beijing Opera," join the APB and International Student Affairs for a cultural Coffee Hour January 18, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be coffee, tea, some Chinese snacks and the music from artist Ming Ke in the second-floor lobby of the University Center. The opera performance remains scheduled for that evening at 7 p.m. Tickets available at the door: \$5 faculty/staff, \$10 community.

Pray for Christian Unity

Join us at Northern Kentucky University in the Otto Budig Theater
January 18 – 25 at Noon

2006 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



"The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" gives Christians an annual opportunity to de-emphasize their many differences and celebrate the Unity they already share. The NKU Interfaith Council, in collaboration with the Newman Club and other student religious organizations at NKU, is presenting the global program for Christian Unity from Jan. 18 to 25.

morenews

Section Editor
Sean Dressman
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policebeat

The following reports were filed with the NKU Police Department between Jan. 10 through 17.

Jan. 10

9:56 a.m. Subject went to the Parking Office to report a lost 2006 Parking Permit.

6:08 p.m. Subject state that a minor non-injury auto accident involving two vehicles had occurred.

6:29 p.m. A smoke alarm was received from the University Suites. On investigation, it was determined that the alarm was caused by burnt popcorn.

8:02 p.m. Medical assistance was requested for a subject with an ankle injury at the Fine Arts Building. Subject

refused transportation to a hospital by a squad personnel. Subject stated that a friend would transport her to the hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

Jan. 11

8:36 a.m. Medical assistance was requested for a subject that had passed out at the Science Center. Subject was treated by squad but refused transportation to the hospital.

9:58 a.m. Subject was reported that she lost her 2006 Parking Permit after being involved in a motor vehicle accident.

10:24 a.m. Subject reported that she lost her 2006 Parking Permit.

2:20 p.m. Subject reported the theft of cash from the Administration Center.

4:09 p.m. Subject reported that his vehicle had been damaged while parked in Parking Lot Q.

Jan. 12

12:20 p.m. Subject reported that her 2006 Parking Permit was stolen from her vehicle that was parked in Parking Lot T.

6:09 p.m. Medical assistance was requested for a subject having a seizure in Albright Health Center. Subject was transported to St. Luke Hospital-East for further evaluation and treatment.

Jan. 13

12:11 a.m. Officer observed a vehicle being operated with expired registration plates. The driver was issued a Kentucky State Citation for Expired Registration and No Proof of Insurance.

3:14 a.m. Subject stated that a fight had occurred between several males in the University Suites.

9:21 a.m. Subject reported the theft of a "mini" IPOD from the BEP Building.

11:10 a.m. Subject reported damage to his personal property.

1:17 p.m. Subject reported the theft of personal property from his parked vehicle.

Jan. 14

1:37 a.m. Officer observed a vehicle disregarding stop signs on University Drive. The driver was issued a Kentucky State Citation for Disregarding Traffic Control Devices.

5:25 p.m. Subject reported being verbally and physically harassed by an unknown male subject.

Jan. 15

3:19 a.m. Officer observed a vehicle being operated in a reckless manner on Nunn Drive. The subject was arrested, issued a Kentucky State Citation for Driving Under the Influence and was transported to and lodged in the Campbell County Jail.

10:51 p.m. Officer observed a vehicle disregard a stop sign

on Johns Hill at University Drive. The driver was issued a Kentucky State Citation for Disregarding a Traffic Control Device.

Jan. 16

3:16 a.m. Officer observed a vehicle disregard a stop sign on University Drive. The driver was issued a Kentucky State Citation for Disregarding a Traffic Control Device and No Proof of Insurance.

Jan. 17

2:06 a.m. Officer observed a vehicle being operated with one headlight not illuminated. The driver was issued a Kentucky State Citation for Operating a Motor Vehicle on a Suspended Operator's License.

Senate Softball



The NKU Girls Softball Team takes a picture with several KY senators during a ceremony recognizing their athletic achievements which took place in the State Senate.

Photographs contributed by Lourdes Baez-Schneider

Northern Kentucky

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For Additional Information,
or to Receive An Enrollment Packet,
Contact Doris or Dolores at 859.572.2600

UK
TO

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture

VOTE Continued from page one

Body President, and her vote should have reflected our position."

"I am currently looking into ways to fight this," Myers said. "I have a lot of students telling me that we should keep fighting this. One avenue I'm considering is drafting a petition and seeing how many students I can get to sign it. We're pretty upset right now."

Myers is the creator of the facebook, com NKU group "Say No to Plus/minus Grading." The group has 167 members.

There are 11 grades in the new system: A, A minus, B plus, B, B minus, C plus, C, C minus, D plus, D and F.

