

THE NORTHERNER

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

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Snapshot:

NEWS

Northern Kentucky University's master plan is slowly becoming more and more of a reality. Read what changes NKU may be undergoing in the future.

See Page 2

FEATURES



It takes fewer pounds of pressure to pull the trigger of a gun than it does to break a kneecap. Learn more self-defense tips inside.

See Page 4

SPORTS

Disappointment at NKU



NKU's men's and women's basketball teams fall short in tough losses in their respective regional tournaments.

See Page 5

VIEWPOINTS

More students give their opinions on Theresa Geisen running for Homecoming. Another student has a unique and unexpected encounter with a stranger.

See Page 3

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



WWW.ESPN.GO.COM

Are your brackets in shambles because of early round upsets? Learn a little more about those mid-major and directional schools that broke your heart at ESPN.com.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

March 23, 1622 - Jamestown settlers massacred by Algonquian Indians.
March 22, 1974 - Equal Rights Amendment passed by congress.
March 27, 1978 - Benito Mussolini founds Fascist Party.
March 24, 1989 - The Exxon Valdez runs aground.
March 27, 1978 - The Northern's Jason Crisler is born.

INDEX

North Poll 3
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Student orgs. receive \$15,000 grant

By Erin Johnstone
Staff Writer

A new \$15,000 grant may help generate more student involvement at Northern Kentucky University.

This money was granted by President James Votruba as a student organization collaborative project grant.

Since the grant is intended for student organizations to work together, two or more organizations can apply to put on programs or manage projects.

For example, this money could be used to bring in guest speakers with all their expenses paid, or to organize a campus event. Kent Kelso, Dean of Students said, "We need some campus events to identify with at NKU."

Kelso said, the grant's intention is to stimulate campus life, involvement and activities outside the classroom.

Some of the criteria for the grant are that the event must be open to the entire NKU community and programs must meet one of the four areas of programming: cul-

tural, service, education and leadership.

This money will only be granted for events that will take place on campus. The money cannot be used to fund scholarships or to purchase equipment for any organization Kelso said.

Kelso said he expects two proposals soon. One of the proposals includes a guest speaker for the African-American Studies Program, the other one is a consideration for a carnival on campus.

Votruba said he agreed to grant the fund because he wanted to see additional pro-

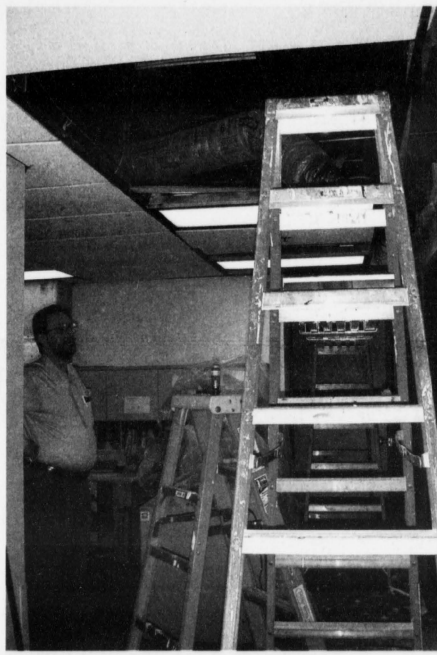
gramming at NKU.

The \$15,000 grant will be given at the end of each fiscal year, which starts on July 1, 2001. "I strongly encourage organizations to consider this fund. If they have wanted to do something, but never had the money, this is the opportunity," said Kelso.

The applications for this grant can be found in the Dean of Students Office and any registered student organization on campus is eligible.

Relieving Stress

Photos by Dan Mecher



Pat Moynahan, chair of the communications department, inspects the repairs made to the communications office over Spring Break (left). Physical plant workers replaced several damaged metal studs (top) in the walls to relieve stress caused from the floor rising. Major repairs were carried out last summer on the other side of Landrum to alleviate a similar problem.

Equipment missing

Possible burglary being investigated

By Forrest Berkshire
Editor in Chief

Two overhead projectors and a computer were reported missing from the smart-classrooms in Landrum and the Business Education and Psychology building over Spring Break.

The projectors are part of the technology systems used in the state-of-the-art classrooms for Power Point presentations and video.

The projectors were reported missing on Wed., Mar. 15. There are different accounts as to what might have happened.

More than 24 hours after the projectors were reported missing Interim Director of Public Safety Jeff Butler said he wasn't sure how to classify the incident.

"At this point I don't know if an offense occurred," he said.

Butler said DPS is treating the incident as a burglary and DPS Officer Cecil Brown is investigating the incident. Zane Harris, information technology coordinator, discovered the projectors missing and reported it to DPS. He said he is the only person who would deal with any technical problems or repairs, and that as far as he knew the projectors were operating fine.

Butler said DPS is treating the incident as a burglary and DPS Officer Cecil Brown is investigating the incident.

Zane Harris, information technology coordinator, discovered the projectors missing and reported it to DPS. He said he is the only person who would deal with any technical problems or repairs, and that as far as he knew the projectors were operating fine.

Both DPS and Harris declined to comment on how the projectors were removed from their ceiling mounts, saying it could compromise the investigation and that describing the process by which they were removed could jeopardize the remaining equipment.

However, an e-mail circulated to NKU faculty from Gary Pratt, associate provost for information technology, stated the computer and two projectors were stolen.

"It really takes some effort (and tools) to remove the projection system from its ceiling mount," the e-mail stated.

Pratt wrote that in one case the room was locked. Butler said there was no sign of a forced entry on the doors to either of the rooms.

Pratt also stated that in one room a message was written on the board "The presentation system was out for repair." This is "definitely not the case," Pratt wrote in his e-mail. "So whoever is doing this has taken time to plan their actions."

Pratt also wrote that the office of information technology and DPS are scrambling to try to figure out a better way to secure the systems to prevent the same thing from happening again.

Harris said the projectors are worth about \$4,000 each, and that they are insured. He described them as the size of a large garage-door opener, and quite heavy. He said they are not the kind of thing one could just stuff under their coat and walk out with.

Procrastination a lifestyle for many

By Dan Mecher
News Editor

It's past midnight. The bags under your eyes would be perfect if you were a cast member of The Rocky Horror Picture Show.

In about 10 hours, you will be taking a midterm examination for a course that you don't even know the name of. Are you worried? Of course not. Being a chronic procrastinator, this is what you do.

According to statistics, you are not alone. One in five Americans shares the characteristic of habitually putting work off until the last minute said Joseph Ferrari, Ph.D., the co-director of the MS program in General Psychology and the Ph.D. program in Community Psychology at DePaul University.

"These are the type of people that procrastinate as a lifestyle," said Ferrari, describing the country's 20 percent of chronic procrastinators. "They are the ones that wait until their gas gauge is on 'E' before they fill up."

