

THE NORTHERNER

Volume 30, Number 21

Independent Student Publication of Northern Kentucky University

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Snapshot:

NEWS

Check your mail

Some NKU students are receiving a rash of harassing e-mail. See how and what to do if you are also a victim.

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FEATURES



Ever wonder how Valentine's Day started? Well check out the origin of the day that is to remind your sweetheart just how much they mean to you.

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SPORTS



The NKU baseball team brings a new head coach into the new season, but it also brings plenty of talented ball players. Read all about these baseball players.

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VIEWPOINTS

Hallmark is the great satan of capitalism, at least that is what one student says.

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WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

Valentine.com
STILL SEARCHING FOR THAT PERFECT GIFT? For those procrastinators out there who don't feel like sleeping on the couch there is Love at First Site. There are lots of gift ideas and e-mail valentines.

www.valentine.com

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Feb. 14, 1929- St. Valentine's Day Massacre
Feb. 16, 1808- Napoleon Invades Spain
Feb. 17, 1992- Jeffrey Dahmer sentenced
Feb. 18, 1688- First Anti-slavery protest by white abolitionists in Pennsylvania

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Several DPS positions get the axe

By Dan Mecher
News Editor

Personnel revisions have swept through Northern Kentucky University's Department of Public Safety during the last three months. Since the late January release of the Southern Police Institute's management audit of the department, the university has eliminated several positions, including that of head investigator.

"The audit reports said the position was not needed and could be handled in a better way," said Mike Baker, vice president for administrative affairs.

In its report, the SPI used a different

choice of words than Baker's.

"Upon review of the investigative files, the on-site team does not have confidence in the investigator's ability, case management system and evidence collection to successfully investigate cases," the report said.

During the inspection the audit team reviewed nine currently assigned cases and found the files to be "substandard at best," according to the team's report.

Addressed were problems with evidence gathering methods and the lack of supplemental reports included in case files.

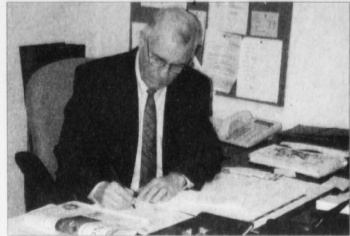
According to the audit report,

inadequate background checks on employees by the investigator was also a flaw of the DPS.

Regarding the background checks, Baker said, "It hasn't presented any problems, but it could. Many of the issues that are addressed never presented themselves as a problem, so that's why they went as undetected."

Not all of the audit team's reasons to dump the investigator position were negative. "One of the good things in the executive summary was that we didn't have enough crime on our campus to keep the investigator busy," Baker said. "That's good news."

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Dan Mecher/The Northerner
The duties of the investigator position will be overseen by Mike Tassey until the new system is developed.

The Royal Couple



Photos by Forrest Berkshire & Jason Crislet/The Northerner
Homecoming 2001, Blast from the past
Homecoming King and Queen Jennifer Surgalski and Lee Whitley (left) pose for a picture during half-time.

(Top) Homecoming Queen candidates (from left) Jennifer Surgalski, Elea Mihou, Stephanie Kappesser, Roxanne Dunaway and Angel Chichester wait anxiously for the announcement of Homecoming Queen.

(Below) Students enjoy the sunshine at the tailgate party before the big game Saturday.



Mandatory on-line syllabi in the works

By Scott Wartman
Staff Reporter

At the beginning of the 2000-2001 school year, the Student Government Association set as one of its goals getting teachers to post their syllabi online, and SGA President Kara Clark said this could be accomplished by the fall semester.

The proposal would make it mandatory for all Northern Kentucky University teachers to post information on their courses online.

The idea behind online syllabi, Clark said, is students should be able to check out the particular aspects of a class like attendance policies and course objectives before signing up.

Clark also said the amount of

drop/adds will decrease because the students will know what to expect. "Most of us wouldn't buy a \$30 shirt without trying it on," Clark said. "But we have to pay \$300 for a class without knowing anything about it."

Clark said one of the proposals for the setup of the online syllabi would have instructors typing in information like course objectives and attendance policies into a template. The template would then be posted to NKU's Web site. If the teacher wanted to post additional information, he could create a link to the rest of his syllabi. This would give the students easy-to-access information, Clark said.

SGA is trying to gain the approval

of the Student Rights Subcommittee of the Faculty Senate before they look into how the software works, Clark said.

Some Faculty Senate members, however, said they have reservations about posting their syllabi online.

Russ Jenisch, an instructor in the communications department, said a syllabus isn't always an accurate description of what a class will be like, and students might needlessly be discouraged from taking a course. "If they want to know about the class, they should ask the professor," said Jenisch.

Sentiments similar to this among the faculty prompted an earlier version of online syllabi run by the Academic Advising Resource

Center to close down, said Linda Albert, senior academic advisor. The site didn't provided syllabi submitted by certain departments or ones posted on professors' personal Web sites.

Albert's said the AARC site caused dissension among some professors. Several professors were unhappy with having their syllabi up while others were disappointed they were not.

"It became difficult to accommodate all the professors," Albert's said. "The idea was to have it be helpful, but it was drawing a lot of criticism."