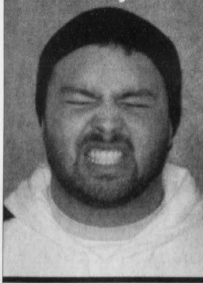
An A corresponds with a 4.0 grade, an A minus a 3.667, and consecutively downwards with one-third of a quality point being subtracted for each lower grade.

An A+ grade, with their corresponding grade of 4.333, are not awarded because there is the danger that graduate schools might re-calculate any GPA from NKU and set the A+ as a 4.0. This would be a great disadvantage to students, the Faculty Senate stated in its proposal. D minus was thrown out of the system so that there will be an even number of plus and minus grades.

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come to my event?!



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Editor, Regan Coomer

at coomerr@nku.edu

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Views expressed do not represent those of the administration, faculty or student body.

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The staff editorial reflects the views and opinions of The Northerner staff. Staff editorials are written by a senior staff member. Topics are determined weekly by a majority vote among the editorial board which is composed of all section editors, assistant editors and senior staff members.

NEWS ITEM: DOGS MAY BE ABLE TO SNIFF OUT CANCER



inmyopinion:

How 'Brokeback' turned me gay

Joseph Szydlowski

I can't believe it. People tried to warn me, and I didn't listen. I ignored their pleas and petitions. My conservative friends begged me not to see it, but I thought I would be O.K. I was wrong.

I think seeing "Brokeback Mountain" turned me gay. Based on a short story by E. Annie Proulx, the movie centers on how two cowboys' relationship tragically develops over the years. The film begins with them herding sheep until, one romantically-intoxicating night, they discover they are in love. And they make love, although the audience only sees about a minute or two of it.

So, the gay agenda has become so powerful that only a minute or two of watching two men embrace turns people gay? My God. They've been warning us all along, even though most Americans haven't been listening.

But, at least I'm not alone. Others have been seduced by Brokeback's hypnotic powers.

Stephen Bennett, host of "Straight Talk Radio," has experienced the diabolical power of this film firsthand. He said that he received a

call from a gay listener who had decided to leave his family after seeing the movie. Bennett predicts more will follow suit.

But the gay agenda has become even more powerful than most Americans realize.

Michael Marcavage, head of the evangelical organization Repent America, knows just how powerful gays are. He claims that the gay agenda is responsible for Hurricane Katrina, saying that "this act of God destroyed a wicked city," blaming the "Southern Decadence Festival," a gay parade, for bringing the wrath of a vengeful god.

Yes! Obviously, it was the gay agenda that destroyed the levees, isolated the refugees and set up an insanely complex bureaucracy with an idiotic crony as director. I bet the gays even did a Native American rain dance to call the hurricane!

But before Marcavage understood the full power of the gay agenda, others tried to save America from the horrors of tolerance.

Dr. James Dobson, who runs the conservative group Focus on the Family, discovered a horrible secret

early in 2005. The gay agenda was targeting children with the popular SpongeBob SquarePants! Yes, the asexual sponge is homosexual. The gay agenda was apparently trying to teach kids that different isn't necessarily bad.

Oh, the humanity! Won't somebody please think of the children?

Of course, Dobson was strong-armed by the tyrannical liberals into telling the truth, admitting that the video itself was "harmless." It was that the "agenda behind it is sinister."

But the gay agenda has done even worse acts to America. Jerry Falwell, the founder of the Moral Majority movement and visionary who discovered why Tinky-Winky from the Teletubbies carried a purse, declared after the Sept. 11 attacks that the gays and lesbians were responsible for Sept. 11.

Forget Afghanistan. We should have invaded San Francisco.

Of course, the pagans', abortionists', and feminists' agendas also pitched in, according to Falwell. Oh, and the American Civil Liberties Union. Guess the gay agenda

still needed help.

But now, the gay agenda is standing on its own two feet. With our phenomenal powers over hurricanes, theaters and children's programming, it's clear that no one can stop us now! The gay agenda even has business cards. We have become the dominant force in America. All we have to do now is sit back and wait. Oh, and win the three branches of the government back from Republicans. And most state and local levels too. Also, getting rid of the anti-marriage amendments strewn across this nation is a must.

But first people need to stop giving pundits such as Robertson and Falwell the respect they do not deserve. Americans must realize that the queerest people aren't Boy George and Elton John. No, the weirdest people are the ones who say that gays can cause hurricanes and terrorist attacks simply by living. They certainly deserve credit for their ideas, but not respect.

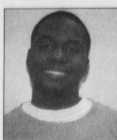
Joseph Szydlowski
Journalism
Sophomore

npr

norse poll responses

Compiled by
Breanna Gaddie

What Homecoming week event are you most looking forward to?



Curtis White
Freshman, Psychology

"Yell like Hell."