Change is not easy for this type, Ferrari said, because just telling them to stop doesn't work. "It's like telling a clinically depressed person to cheer up," he said.

While the percentage of procrastinators mentioned by Ferrari often require therapy to change their behavior, those in the majority suffer from less severe cases and are able to help themselves.

If you are one of those people that finds himself up until 4:30 a.m. writing a paper that's due the following morning, here are a few tips that may help improve your work ethic.

Clay Tucker-Ladd, Ph.D., a retired associate professor from Eastern Illinois University, recognizes two major types of procrastinators. Try to identify yourself as one of them, and then see how much improvement you can make by following the advice.

Tense-Afrid Procrastinator

This type is intimidated by

See PROCRASTINATION, Page 7

NKU picks new Library Provost

By Bruce A. Reller, Jr.
Sports Editor

After almost a two year search, Northern Kentucky University finally has a new permanent associate provost for library services at Steely Library.

Arne Almqvist, who currently serves as the assistant dean of libraries at the University of North Texas, will take his new position on Aug. 1.

"We need someone in that position who has a fresh perspective and has a fresh set of ideas, whatever program they're in," Provost Rogers Redding said.

Almqvist said he applied for the job because the university has the potential to grow. "The institution has a good mood for growth. I see it as a positive outlook."

Almqvist proved to be a fit candidate because he brings a lot of technology experience and knowledge to NKU, Redding said. "The library

is adapting to new technology. That aspect is very strong in his background."

Almqvist even has a lot of good ideas, which will be of good use to NKU, said Pat Moynahan, head of the library search committee. "He has some ideas on fundraising. With his technology background, he can deliver information to students."

Being able to get along with people and showing leadership skills were some of the qualities the search committee was looking for in filling the Associate Provost job.

Almqvist will also be making an adjustment from a large university at North Texas (25,000 students) to a smaller one at NKU (12,000 students), but he is not worried about

See ALMQUIST, Page 7



Feminism is not gender neutralization

Regarding NKU's capitulation in response to Theresa Geisen's campaign to neuter the position of homecoming king, I doubt very much if it mattered to Queen Victoria of England whether she was called queen or king. Because, title notwithstanding, she was the ruler of England - she was the reigning monarch. She would not have had any more power were she king.

Feminism is the belief in the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes. The feminist movement has had great effect on our society over the past century in eliminating discrimination on the basis of sex.

What Ms. Geisen is campaigning for mocks this success. Because feminism does not claim that the sexes are the same, only that they are equal socially, politically and economically. What Ms. Geisen and her support-

ers want, beyond gender equalization, is gender neutralization. And in this NKU has shown that it is willing to acquiesce.

If and when Ms. Geisen bears children (and I wonder if she wants men to be granted the right to do that), will they, their sex notwithstanding, be "guys" or "birls"?

Letter to the Editor

And will she and her companion procreator be "mofatherers" or "famoth-ers"? The absurdity of the gender neutralization movement should be obvious here. But this is the path down which Ms. Geisen wants to lead us. And it seems that NKU and many other universities across the land are willing to pave the way.

W. C. Roth
Highland Heights, KY.

King is not a sexist title to all

I recently read the editorial about Teresa Geisen, "A Northern Hero," and would like to say that it virtually brought me to tears.

I'm ashamed to admit that I actually undervalued her contribution to mankind. In the past, the title "king" referred to

a person of royalty of some type who also had in his possession a penis and testicles. The queen, on the other hand, referred to a member of some type of royalty with a vagina. Geisen changed all that. I can't begin to explain how significant it is to sever these horribly sexist connotations from the words.

I think the university should take the initiative to go even further. Why should the word "male" denote a man and

"female" denote a woman? Why should we call a dog a dog and a cat a cat? We need to break this arbitrary assigning of meanings to names and use words any way we want.

And if anyone has trouble understanding what we talk about, take heart! It's not your fault, the person who doesn't understand is just a reactionary sexist and racist monster.

Oh, and I cannot forget to mention those horrible loose cannons, the NKU homecoming King and Queen. Those power-mad despots have to be stopped before they use their annihilating powers of the homecoming parade to smile and wave us all to death.

You belong in the history books, Ms. Geisen, along with Susan B. Anthony...you truly are a king among men.

Nathan Webster
Florence, Ky.

Letter to the Editor

Even strangers can change lives

By Rick Amburgey
Special Projects Editor

I consider a stranger just a friend I haven't made yet.

Last week, I struck up a conversation with a complete stranger at BW3 in Cold Spring.

It wasn't long until the lady asked me to let her see my hand.

It seemed like a slightly odd request, but I obliged her anyway.

I soon realized that this stranger was a palm reader. I never put any faith in such things, but I was curious to what she would say.

And we all know what curiosity did to the cat.

She started by making generalizations. While what she said was true, I was not convinced that she was "gifted."

She started looking closely at my love lines

and noted that my last extremely serious relationship was when I was 20.

I began thinking. I am now 23 and I broke up with my last serious love three years ago. Numbers don't lie.

Nevertheless, I ruled this coincidence as pure luck.

I listened intently to each word that rolled from this exotic stranger's tongue.

Nearly every word she said was accurate. She described my relationship with my family and told me that we would remain close-knit until later in my life, at which time they would pass away.

She described my relationship with my friends and with God almost perfectly.

She pointed to a line that showed my strong work ethic. She told me that I often work harder than I should.

I couldn't deny that. After all, I recall one girl

that gave me the ultimatum to choose between our relationship and my love for my work. I chose my work.

It seemed rather strange she knew so much about me. I doubt some of my closest friends knew that well.

Yet she was a stranger.

The stranger and I parted ways soon after the reading. I never learned the stranger's name, but I will carry her message with me forever. I anxiously await the future, when I will see if her prophecies are correct.

I still have not decided whether I believe all that or not. She was right about a lot of things, but I am still skeptical.

I still wonder if she was truly gifted or if that was an unique way of flirting.

I don't know. If it was the latter, it wouldn't have worked out anyway.

I don't date married women.

NORTH POLL

Do you feel safe on campus?



Patrick Harrison
Business Administration
Eastgate

"Yes, I feel safe at Northern. It's known as one of the safest campuses."



Garry Asmah
Nursing
Cincinnati

"I never feel safe after dark anywhere. I've called DPS to escort me and they are good and quick."



Doug Meiser
Pre-engineering
Alexandria

"Yeah sure, because nobody messes with me because I'm such a big, ripped guy."



Steve Haddix
Computer Science
Highland Heights

"Yes, because I've lived in the area my whole life. I used to go to UC and it was a lot scarier there."



Emily Steffens
Journalism
Covington

"I guess I feel safe. Sometimes I get a little nervous walking across campus at night though."