Ashley Taylor
Freshman, Music Education

"We have Homecoming events?"



Pavel Romero
Junior, Education

"The Coronation."



April Lorenz
Freshman, Secondary Education

"Yell like Hell."



Eric Hillebrand
Sophomore, Business Administration

"The Talent Show."



Laila Hamcen
Junior, Radio/TV

"The Talent Show."

New grading gets an 'F'

'I feel sorry for students who will be here when it starts'

Once again the administration and the Board of Regents have thumbed their collective noses at the students.

Plus/Minus grading has been approved and will start in the fall 2007 semester. I feel sorry for the students who will be here when it is implemented.

In spite of overwhelming student opposition to this idea, the new grading system was rammed through the Faculty Senate by questionable means even though most of the faculty seems to have been opposed to it.

Then it went through the Board of Regents in spite of the fact that the Student Government Senate, the elected voice of the students, voted UNANIMOUSLY against it.

In fact, very few students are in favor of it. Most students are against it because the minus part of the new grading system can do nothing but hurt the students.

Here is a good example of

how it can hurt: You have a professor who teaches a course here at NKU and also teaches the same course at Thomas More College, which uses pluses but not minuses in their grading. A student at Thomas More who ends up with a 90 percent will get a full A and a 4.0 for that class.

A student taking the same course with the same professor here at good old NKU ends up with a 92 percent, two full percentage points better than their counterpart at TMC. The problem is that the student at NKU gets an A minus and a 3.67 GPA for the course.

The result of the above scenario is that the NKU student actually performed better in the class but ended up with a lower GPA than the TMC student.

When those two students apply to the same graduate school and their overall records are compared, which student do you think will be

accepted to that grad school and which one will have been screwed over by their own school?

The answer is painfully obvious: The NKU student, who actually received a higher score in the class, will be left out in the cold.

That scenario is not at all far-fetched. There are several professors who teach the same classes both here and at TMC. What I just described is a very real possibility. Some of our students could miss out on a graduate school opportunity because of this grading system.

I believe that the NKU administration gave little or no thought to the consequences of this new grading system. It was an idea that should have been studied more in depth before it was brought to the table. All of the grading alternatives should have been looked at and discussed by the Administration, faculty, and students prior to anyone mak-

ing a recommendation about it to the Board of Regents. The students should have been consulted because they are the people most directly affected by the grading system. Also, the SGA Senate should have been listened to since they are elected to represent the students. However, the Administration decided to leave them out of the loop. No surprise there.

I sincerely hope that the many faculty members who are opposed to this new system will simply refuse to use it. I also hope that the Administration and the Board of Regents will reconsider this ridiculous policy which hurts the students instead of helping them.

Maybe they will reconsider it. After all, helping us with our education is supposed to be their job isn't it?

Jeff Foster
Senior
History Major

NKU 'digs its grave' with grading

'Student democracy is now effectively destroyed.'

This letter reflects another high achiever's outrage at the proposed plus and minus grading system that claims it "rewards high achiever's efforts." Besides the practical implications that have been previously discussed regarding lower GPAs, there are some profound ethical implications. First of all, and most importantly, student democracy is now effectively destroyed.

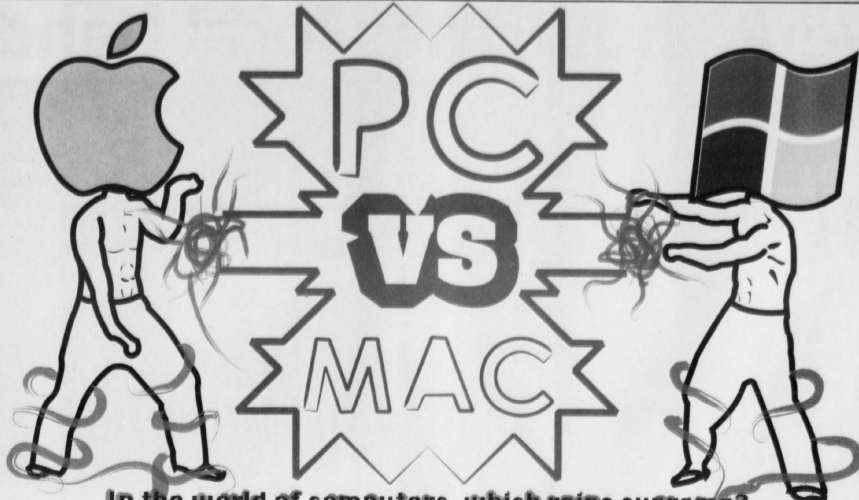
If students are unable to vote on great issues such as tuition increase and grading systems that affect their educations, then what is the point of a student government? This further leads to a second point, that the Student Government Association is now reduced to a mere playground for political science majors. If the SGA is powerless in the issues that reflect the greatest interest of students, then

what is the purpose of the SGA? Apparently, the SGA had not been able to influence one Board of Regents member through its representative, who herself voted unanimously to end grade integrity. I fear another travesty posing as positive reform will surreptitiously undermine opportunities for this university's prominent scholars. I am thus mortified at the lack of consideration for student interest. Through

tuition increases, the added "convenience fees" or online tuition payments, and, now, the death of our grading system, we dig a grave. I lament.

Fredrick Persson
Psychology, philosophy and history

life×



In the world of computers, which reigns supreme?

By Brianna Bodine
Business Manager
northerner@nku.edu

When it comes to computers and operating systems, people can get vehement about their personal preferences.

"It's almost like a religious difference," said Cynthia McDaniel, Northern Kentucky University professor of psychology. "People have strong opinions without knowing much about the other side." Peachtree Press even publishes "The Macintosh Bible," which is in its ninth edition.

On campus, Apple or Dell computers, commonly called Macs or PCs respectively, often dominate one department versus another. The decision of each department to carry one or the other is based largely on what the industry is like for students leaving the department.

"In some work fields, one machine...is dominant," McDaniel said. "In journalism, in art, in music, those career fields are very Mac dominated. If you go out into the world of business, it's almost all Windows-based machines." So what makes Apple and other PCs so different? Why do the fanatics of both sides charge the other with heresy?

The Operating System

Most people have difficulty switching from one computer to the other because navigating the operating system (OS) is so different. Apple computers typically come with OS X, while most PCs run Windows. For years, Microsoft has had a monopoly on the home computer; therefore, most people are more familiar with Windows, according to McDaniel.

It's not the Apple computer that Cahill dislikes, but the OS. "I guess Windows just works more the way I think," he said. "The thing that annoys me about Macs is the mouse. I just can't get over that one-button mouse." He whole thing was a button, and you click the whole thing.

He said the mouse wasn't what he expected and made navigation confusing. "All the options I'm used to that are under the right click, they're not there and I don't know where to find them." The options are actually available in the toolbar or by holding down the mouse button, but switching between platforms often frustrates people.

As a gamer, Cahill said there is low availability for

Apple systems. "Games are almost always made for PC, unless they're really popular," he said. A PC might better suit the needs of a serious gamer.

Viruses and Spyware

The evil virus infection. There is some disagreement as to when this plague on computer users began, but best guesses are before the mid-1980s with the Brain virus surfacing. (For a complete time line of virus development, visit www.infoplease.com.) Early viruses were called "worms" and originated from within the computer's own systems.

Regardless of how they got there, viruses are huge problems. Are all computer platforms created equal when it comes to security breaches? No, according to McDaniel. She said that viruses for OS X are almost non-existent. Macs aren't targeted because they are not as popular.

"PC users waste all their time getting viruses off of their Windows machines," she said. "Macs just aren't bothered by that."

The Gamers Perspective

It might not be important to some folks, but computer games are an ever-expanding market. Gamers utilize top-of-the-line computers, software and accessories.

Mitchell Cahill, junior mathematics major, favors a PC with Windows opposed to an Apple with OS X. Despite his personal preferences, he said, "Overall, I'd say they're exactly the same."

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Apple systems. "Games are almost always made for PC, unless they're really popular," he said. A PC might better suit the needs of a serious gamer.

While some software is only available for one platform, there is usually different software that performs the same function on the other platform, according to McDaniel. "The differences have gotten a lot smaller."

Examine the categories below to see how well both platforms function in different areas.

The differences are nil. Both platforms perform superbly with Microsoft Office programs such as Word, PowerPoint or Excel. You can use other software on the Mac, such as AppleWorks. Either way, the outcome is favorable on either computer.

Pricing

Overall, when comparing prices on computer systems, you have to make sure you're comparing apples with apples (pun!), not oranges. "PCs have sales, but Macs...offer education/student discounts," Cahill said. Macs and PCs often carry similar price tags for equivalent processing specifications.

As always, pricing depends on the type of hardware and capabilities you want for your system.

The Apple G4 notebooks and G5 desktops are powerful systems, so they're priced accordingly. When it comes to Apple, it's hard to find anything under \$1,000 unless you're a student or teacher. Still, you can snag a G4 for under \$700 or a G5 for under \$1,500 if you use online resources like eBay and Pricewatch.

In general, PCs can be found a little cheaper because of their high market proliferation and variety of brands. Major brands like Dell start as low

as \$600 for basic systems. You can specialize your system, with prices reaching more than \$4,200 for the XPS 600 customized for high-end graphics and gaming.

Alienware PCs, drooled upon by many gaming "professionals," are even pricier at about \$4,300 for the Area-51 ALX. Alienware also has some entry-level computers starting below \$700.