Andrea Gordon
Public Administration
Covington

"Yes, for the most part. Some of the areas are well-lit but others are not well-lit and have a lot of shrubs."

THE NORTHERNER

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Students learn self-defense

By Rachel Dietz
Photo Editor

The first two things a rapist looks for in a potential victim are hairstyle and clothing. Self-defense seminars at Northern Kentucky University teach students what things rapists look for, how to avoid dangerous situations and how to defend yourself if you are assaulted.

Sophomore Sarah Ward teaches the self-defense seminar at NKU. Ward has a black belt in karate and opened her first martial arts school when she was 16. She said she began martial arts when she was age 12 so she and her mom could do something together. She currently teach-

es at her school, The Master's Martial Arts Academy, in Florence.

During her seminars, Ward shares information she received from another self-defense teacher who interviewed rapists in prison about what they look for in a potential victim. Ward said the number one thing rapists look for is hairstyle. They are most likely to go after a woman with a ponytail, bun or braid because they can be easily grabbed. They are also likely to go after a woman with long hair.

Ward said the second thing they look for is clothing. They look for clothing that can be removed quickly such as overalls or skirts. They hate body suits because they are so hard to get into.

Ward said the time of day rapists are most likely to attack and rape their victim is in the early morning between 5 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. The top three places people are abducted are grocery store parking lots, office parking garages and public restrooms.

In her class Ward teaches different strikes to use if you are attacked such as the elbow strike, front kick, and the choke from behind. She also brings male volunteers into the class to practice the techniques on.

Ward also teaches how to avoid dangerous situations. One tip she gives is to try not to form habits in your daily activities.

"If a man is going to rape or assault a woman, most of the time he will watch her for a few days beforehand," Ward said. "Arriving home at the exact same time and always taking the same way home tells him where you will be and when."

Ward said if someone is following you turn around and confront them by asking them a question such as "What time is it?" or make general small talk such as "Looks like we are in for bad weather." When they know you have seen their face you lose appeal to them as a target.

If you are actually being assaulted, one tip Ward gave was to yell "fire!" instead of "help!" and run to a populated place.

"Everyone wants to see a fire so they all come running but if you yell help no one wants to witness anything so they run the other direction," Ward said.

Ward said the number one thing to remember if you are assaulted is not to panic.

"Always remain calm," Ward said.

"You can panic later."

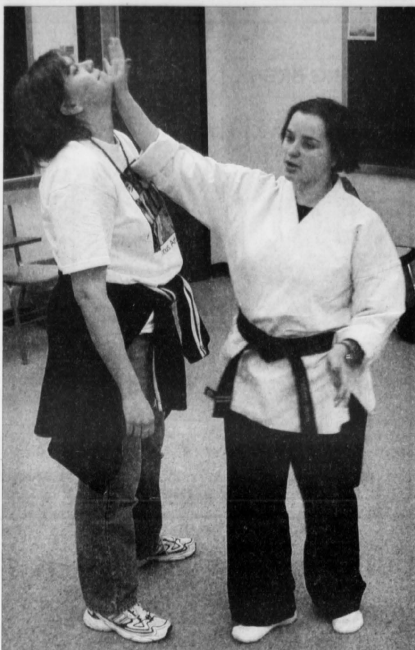
Another tip Ward gave was to park in well-lit areas under a bright light and closest to the area you are going to.

Ward taught her first self-defense seminar for the spring semester on March 5. Her next class will be on March 21 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in UC 303.



Jason R. Crislet/The Northerner

Freshman Emily Mihou practices a way to hit an attacker without hurting her hand. Instead of using a fist Mihou is hitting Sarah Ward with the meaty part of her palm.



Jason R. Crislet/The Northerner

Sarah Ward demonstrates on Junior Sarah Klemeier how to keep an attacker at bay by placing the hand under the attacker's chin and pushing up.

"I taught the first class before spring break because I knew a lot of people were going away and I felt they should take some self-defense knowledge with them."

Ward said. "I love to teach martial arts and I feel every female needs to know how to defend themselves if they are ever in the position where they need to."

Office on campus offers assistance to student struggling financially

By Lori Whitis
Staff Reporter

K-TAP offers connections to success by helping students navigate the web for Northern Kentucky University services.

The Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program provides temporary cash assistance to single-parent families in Kentucky with dependent children.

It does not pay for college. In some cases it will cover books and supplies such as uniforms for nursing programs. Students on K-TAP still apply for grants, scholarships, loans or financial aid.

A family can receive K-TAP for 60 consecutive months.

After two years on the program K-TAP students must work 25 hours a week while attending school.

If a family loses K-TAP because of earnings they may still receive a Medicaid card for up to 12 months, help with child care and food stamps.

NKU's K-TAP program has been

headed by Sallie Parker Lotz since October 1999; currently there are 21 members of the program.

NKU's K-TAP program works under a grant from the Cabinet of Families and Children.

The objective of the NKU K-TAP Program is to connect K-TAP students to all the available services that NKU offers to foster success. This includes but is not limited to student support services, Career Development Center, Learning Assistance Center, academic advising, etc.

Shannon, a K-TAP participant, said K-TAP makes it possible for her to go to college. It helps with child care. Shannon's mother takes care of her son while she attends class. K-TAP provides her mother with some payment to compensate her for her time.

Shannon started classes the Fall 2000 semester and is working toward a Masters degree. "I want to make a better life for me and my son," she said.

Shadeha first came to NKU when she was 18 years old. She did not do well so she dropped out. She has had some obstacles to overcome: the loss

of her mother, drug addiction and homelessness. She said, "I had to clean up the wreckage of my past."

It was a long road to get back into college, she said, but with the help of Parker Lotz she was able to navigate her way through the welfare system and get back in. Shadeha takes care of her two children, one grandchild and one nephew in addition to her studies. She said she has been back since the summer of 2000 and is expecting to graduate in 2004.

K-TAP members meet once a week in a support group. Shannon said, "It helps to know that I am not alone. I have learned a lot from talking to other members of K-TAP."

Parker Lotz said, "There are some real indignities to the whole process" of welfare. K-TAP gives those who wish to attend college assistance in making their dreams a reality.

Shadeha said student resources like the math lab are terrific. "The students are there just to help you."

My motivation to go to college, 'The Superfriends'

By James Proffitt
Assistant Features Editor

It's easy for one to get caught up in the often-busy college lifestyle. The combination of reading assignments, writing papers, going to class, and studying with free time can make up a pretty full schedule. Every so often, I wonder what exactly motivated me to want to go to college anyway.

As far as I can tell, it was the Superfriends.