You get what you pay for, no matter where you buy your computer.

Software

What you can do on a PC, you can do on a Mac, with some exceptions.

"Most of the things that you need to do with a computer can be done well on either platform," McDaniel said. People who say one platform performs better than the other are often simply ignorant of the alternative, she said.

While some software is only available for one platform, there is usually different software that performs the same function on the other platform, according to McDaniel. "The differences have gotten a lot smaller."

Examine the categories below to see how well both platforms function in different areas.

Word Processing

The differences are nil. Both platforms perform superbly with Microsoft Office programs such as Word, PowerPoint or Excel. You can use other software on the Mac, such as AppleWorks. Either way, the outcome is favorable on either computer.

Graphics and Art

Determining which platform performs better at rendering artistic visuals has always been a point of discussion. "Macs certainly dominate for artists and designers," said NKU assistant communications Professor Greg De Blasio.

Buy why? De Blasio, who teaches business communication and public relations courses, said that Apple's dominance in the art realm is more of a smart marketing move than an actual processing difference. Because Macs are common in the design world, students need to be prepared to use that platform.

Other people think there are concrete differences between the two platforms. NKU assistant art profes-

sor Tobias Brauer still uses a Mac for his design and artistic applications. "Originally I was trained on Mac, and it seems to be able to handle graphic related software much more easily," he said.

"[Mac] has an architecture that lends itself to graphics," Brauer said. "The processor is faster at rendering visual information." But PCs are not necessarily choking in the dust. Many PCs can be customized with processors that utilize dual-core technology, making them fast and efficient at handling graphic or video rendering.

In the end, graphic design and art students are better off using Macs, according to Brauer. This is not necessarily because a PC would be inferior or incapable of processing visual information, but Apple is what students will encounter in the professional field after graduation.

Scientific/Mathematical

Major software programs such as SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), statistical analysis software, are available in Mac or PC versions. There are more math- and science-oriented programs available for the PC, but equitable applications are available for both platforms.

McDaniel uses her Mac to conduct statistical data analysis using SPSS and word processing functions using Appleworks.

Chemistry professor Jim Niewahner said that for molecular 3-D modeling software, Macs are better for large quantities of graphics.

But fellow chemistry professor Stefan Paula said, "I run Spartan (a molecular modeling program) on a PC and have no complaints about the graphics." According to Paula, PC is the dominant platform in the chemistry department. While molecular modeling software, including Spartan, is also available on a Mac, Paula said, "It's a matter of what you grew up with. What you're used to."

Overall, both platforms perform well in all areas. Admittedly, there are some differences, real or imagined. Religious-like opinions still prevail.

"I come from a very PC bogged environment," De Blasio said. He said he could figure out how to work on an Apple computer, but he's apprehensive. "I definitely run into difficulty because of my own ignorance."

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arts&entertainment

Wednesday
Jan. 18, 2006
Edition 38, Issue 2

7

Art shows to bring students closer to professional world

By Katie Walker
Assistant Features Editor
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Four Northern Kentucky University senior art students hope to break into the professional world when they exhibit their work locally and nationally in the next month. Craig Schmidt will present two sculptures at the Sculpture Key West 2006 exhibit while Benjamin Rogers, Kyle Strategier and Richard DeForrest will present pieces at the Summerfair Emerging Artist Exhibition.

Sculpture Key West 2006

An 11-foot-long scorpion and a 10-foot-tall X-men character from Northern Kentucky are headed to a Key West beach.

The scrap metal sculptures, "Big Scorpion" and the X-men character "Iceman," created by sculpture and construction management major Schmidt, were accepted into the Sculpture Key West 2006 show.

The national exhibit, which runs Jan. 15 through March 17 at the Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park, will feature pieces from more than 70 artists around the world.

When Schmidt entered the pieces into the show as an assignment for his Advanced Sculpture class, he said he never expected either piece to make it in.

"It's not often that a student gets work in a show like this with professional artists who do this for a living," Schmidt said.



Photo courtesy of Kyle Strategier

Kyle Strategier's prints with charcoal will be on display at the Summerfair Exhibit.

Summerfair Emerging Artist Exhibit

This show will provide a chance for area colleges to keep abreast of what the other colleges are doing as well as introduce Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky to the area's next generation of artists.

Rogers, Strategier and DeForrest will join senior art students from other area colleges in displaying their work Feb. 3 through 19 at The Essex Studios in Cincinnati.

The exhibition is funded by the Summerfair Foundation Inc. The foundation sponsors

the annual Summerfair Festival at Coney Island, but Rogers, who will exhibit a black and white 8-foot-by-10-foot narrative painting, hopes that this exhibition draws a younger crowd.

"This is not just the old lady thing at Coney Island," Rogers said. "It's the best artists from local schools."

The show is also designed to provide a venue for student artists hoping to break into the professional world.

"It's an opportunity for students to see their work in a professional atmosphere," David Knight director of Exhibits and Collections said.

The FIX

Regan Coomer Satisfying
Your Celebrity-Gossip Craving
One Paragraph at a Time.



The DeLorean might be back for a curtain call. The makers of the '80s classic "Back to the Future" are thinking about creating a fourth installment. As for the man who made the movie possible, actor Michael J. Fox told moviehole.com that he would be eager to participate in the proposed sequel, on one condition: He'd play the mad scientist Doc instead of reprising his former role of Marty. "I'm 44 years old now and I'm not interested in running around on skateboards," Fox said.

the time." However, if we take the account straight from the horse's mouth, Diaz's rep is denying these rumors, telling MSN Entertainment they're "all wrong."

Paris Hilton, the epitome of chastity and virtue. Right. Considering her X-rated video that stormed the world, you'd think Hilton in Playboy would be the next logical step. Wrong. The 24-year-old Hilton told the Las Vegas Review-Journal that there's no chance she'll strip for Playboy, no matter the amount of money thrown at her. "They've asked me a million times," Hilton said. "Hef (Playboy founder Hugh Hefner) has been after me since I was 17, and I got offered a lot of money." When interviewers reminded Hilton of her less than tame lifestyle, she insisted, "I'll never do it," and gave the undeniable reason: "Because I'm Paris Hilton."

Quote of the Week:

"Clothes are not a superficial thing with me. I look at them like paints."

I put together outfits like I put together a painting."

-Kanye West on dressing artistically.

In the wake of the successful May-December romance of Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore, a couple in a similar age situation may soon be following suit. Actress Cameron Diaz, 33, and singer Justin Timberlake, 24, reportedly got engaged shortly after their return from their holiday ski trip to Telluride, Colorado. Justin didn't get down on his knee," a source told E!'s Ted Casablanca. "They were just talking about it and were kind of like, 'Yep, let's do it.' He didn't give her a ring, and she's still not wearing one. But she is squealing, like, all



Student Government Association Wants You!

Be part of the leadership at your university!

NKU Student Government Association has open positions for the 2006 spring semester:

- Vice President of Student Involvement
- Vice President of Public Relations*
- Student Senate (12 positions available)
- Judicial Council (1 position available)**

If you are interested in serving in any of these positions, applications are available in the Dean of Students Office, 346 University Center.

Application Deadline for Executive Board positions: Friday, Jan. 27 at 4:30 p.m.

Applicants must be able to attend weekly Student Government Association meetings held on Mondays at 3:30 p.m. in University Center 11.

*Applicants for SGA Executive Board positions must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and have completed 30 credit hours.

**Applicants for Senate and Judicial Council positions must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and have completed 12 credit hours

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arts&entertainment

Textbook prices rise, students seek options

By Carolyn Bigda

Chicago Tribune
northern@nku.edu

College textbooks have never been cheap. But last year, a crop of studies suggested that textbook prices are overly inflated, stoking the ire of students and consumer-advocate groups.

Don't recall what you paid in the spring? Consider this:

The Government Accountability Office reported in July that textbook prices have increased at twice the rate of inflation over the last two decades. They average for 26 percent of tuition and fees at four-year public schools and 8 percent at four-year private institutions.

The Association of American Publishers is quick to point out that those percentages include both textbooks and supplies, such as accompanying compact discs or lab equipment.

But it is largely because of CD-ROMs that textbook costs have risen so much, at least in recent years, according to the AAO studies. Furthermore, publishers regu-

larly release new editions for introductory courses in which there is little content change, argued the State Public Interest Research Groups, a state-based public advocacy organization.

Although publishers argue that books can be offered separate of CD-ROMs, and new editions improve how material is presented, the bottom line is this: You can expect to spend between \$600 and \$900 per year on textbooks.

If you can't afford that, here's how to cut down your costs this semester.

Swap books. You can find plenty of students on campus who want to buy your used textbooks or who want to sell theirs to you. And without the college bookstore taking its own cut on your used books, you could earn or save more with campus book swaps.

Search for sellers/buyers on bulletin boards in department buildings during the first week of classes. Also, check listservs or online message boards that are organized by your school, dorm or clubs.

If you're having trouble connecting with someone, go to www.campusbookswap.com, which organizes buyers and sellers by school (more than 100 campuses participate).

Buy online. To find the best deals or the greatest number of buyers, go online.

New textbooks cost up to 30 percent less on the Internet than at college bookstores. Used books are 30 percent to 70 percent cheaper, according to Steve Loyola, president and founder of BestWebBooks.com, which compares book prices at 26 Web retailers.