For those of you who don't know, the Superfriends was a cartoon that aired

when I was a child. It focused on the lives of the DC Comic heroes, such as Superman, Wonder Woman, Batman, Aquaman, the Flash, and the Green Lantern, among others. Every episode, the Superfriends would have to do battle with their nemesis, the Legion of Doom, which included Lex

Luthor, the Joker, the Penguin, Scarecrow, and others. Superfriends was a good show for children because it not only entertained, but it also stimulated your mind.

For example, what use did Aquaman get out of being able to talk to fish? Maybe he heard a "whale" of a tale.

Why did Wonder Woman even bother with an invisible jet? She wasn't invisible while riding in it, so it's not like it protected her very much.

And how was this Scarecrow villain a threat anyway? He was made of straw. If you got close enough, one could literally tear him limb from limb.

Watching Superfriends gave me an appreciation for learning, because I thought "If I can make sense out of the Superfriends, I can make sense out of anything."

I happened to come across the Superfriends again a couple of years ago, and I had to ask myself "How easily entertained was I as a child anyway?" For those of you who have never seen the Superfriends, please allow me to demonstrate how intriguing most episodes of this show were. (note: For a more realistic effect, I put stress on proper nouns.)

Superman: Hello (pause) Batman. Batman: Hello Superman and Wonder Woman.

Wonder Woman: Hello Batman. It looks like the Legion of Doom is at it again.

Batman: The Legion of Doom? (For reasons that even my four year old mind couldn't come up with, the

See SUPERFRIENDS, Page 7

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UNIVERSITY of LOUISVILLE
dare to be great

Men's basketball team loses again in Owensboro

By Bruce A. Reller, Jr.
Sports Editor

NKU played a familiar foe in Kentucky Wesleyan College in the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional Championship Saturday, March 10.

The Norse also played the game in a familiar but unfriendly place, the Owensboro Sportscenter, where NKU had previously lost 14 straight games to the Panthers.

The streak continued as the Norse lost for the third straight time to Wesleyan by a score of 59-57. "We would have won the game at a neutral sight," NKU junior Craig Sanders said. "The refs took us out of the game."

The game looked to be another Wesleyan blowout as the Panthers led by as much as 12 points in the second half.

NKU chipped into the lead as much as they could in the half. Senior Craig Conley cut it to two points with 45 seconds left and Sanders hit a three-pointer for the Norse to cut it to one point with five seconds left in the game.

However, Loric Duncan finished NKU off by hitting two free throws to seal the game for the Panthers, who have won four consecutive Great Lakes Region title.

Kentucky Wesleyan now heads on to the NCAA Division II Elite Eight.

Duncan scored 20 points for the Panthers to lead

all scorers. He was named the Most Outstanding Player of the tournament.

NKU's high man in the game was senior Craig Conley who scored 19 points, and was named to the All-Tournament Team.

Conley also came up with six assists in the game and broke NKU's men's basketball all-time assist record with 530 in his career, one more than the previous record that was set by Shannon Minor.

"He's (Conley) the best point guard in the league," Sanders said.

Sanders had 14 points for the Norse and scored a total of 74 points in the three-day tournament. Because of his efforts, Sanders was also named to the All-Tournament Team.

"It was a good feeling, but I'd rather have got the win and have been asked to California," Sanders said.

The Norse only scored 57 points in the championship



Rachel Dietz/The Northerner
NKU men's basketball senior Craig Conley finished off his career breaking the school's all-time assist record and being named to the Great Lakes Region All-Tournament Team.

game, and Sanders said that was because the team changed its offense in the game.

"We held the ball down most of the time. It was slow-paced. That was why we didn't score as much."

Despite losing in the championship game, NKU made a good run in the tournament. The Norse first had to take on Grand Valley State and Southern Indiana.

In the first round of the tournament, NKU defeated Grand Valley State in a shootout, 106-102. The Norse held on, despite 17 Laker three-pointers, to record the win.

Sanders scored a game-high 32 points, and senior Adam Norwell added 28 points for NKU.

The Norse moved on to the Great Lakes Region semifinals against Southern Indiana.

Southern Indiana led by as much as 15 points in the first half, but NKU kept right with them in the second half to force overtime.

It was a close contest in the extra session. However, with the game on the line, NKU senior Brian Lawton came through hitting one of two free throws with one second left as the Norse pulled out a 93-92 overtime victory.

Sanders again was NKU's scoring machine as he came away with 28 points in the semifinal win.

The Norse ended their season one win short of the Elite Eight, which will be held in Bakersfield, Calif. this week. NKU finished with an overall record of 27-7.

Women's basketball fails to defend national title

By Aaron Stamm
Staff Writer

The NKU women's basketball team ended the season in the first round of the NCAA Tournament falling to Gannon University 73-64.

The team struggled late in the season losing to Southern Indiana in the GLVC tournament before being eliminated.

The Norse ended the season with a 25-5 record and 17-3 in the GLVC.

NKU head coach Nancy Winstel was happy with her team's performance in the 2000-01 season. "I am extremely proud of the players this year. We were everyone's big game and our team played as hard as they could," she said.

For the season, the Norse shot 49 percent from the field and 76 percent from the foul line. The Norse was led by junior All-American Michelle Cottrell who averaged 17.4 points a game and 8.1 rebounds a game.

Coach Winstel says Cottrell is the best player in the conference. Senior guard Heather Livingstone led the team with 39 three pointers for the season. Sophomore forward Bridget Flanagan had 37.

Livingstone describes her experience at NKU as rewarding and exciting.

"I will remember the good times I had with my teammates and all the people I met along the way," she said.

The Norse defense was the backbone behind the team's success.

The Norse held opponents to 65 points a game. Livingstone led the team with 58 steals.

Winstel said the aggressive defense was a key in her team advancing to the finals of the GLVC Tournament.

Advancing to the NCAA Tournament is nothing new to the Norse program.

The team advanced all the way to the NCAA Championship game last year.

This year, the Norse ran into a much improved Gannon team. The Norse defeated Gannon earlier in the year but Winstel said Gannon is much improved and is a very good basketball team.

The Norse coaching staff will have to replace the four valuable seniors of the Norse program.

Seniors Michele Tuchfarber, Julie Cowens, Jessica Jensen and Livingstone have led their team to a National Championship and several NCAA Tournament appearances.

Next year will begin the process of getting the younger players to grow up and become leaders.

Players such as junior guard Suzie Smith, sophomore forwards Amy Mobley and Kristin Polosky, junior center Dana Schubeler, Flanagan and Cottrell will be the nucleus of the team.

With that group of players coming back, the Norse should once again be in the hunt for another GLVC Championship next season.



Jennifer Davis/The Northerner
NKU women's basketball senior Jessica Jensen (#44) helped lead the Norse to two Final Fours and one NCAA Division II National Championship during her four years on the team.

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Baseball team shines in spring break tournament

By Aaron Stamm
Staff Writer

Most college students enjoyed laying by the beach over spring break. The NKU baseball team had other things on their mind.