Just make sure to leave enough time for shipping, which can take from three to seven days if the book is in stock, and consider any shipping fees and taxes. And to avoid ordering the wrong book, search by ISBN, a book's identifying number, found on the copyright page or bar code.

If you're not sure you'll need a book, thoroughly read the return policy. When dealing with third-party vendors (say another student), your only option generally is to re-sell the book.

Opt for international editions. You may further cut your costs by buying interna-

tional editions of your textbook.

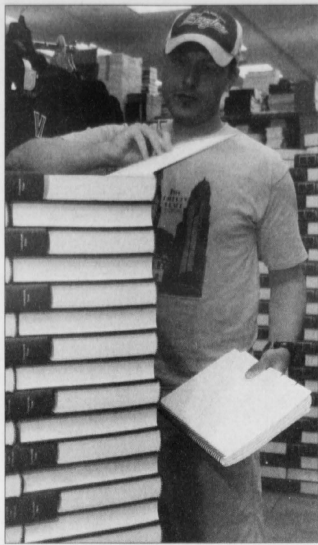
Publishers often discount books for overseas markets in order to meet price demands there. Find these editions online, whether through Web sites abroad or searching traditional retailers (the book will be described as new or used international), and you could save an additional 30 percent, according to Loyola.

Beware, however, that international editions may vary in content or organization and will carry a different ISBN.

Talk with professors. Ask if you can select a cheaper version of the textbook.

"Low-cost editions, made with cheaper paper, black and white print or soft covers, are becoming a little more common," said Hannah Nguyen, director of Make Textbooks Affordable, a campaign that students at the University of California at Irvine initiated two years ago.

Other options. Ask if an older edition will suffice or if copies can be placed on reserve at the library. You may save money and get more work done by reading in the library.



KRT Campus

Students continue to pay higher prices for textbooks.

Golden Globes speeches 'quite a hoot'

By Maureen Ryan

Chicago Tribune
northern@nku.edu

To those who say acceptance speeches are the most boring part of any awards show, you should have watched Monday's Golden Globe ceremony, because quite a few of the speeches were a hoot.

Steve Carell, Sandra Oh, Geena Davis and Hugh Laurie, all of whom won for their stellar television work, gave hilarious speeches. Even one of the speeches for multiple award winner, and Oscar front-runner, "Brokeback Mountain" was funny.

Larry McMurtry, who shared a best screenplay win with Dina Ohsana for "Brokeback Mountain," thanked his lawyers, then gave his "most heartfelt" thanks to his typewriter. "My typewriter is a Hermes 3000," McMurtry noted, "and by one of the noblest instruments of European genius, and ladies and gentlemen, can you believe it, it's kept me for 30 years out of the dry embrace of the computer."

As expected, Ang Lee won best director of "Brokeback Mountain," and the film won three other awards, including best dramatic film. "Walk the Line" won as best musical, and garnered awards for Reese Witherspoon and Joaquin Phoenix.

The awards were presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, a group of about 90 journalists who are based in Los Angeles but work for overseas publications.

"I just want to give my first thanks to my fellow filmmakers for strengthening my faith in the power of movies to change the way we're thinking," Lee said when he won.

Aside from "Brokeback Mountain" and "Walk the Line," the movie awards were split by various films. Rachel Weisz won a supporting dramatic actress award for "The Constant Gardener," and George Clooney won a supporting award for "Syriana." Felicity Huffman, who won an Emmy in 2005 for her "Desperate Housewives" role, won a Globe as best actress in a dramatic film for "Transamerica."

"I was given the best part of my life and I know that," Philip Seymour Hoffman said after his surprise win as best dramatic actor in "Capote." He beat out the man widely perceived as the front-runner for the best-actor Oscar, Heath Ledger.

The Globes are known for rewarding deserving but less obvious TV shows and stars, and Monday's ceremony was no exception. Four of the "Desperate Housewives"



KRT Campus

Four of the "Desperate Housewives" were nominated in the best TV comedy actress category during the Golden Globes.

were nominated in the best TV comedy actress category, but Mary-Louise Parker said the wives out and won for her work on Showtime's "Weeds."

"Housewives" won later as best comedy series and "Lost" won as best drama series.

Second City veteran Steve Carell won a best TV comedy actor award for his portrayal of an outish boss on "The Office."

In a speech he said his wife, Nancy Walls (another former

Second City performer), wrote for him, she was thanked several times, and Carell himself

was scolded in his own speech. Carell frequently paid tribute in the comical speech to "Nancy, my precious wife, who put her career on hold in support of mine and who sometimes wishes I would let her know when I'm going to be home late, so she can schedule her life, which is no less important than mine." (Later, a "Lost"

producer also jokingly thanked Carell's wife.)