The Norse traveled to Florida over spring break to play 12 regular season games against teams all over the country.

On the trip, the Norse went 10-1 to run their overall record to 15-3 on the season. It was a very successful trip for the offense as the team exploded with double digit runs in some of the games.

The Norse started the trip off with a very impressive 11-1 victory over Slippery Rock University. Senior pitcher Shaun Fausz moved one step closer to the NKU saves record by recording his third save

of the year.

Junior catcher Jason Martin and senior Matt Mason had doubles in the game. The Norse racked up 13 hits total in the win.

Another impressive game on the trip came the next day when the Norse defeated Alderson Broaddus 4-2. Junior Josh Whaley moved his record to 3-0 with the victory. Mason went 2 for 3 with a triple to lead the Norse.

The Norse also beat Edinboro by a score of 10-0. The game was dominated by good pitching and strong defense. The Norse had 16 hits and no errors and held Edinboro hitless.

Junior outfielder Pat Eschan had a homerun and double to lead the Norse. Freshman pitcher Chad Anderson was the winning pitcher for the Norse.

A record-breaking day occurred for Mason as the team defeated Caldwell by a score of 25-1.

Mason hit three home runs and drove in a school-record nine runs. Mason also hit a pair of home runs and had three RBI during NKU's 8-7 loss to Caldwell in the opener of the doubleheader.

In the second game, NKU used a 14-run outburst in the fifth inning to coast past Caldwell.

The team went on to defeat Bluefield 6-4 and North Dakota St 5-4 to close out the trip.

The Norse now come back home for four games. They will play Wilmington College this Wednesday at 1 p.m.

NKU will then play three games against St. Joseph's College with a Saturday doubleheader and another game on Sunday.



Jennifer Davis/The Northerner
NKU baseball pitcher Josh Whaley has been one of the stars on the team this season, especially during the Norse run in their spring break tournament last week in Fort Myers, Florida.



Forrest Berkshar/The Northerner

NKU baseball player junior Justin Rahschulte (#21) attempts to beat the throw to third base.

Upcoming Games

(home games in bold)

Baseball

Wed., March 21
Sat., March 24
Sun., March 25

Wilmington 1 p.m.
St. Joseph's (DH) 12 p.m.
St. Joseph's 12 p.m.

Softball

Thurs., March 22
Sat., March 24
Sun., March 25

Findlay 3 p.m.
Southern Indiana 1 p.m.
Southern Illinois-Edwardsville 1 p.m.

Men's Tennis

Thurs., March 22
Fri., March 23
Sat., March 24

Hanover 3 p.m.
Lewis TBA
St. Joseph's TBA

NKU softball goes 7-3 in tournament

By Bruce A. Reller, Jr.
Sports Editor

The NKU softball team went into its spring break tournament suffering through a three-game losing streak.

The Norse snapped out of it and embarked on a 7-3 road trip in Fort Myers, Florida last week.

NKU split its first four games last Monday and Tuesday. The Norse beat Bucknell University 2-1 and the University of Minnesota-Duluth 4-3.

They lost to Bridgeport by a close score of 2-1, and NKU got hammered by Colgate 6-1.

The Norse came back to begin a stretch of games in which they won five of six games overall.

Last Wednesday, NKU beat Slippery Rock 8-1. Senior Kerry McKee hit a homerun, and juniors Krista Eldridge and Joanna Doerner each contributed three hits for the Norse. NKU had 14 hits in the game.

In the other game, the Norse scored three runs in the fifth inning en route to a 4-1 victory over Bentley.

McKee, Doerner and Kristin Koors all had two hits in the game for NKU, and junior pitcher Katie Garling got her first win of the season for the Norse.

NKU split its next two games last Thursday, losing to St. Peters but

pummeled the University of North Dakota 12-2.

The Norse ended their five-day, ten-game tournament last Friday with two big wins.

NKU defeated Marist by a score of 6-1. The Norse put up three runs in the third and seventh innings to record the win.

Doerner continued her onslaught by going 4 for 4 with three RBI's and a double. NKU senior pitcher Jamie Moore struck out six batters and recorded her fourth win on the season.

In the final game of the tournament, the Norse beat Monmouth 13-0. NKU scored six runs in the first inning, including a grand slam by Koors.

Doerner also contributed three hits, including a homerun and five RBI's for the Norse. Senior Kim Bina struck out seven batters and improved to 2-3 on the year for NKU.

The Norse are now 8-6 this season after the Florida spring break tournament.

The Norse now come back home for a game against Findlay University this Thursday at 3 p.m.

NKU then goes on the road for its first two conference games of the year. The Norse take on the University of Southern Indiana Saturday at 1 p.m. and then travel to Southern Illinois-Edwardsville for a 1 p.m. game.

This Week in NKU Sports

NKU men's golf team finishes fifth in tournament

The NKU men's golf team finished fifth place overall (out of 13 teams) with a score of 299 at the Dayton Beach (North) Tournament last week.

Norse freshman Brandon Brown shot a 72 to finish in fourth place in the individual standings.

Steve Landrum also did well for NKU as he shot a 74 to finish tied for sixth place in the individual competition.

Other top finishers for the Norse

were Brandon Parsons who ended up in 17th place with a score of 75 in the tournament.

Also, Josh Jarvi shot a 78 and came up with a 34th-place finish. Scott Stark shot a 79 and ended up finishing in 40th-place for NKU.

Valdosta State ended up winning the tournament with a team total score of 293.

Yale followed in second place with a 295. Weber University was third with a score of 297, and the University of Tampa came away with a 298.

Have any NKU sports news?
Contact Bruce at 572-5260!!!

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 Mon. - April 2

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For additional information
 stop by AHC 104 or
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Weekly Horoscope

By Timothy Conboy
Northern Astrologer

Aries (March 21-April 20)

Happy birthday Aries. This is your strongest time of year. You will go far this week if you keep lines of communication with others open a woman will help you bring an end to something you have been trying to get away from for awhile. You are very deep and philosophical this week. Keep an eye on a Sagittarius this week. You will know why.

Taurus (April 21-May 20)

Um wow, jobs good, friends are happy, money is good. You are pretty lucky this week. You are a little destructive this week though. Be careful in communication and actions this week or you may just ruin all this good luck.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are feeling unusually calm this week. No really you are. Keep your emotions on the back burner for a minute and relax. Go all out for your friends and spare no expense. Love and knowledge both come from the work place. Keep your eyes open.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Everything is going south this week and yes that is a good thing. Your true purpose will show this week. Reflect upon yourself to discover what others see. Whereas you are a sign that serves others, serve yourself for the rest of the week.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

I really don't want to tell you this but, your right, not really. More often than not your ego gets in the way of your judgment but this week you are fairly clear in the head and know what you are talking about. This was more painful than I thought it would be.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept. 22)

Your need to serve others shines through but your search for wisdom is even more driving this week. Drop away from someone who is becoming a burden and allow you intellectualized persona be the rational. You will be fairly lucky on the job front this week.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You are more capable of being yourself this week but you also have trouble with aggressiveness. You are more forthright in your statements towards others and you know the best of what you feel. Let others get in a word and stop trying to dominate your situations.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)

Possessiveness isn't always a bad thing... ok so it is and you are getting really bad with this through the week. You are siding others as a way to make yourself seem more important, and social and political happiness and luck are coming to an end. You know I hate a bad horoscope but this week I will make an exception. Sorry.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 20)

Let your time revolve around the home this week. Don't push to be on the move. Open lines of communication with you professors and employers to reach a better understanding. Use them as aid in your studies and expansion.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)

Service to others is always a good thing but this week you should focus more on self-service (wow this is going to be hard) try to be more introverted and don't try to be so overly social, that only distracts you from yourself. Story telling makes good enemies.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Communication is essential to your existence. The mystic side of your personality is starting to show through this week. Let it shine and allow others to realize your wisdom.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Humility looks down upon you a weak and dependent, take this week to prove them wrong. You are a strong free thinking individual. Leave you security blanket at home and experience life to its fullest. But don't do anything stupid in the process.

PROCRASTINATION: ahhh, finish this article later

From Page 1

work. A tense-afraid procrastinator will judge his own value as a person based on the judgments of other people. He feels pressure to succeed, but fears that success is impossible.

"They fear failure and, of course, want to escape it," said Tucker-Ladd. "However, it is these unique fears they must conquer."

Tucker-Ladd and Ferrari agree that some procrastinators can also fear success and the expectations of others that can accumulate from succeeding.

Related Procrastination

College students most often line up with the relaxed, pleasure-seeking-type of procrastinator. The symptoms include finding work to be tedious.

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boring and a waste of time. As a result, the work is avoided so the individual can spend more time on more enjoyable tasks.

"Such a person will probably need to confront this work-unfulfilling self," Tucker-Ladd said, "i.e. question the accuracy of their belief that the outcomes they want in life will come to them without working."

Often it takes the slap in the face of a serious event, such as flunking out of school, for this type to even realize that they are procrastinating.

Steps to stop putting it off

1. Don't deny it.

Like in many recovery processes, acceptance is the first necessity to getting on the right track. Betty John Jennings, director of Northern Kentucky University's Career Development Center and a career counselor, works with 25-30 students a day, and said she has seen procrastination as a general problem among those graduating who are now just starting on resumes.

"This doesn't really slap them in the face until right now, spring break time," she said. "I think a lot of students don't really necessarily think that they procrastinate."

2. Make a schedule

Whether you believe it or not, a daily To-Be-Done List can help. According to Tucker-Ladd's book "Psychological Self-Help," creating and sticking to a simple schedule is effective for a third of all student procrastinators. A set of regular hours should be written down. In order to keep your sanity, be sure to include some playtime.

3. Take it slow

When first making the transition from old procrastinating study habits, try to do work a little at a time. "Studying, like drinking, is usually in Binges," Tucker-Ladd said. "I'd suggest breaking big jobs down into manageable tasks and working on 'getting started,' perhaps by tricking yourself by saying, 'I'll just do five minutes' and then finding out you don't mind working longer than five minutes."

4. Keep a journal

Keeping track of your thoughts and

ALMQUIST

From Page 1

the change. "This is a change I constitutionally made. North Texas has a larger library and structure. It has a lot more interaction. NKU has a more personal environment than here."

Overall, Almquist is glad to come

feelings toward studying can help you discover what keeps you from doing it. Getting around the dislike for work is a factor for persistence, which is vital for recovery, Tucker-Ladd said.

"After performing the new habit at the same time, in the same way, for about two weeks, then the new way of behaving becomes easier."

However, persistence takes practice that many people don't have enough of, he added.

5. Procrastination to productivity

Try to change negative thoughts into positive ones. Instead of thinking that success is impossible, think about what can raise your chances of success.

When it comes to resume production, Jennings's advice is simple. "Get going on it," she said. "Start it, get a rough draft done, and bring us something on paper."

6. Stop rewarding procrastination

Every extension granted to a student for homework is a step in the wrong direction. "We consistently build them out," Ferrari said. "They are good excuse makers." More on Ferrari's studies can be found in his book "Procrastination and Task Avoidance: Theory, research, and treatment."

SUPERFRIENDS

From Page 1

Superfriends were always surprised that an organization called the "Legion of Doom" would cause anyone trouble.

Superman. Yes Batman. The Legion of Doom.

Keep in mind that dialogue was spoken extra slowly on the Superfriends show. It probably took most of you under sixty seconds to read the above scene. On the actual television show, that scene would have gone on for a good four minutes.

Watching Superfriends as a child taught patience, but it also taught me something much more valuable: it taught me how to fly.

I know that many of you are probably thinking that I have fallen off the top of my head to justify a silly rate. I do not even own a rocker, but I do own a working knowledge on how to fly. So just in case any of you happen to come across a situation where flying might come in handy, allow me to share my knowledge with you. This, my friends, is how you can fly.

Step 1: First off, you have to buy a cape and the right kind of underwear. You have to wear your underwear out in public, and it must be exposed for all to see. Fortunately, you are allowed to wear underwear that covers most of your body. Keep in mind that some colors are better than others for flying.

For example, if you wear blue, red,

and yellow underwear, you will be able to fly faster than a speeding bullet. However, if you buy blue and gray underwear, you'll be obsessed with sleeping upside down, and will soon all together forget that you were trying to fly in the first place. Instead, you'll rely on dorky belts and lame sidekicks to do your dirty work.

Step 2: I would re-examine becoming a journalist. I don't really know why, but it just seems to help. Maybe it's the whole "being a journalist automatically makes you smarter than most people, and henceforth, capable of neat things like flying" cliché. Yes, that's a real cliché. I certainly didn't just make that up off the top of my head to justify a silly rate. I can't really explain.

Step 3: This is going to take some creativity on your part. Somehow, you have to make yourself allergic to kryptonite. However, normal kryptonite will not do. You have to fear a special kind of kryptonite. This kryptonite looks like a rock that has been dipped in radiation. It glows green. If you find this, and then find a way to make it weaken you, you're on the right track.

Step 4: While the first three steps are tricky, the final step is the one that people have the most problems with. You must abandon any sense of humor that you possess. Any good wit you have will be replaced by something called "self-casm."

This is a highly annoying form of sarcasm where a person says things in an attempt to look cool rather than actually make someone laugh. It mainly focuses on bad puns. The by-product "self-casm" is that you will lose the ability to make people laugh. You may also look like an idiot, but don't worry about that because you'll be totally oblivious to it.