One big miss for the usually adventurous Globes was in the best supporting TV actor category. Jeremy Piven was widely touted to win for his work as the scheming Ari Gold on "Entourage," but he was robbed when Paul Newman won for "Empire Falls."

The biggest laugh of the night came from Geena Davis, who won a best TV actress tro-

phy for her work as a female president on "Commander in Chief." She told an anecdote about a little girl stopping Davis on her way into the auditorium; the girl told the actress that Davis' show had made her want to be president. The audience collectively said, "Awww." Davis paused.

"Well, that didn't actually happen," she said. "But it could have." Guffaws followed.

SPRING BREAK HOT SPOT

Panama City Beach has been a Spring Break hot spot for as long as most Spring Breakers can remember. The Sandpiper-Beacon Beach Resort has been at the forefront of Spring Break activities in Panama City Beach since 1990.

Its popularity stems from its "World's Largest and Longest Keg Party" and this resort bar, giving Spring Breakers plenty to do without ever leaving the resort. DJ Big Donna has been playing the hottest dance mixes since 1995 and the Sandpiper has been host to other well-known DJs including DJ Skribble. The Sandpiper-Beacon brings the party to you - no driving, just walk up to your room from the bar.

MTV's The Real World was at the Sandpiper in 2005 with MJ and Robin as special guests at an Axe/Stuff Magazine Beach Party. They sponsored a model search, keg party, free beer and a swim suit competition. Alloy Marketing has brought in model searches,

along with Classmates USA's calendar model search. Spring Breakers can expect plenty more of the same this year with bikini and wet t-shirt/wet jockey shorts contests daily and nightly.

The Sandpiper is never short on big-time entertainment, hosting such acts as Bob Marley's Wailers, Tone Loc and other major acts. Tentatively scheduled for this year are the Black Eyed Peas performing on the beach behind the Sandpiper Beacon during Jay Leno's show Metro Nightclubs is a Spring Break sponsor giving away swimwear and the Corona Beach Volleyball Tournament is scheduled to take place behind the Sandpiper this year. There will be entertainment all day and all night at the hotel throughout spring break.

Visit www.sandpiperbeacon.com to see what's on tap for Spring Break 2006 at the Sandpiper Beacon Beach Resort in beautiful Panama City Beach, Florida or call the resort at 800-488-8828.

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Texas Hold 'Em Tournament

Entry Deadline:

Tuesday, January 31st, 2006 at the Campus Recreation Center by 10pm.
*** Entry forms are available in the Campus Recreation Center (1st floor of the Albright Health Center).**

Tourney Date & Time:

Thursday, February 2, from 6 - 10pm in the CRC.

Prizes:

Fantastic prizes for top finishers of tournament.



HOMECOMING 2006

Schedule of Events

<http://studenthome.nku.edu/~homecoming/>

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Service on Saturday: Homecoming Edition (UC TV Lounge)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Norse Day at Newport on the Levee

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

7 p.m. Homegrown Talent Show sponsored by APB (Budig Theater)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

8 p.m. Freestyle Battle sponsored by APB & AΦA (UC TV Lounge)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25 * Black and Gold Spirit Day! Wear your NKU gear and show your Norse PRIDE! *

11 a.m. "Founding of a Late 20th Century University"

presented by Dean Kent Kelso (Budig Theater)

12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Norse Festival (University Center)

Free Food • Student Organization Tables • Helmet Display • Bookstore Boutique Sale

6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Norse Carnival sponsored by APB (Albright H.C.)

8:00 p.m. Yell Like Hell (Albright H.C.)

Helmet, Banner, & Pride Judging by NKU Alumni • Coronation of Duke & Duchess

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Presidential Tea for Homecoming Court (UC 11)

7 p.m. Gold & White Homecoming Gala (The Madison)

Awards for Helmet, Banner, and Pride Competitions • Coronation of Prince & Princess
Announcement of King & Queen Court

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 * Black and Gold Spirit Day! Wear your NKU gear and show your Norse PRIDE! *

6:30 p.m. Alumni Awards Banquet (Marriott River Center)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

4 p.m. Alumni Chili Cook-off (Regents Sidewalk)

5:30 p.m. Tip off, Norse Women vs. Bellarmine (Regents)

Halftime: Spirit Banner awarded to Black & Gold Division Overall Spirit Champions

7:45 p.m. Tip off, Norse Men vs. Bellarmine (Regents)

Halftime: Coronation of King & Queen



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Office of
NKU Student Life

NEWPORT
ON THE LEVEE
A WORLD AWAY FROM THE UNIVERSITY

NKU APB
Activities Programming Board

NKU NORTHERN
KENTUCKY
UNIVERSITY