Committing to "self-casm" is a big decision, so before you do it, I would recommend renting "If Looks Could Kill," starring Richard Gere, "Batman and Robin," and a couple of James Bond flicks. Remember, you'll be focusing on the humor in these movies, so it won't hurt to have some Advil nearby. It will give you headaches.

So there you go: how to fly in only four steps. If you really want to fly, just sit how. However, I must warn you that the sacrifices you're making will not be worth it.

Please forgive my self-casm, but I really have to "take-off" now. Remember though, leave flying to airlines. At least then you'll get a free bag of peanuts.



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Macedonian special forces fire their guns as they engage ethnic Albanian rebels from an advance gun position during the third day of fighting between Macedonian forces and ethnic Albanian insurgents on the outskirts of Tetovo, Macedonia.

AP Photo/Jerome Delay

Some fear new Balkan war

By Danica Kirks
Associated Press Writer

MIJAK, Yugoslavia (AP) — It's hard to find the U.S. soldiers patrolling the border between Kosovo and Macedonia, but it's not because they're not there.

It's because the terrain seems to swallow them up. This is unforgiving territory, a morass of steep hills and switchback trails where American peacekeepers patrol on foot and in helicopters to try to stop the flow of guerrillas and weapons to Macedonia.

Peacekeepers are trying to keep ethnic Albanians in Kosovo from helping their ethnic kin, who are fighting a guerrilla battle in Macedonia for causes that range from more rights to independence, depending on whom you ask.

The volatile situation has sparked fear of a new Balkan war. But Lt. Jeff Wilbur, 23, of Annapolis, Md., doesn't get into the details when explaining the mission to soldiers under his command.

"There's an international incident. There are potentially people breaking the rules," he said. "We're trying to do what we can to make it peaceful."

So close they can hear the boom of mortar and watch the movements of Macedonian soldiers from Yugoslavia, the Americans, of C Company, 1st Battalion of the 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, start at the edge of a vaguely defined border. And their task is increasingly coming under scrutiny as the

fighting escalates in Macedonia.

The rebels in Macedonia, known as the National Liberation Army, started fighting a month ago in villages along the Kosovo border. They appear determined to expand their struggle from the sparsely inhabited border to Macedonia's principal cities to the south.

Besides the mountains, one of the few obstacles in the way of rebel supply lines in and out of Kosovo are people like Spc. Rafael Lovell, 20, of Rocky Mount, N.C. He stood in the rear of a recent patrol while his comrades checked out a road swinging around the side of a minefield.

To Lovell, schlepping 50 pounds of gear and hiking the steep hillsides of Kosovo was all about "keeping these guys from doing bad things to each other."

"God wants me to be here," he said. "That's why he put me here."

Despite the concern over plugging the supply routes, there's only so much the estimated 5,600 U.S. soldiers stationed in the American sector of Kosovo can do. Even before there were clashes in Macedonia, there was plenty to do in Kosovo itself — peacekeeping, mediating between hostile ethnic camps and staying out of harm's way.

Then there's Kosovo's eastern boundary, where an ethnic Albanian insurgent group is fighting Serb security forces. This group, the Liberation Army of Presovo, Medveđa and Bujanovac, wants the primarily ethnic Albanian villages in this part of southern Serbia to throw off Serb domination, like their

ethnic kin did in Kosovo.

The Serb province of Kosovo has been run by the United Nations and NATO since the alliance's 1999 airstrikes forced then-President Slobodan Milosevic to end his crackdown on ethnic Albanian insurgents. Now the emergence of the two rebel groups has prompted international alarm.

U.S. peacekeepers have stepped up their patrols and proved they can respond in force if they need too. Last week, during an operation to seize a guerrilla supply outpost in the tiny border village of Mijak, about 250 soldiers poured into the area with humvees, helicopters and surveillance planes.

Now nearly half have pulled out, and although violence is building just a few miles across the border in Macedonia, things have calmed down here. The Americans moved into a building once used by the rebels. There's a guard post, concertina wire — all the comforts of a remote military outpost.

The troops have come to know the area well. Second Lt. Arthur McGrue, 31, of San Lorenzo, Calif., describes its landmarks with familiarity, such as "the little white farmhouse with the woodpile."

He also believes in vigilance, especially since soldiers under his command were involved in a shooting incident with rebels last week as they searched for weapons.

If pressed, he makes it clear that his soldiers, "have the right to defend ourselves."

"I don't worry," he said.

Bush administration postpones forest law

By John Heilprin
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration asked a federal court Friday to postpone a hearing on former President Clinton's ban on road-building and logging in a third of the nation's federal forestland.

Environmentalists immediately voiced concern that President Bush was signaling his intention to reverse the regulations Clinton put into place in the final days of his presidency.

"This was their first opportunity to come in and defend the policy and instead they've come in with an offer to suspend it," said Tim Press, staff attorney for the Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund.

The Clinton ban, widely applauded by environmentalists and denounced by the timber industry, would affect 58 million forest acres where no roads currently exist.

The ban originally was scheduled to go into effect on March 13, but last month Bush postponed it until May 12 so that he could review it.

Shortly after Clinton announced the ban, the state of Idaho sought a preliminary injunction to keep it from going into effect, saying the government had not conducted adequate research nor allowed for sufficient comment in deciding the forestlands should be protected.

U.S. District Judge Edward Lodge in Boise, Idaho, set a hearing for March 30.

On Friday, lawyers for the Agriculture Department, which oversees the Forest Service, asked the court to delay the hearing until early May.

The lawyers offered to invoke a little-used administrative rule to suspend the ban, saying the department "has committed to postponing the effective date of the rule until this court has decided the motion for a preliminary injunction."

The roadless rule was published on Jan. 12, eight days before Clinton left office. It was two years in the making, after the government solicited 1.6 million public comments and held 600 public hearings.

"Now the Bush administration is going to negotiate changes to it with only the timber industry and a governor or two at the table," said Philip Clapp, president of the National Environmental Trust.

Bush cannot block or alter the forest restrictions without going through a new rule-making process since they were published before he took office.

The request Friday would at least give the Bush administration more time to review the ban before it goes into effect.

Combs found not guilty

By Samuel Maul
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Rap impresario Sean "Puffy" Combs was acquitted Friday of totting an illegal handgun into a crowded Manhattan hip-hop club by a jury that believed the Grammy-winning multimillionaire's repeated claim of innocence.

The Manhattan jury, after deliberating for three days, also acquitted the platinum-selling rapper-producer of trying to bribe his way out of trouble with a diamond pinkie ring given to him by ex-girlfriend Jennifer Lopez.

"It's bittersweet," Combs said of the verdict. "My heart goes out to everybody who was hurt by this. ... This has been a life-changing experience for me."

Combs' bodyguard, Anthony "Wolf" Jones, was acquitted of the same charges as Combs. Both men had faced up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

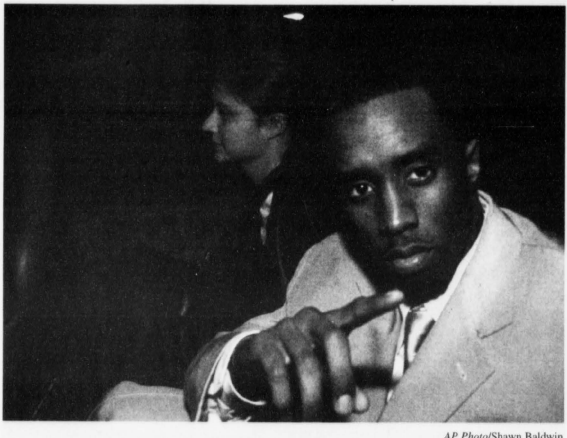
Rapper Jamaal "Shyne" Barrow, a Combs protégé, was convicted of two counts of assault in connection with the shooting of two people in the club following a scuffle involving the Combs' entourage in the early morning hours of Dec. 27, 1999. He also was convicted of reckless endangerment. He was acquitted of a third count of assault in the wounding of a third victim.

It was a stunning victory for Combs, 31, who presides over a \$300 million empire — Bad Boy Entertainment — that encompasses music, movies, clothing and restaurants. He founded the company just seven years ago.

As the verdict was read, Combs sat nervously holding a green leatherette copy of the New Testament. According to Cochran, they had read the 23rd Psalm — "The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want" — just before the verdict.

The courtroom, under strict orders from the judge, was absolutely silent as the verdict was read. Combs was the key defense witness, spending a full day testifying that he never carried a weapon on the night of his arrest. He also denied offering his driver a \$50,000 bribe if the man would take the gun possession rap for Combs.

The Lopez gift was offered as collateral, prosecutor Matthew Bogdanos claimed.



Rap mogul Sean "Puffy" Combs gestures to the media from inside his sport utility vehicle as it leaves his New York apartment after he was found not guilty on weapons possession and bribery charges, Friday, March 16, 2001. Woman is unidentified.

The driver, Wardell Fenderson, had testified that Combs tucked a black handgun into his waistband before heading over with then-girlfriend Lopez to the hip-hop hotspot Club New York.

While Combs walked out of the courtroom a free man, Barrow was jailed pending his April 16 sentencing. The 21-year-old, whose glum reaction stood in stark contrast to Combs' celebration, faces up to 25 years in prison.

The trial stretched across seven weeks, with the jurors hearing from 59 witnesses and examining more than 130 pieces of evidence.

Combs and Lopez arrived in Manhattan a little past midnight on Dec. 27 after a limousine trip from Tony East Hampton, N.Y. The couple had spent the day after Christmas at his \$2.5 million Long Island home.

Combs testified that he had expected to party for a while and do a little networking with other music industry types inside the nightclub one block west of Times Square.

But trouble began as Combs tried to exit the club shortly after 2:30 a.m. Someone hopped into Matthew "Scar" Allen, an off-duty Brooklyn man. After an exchange of insults, another man tossed a fistful of dollar bills at Combs.

Three to six shots then rang out inside the packed club, where drunken club-goers either diving to the floor for cover or charging toward the exits as three people were wounded.

Reveler Natalia Reuben was shot in her face, while Robert Thompson and Julius Jones were hit in their shoulders. Reuben still has severe bullet fragments in her head, and Jones has a bullet lodged near his spine.

Nine witnesses later said they saw Barrow with a gun. Two of the shooting victims testified they also saw Combs with a gun.

Barrow was accused of shooting the victims, but he was charged with a single attempted-murder count because he was just shooting at one person, Bogdanos explained. He said Barrow missed his intended target.

Reuben, a Brooklyn hairdresser, was the first witness to say Combs fired a gun, an assertion contradicted by defense witnesses.

But in his testimony, the trial's most eagerly anticipated, Combs said, "I thought I was being shot at."

Combs had parried with rapper The Notorious B.I.G. minutes before he was gunned down in 1997. Combs fled the club with Lopez,

Jones and driver Fenderson in his Lincoln Navigator. They were stopped 11 blocks away after Fenderson steered the SUV into a sidewalk to evade a police car and then ran several red lights.

A 9 mm handgun police found in the SUV and a virtual twin weapon that was allegedly hurled out of the window during the chase led to gun possession charges against Combs and Jones. Lopez was initially arrested, but never charged.

The same charges were dropped against Fenderson when he agreed to testify against the others. In still-spelled charges faced with malapropisms, told he said his wild driving was caused by fear of the gun-toting Combs and Jones.

Fenderson, who twice told police that he owned the gun before becoming, also detailed the alleged bribe offer.

Defense lawyers argued that Fenderson did own the gun in the car, and his erratic driving was self-preservation.

Lopez was never called to testify despite a promise to appear if Combs needed her. The superstar told the grand jury that she never saw Combs with a gun on the night of the shooting.

Amnesty International criticizes sentences of life with no parole for teens

AP Wire Service

PALATKA, Florida (AP) — Amnesty International, for the second time in a week, is criticizing the sentencing of a Florida teen-ager to life in prison without parole.

The slaying took place in a rural neighborhood north of Interlachen, where the boys lived. John Silva was sentenced Thursday to life behind bars for the May 26 murder of Jerry Lee Ayley. The slaying took place in a rural neighborhood north of Interlachen, where the boys lived.

"We're opposed to any child being sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole," said Elaine Drakopoulos, a spokeswoman for Amnesty International, in Washington.

"The John Silva case, like the Lionel Tate case, is indicative of a growing trend of sentencing children to life in prison without parole, and at the moment, Florida seems to be leading the way," she said.

Last week, a 14-year-old Florida boy, Lionel Tate, was ordered to serve the rest of his life in prison

without parole for beating to death a 6-year-old family friend. Defense attorneys had said he was imitating wrestling moves he had seen on television.

Public backlash, including a protest from Amnesty International, over that life sentence led to Tate's speedy transfer from an adult prison to a maximum-security juvenile facility, and pressure on Gov. Jeb Bush to consider commuting Tate's sentence.

Drakopoulos said Silva's sentence is in violation of international law. "International law exists on this issue precisely to protect children from their own governments, when they attempt to steal away their childhood," she said.

Assistant State Attorney Garry Wood said after the sentencing Thursday he believes Silva would kill again if he was ever freed from prison.

Drakopoulos said Amnesty International has sympathy for the family of the victim, Jerry Ayley, but still believes the sentence is not appropriate.