Jennifer Surgalski, SGA vice president of public relations, said she anticipates some obstacles in getting

the online syllabi plan approved, but is optimistic that the Faculty Senate will work together with them.

"It's very important that they can understand our reasoning," Surgalski said. "If students are able to look at the syllabi beforehand, it will improve class environment since they will know what to expect."

Faculty Senate President Carol Bredemeyer said the chances are good for the senate to approve the online syllabi proposal. Bredemeyer said the senate's main concerns are with the software involved and how the site will run.

"I think the chances are good we can get it set up," said Bredemeyer.

List of provost candidates narrowed to three

By Bruce A. Reller, Jr.
Sports Editor

Northern Kentucky University is looking for a leader that help pave the way for Steely Library services.

They are in the process of searching for a new Associate Provost for Library Services. Last Friday, Myrna McCallister was interviewed for the position. She was the third and final candidate who was interviewed for the job.

McCallister is currently the Library Director at the University of Baltimore in Maryland.

She chose to apply for the NKU library position because of the location. "I love the Midwest. I'm from Indiana," she said. "NKU is near a big city. It's got a lot of green spaces."

McCallister said she feels she can be a big help to Steely Library. One of the things she said she would like to see is a new outreach program. "I would like to see it beyond the university," she said.

Pat Moynahan, chairman of the search committee, said McCallister wants to connect with the library faculty and the students. "She wants them to use technology to access information and see if the internet sites are valuable and credible," he said. "We want to be all going in the same direction."

"I would want to discuss the goals of the group," McCallister said. "I would want to advocate the learning resources."

McCallister has a wide background in the library business and would bring a lot of experience. Besides her current place of

employment, she has worked as the Library Director at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa. from 1994-98 and has also worked in numerous library departments from colleges in North Carolina, Maine and Michigan.

"With the scope of the experience, she has held the position of leadership," Moynahan said. "She works with groups who interact with the library."

Debbie Reichler, who is on the library search committee, said, "It might be a jump for her coming to a smaller school as far as the student population. She is capable of that. Her people skills are very good."

McCallister said she also feels the atmosphere around Northern Kentucky is good enough for her to stick around awhile. "This

would be a pleasant adjustment. Since I am a Midwesterner, I like the geography of this area. There is less threat of crime and violence than downtown Baltimore," she said.

The new candidate would probably need to make a few changes at the library. However, McCallister said she feels that any changes would involve more people than her.

"I would like to meet and consult with other people. I feel that the institution, the staff, makes the change," she said. "We would have to see where the problems were and the services that need to be done."

McCallister said she thinks that since we are in the 21st century, it is going to be more difficult to differentiate between a library question and a technology question.

"It's far-ranging," she said. "These days, people are trying to figure out what site to download. That's a technology question."

Moynahan said that he feels that the library search committee needs to find a candidate who has internal leadership and someone who works well with the faculty. McCallister seems to have all the qualities for the Associate Provost position, but she is optimistic of how she might fare at Steely Library.

"I'm not sure how successful I'll be," she said.

The Steely Library search committee also met with another candidate, Stephen Foster, on February 2. He is the Associate Dean of University Libraries at Central Michigan University.

According to Perry Bratcher, another one of the library faculty

members on the search committee, Foster has a good background in the library business. "He has dealt with all experiences of library work," Bratcher said. "He has a good background with the new technology. He has had a good well-rounded experience."

The library search committee is expected to make a decision in the next couple of weeks to name the new Associate Provost of Library Services.

The three candidates, McCallister, Foster and Arne Altmeyer have all been looked over by the 11 members of the library search committee.

They all have the qualifications to get the position. It will now come down to who will be the best person for the job. "It's always going to be about the person at the top," Moynahan said.

A regal occasion

By Rachel Dietz
Photo Editor

Besides the warm weather, Northern Kentucky University students also welcome some new royalty on campus.

During halftime of the men's basketball game on Saturday Feb. 10, senior Lee Whitley and junior Jennifer Surgalski were crowned NKU's 2001 Homecoming King and Queen.

According to Professor Russell Proctor II, one of the judges for the interview portion of this year's Homecoming race, the results were extremely close. He said they used six basic factors in judging the candidates: community activities, campus activities, G.P.A. poise during the interview, and the content of the interview.

"The voting results were neck-and-neck for both the women and

the men," Proctor said. "We had a mixture of votes between the judges and we had to end up giving the benefit of the doubt to the person who had the most votes."

Whitley said one of the questions asked during the interview was "what would you do if you could be president of the university for a day?"

"I told the judges that if I was president of the university for a day I would have an intensive leadership seminar to try to get more students involved because we have such a low percentage of students involved at NKU," Whitley said.

Surgalski said that winning queen made her feel good because of the entire process involved in receiving the title.

"An organization had to support me. I had to write an essay, and go through the interview process. All

HOMECOMING, Page 10

Donation of Life



Students, faculty and staff dropped by the University Center Ballroom on Thursday to give blood.



Rachel Dietz and Peter W. Zubaty

On-line harassment investigated

By Karen Andrew
Staff Writer

If you think you're safe and anonymous on the Internet, think again.

According to Kent Kelso, dean of students, there have been multiple incidents of harassment of Northern Kentucky University students via e-mail.

"I've seen several cases come across my desk within a short time period," Kelso said. "They were reported to NKU's Department of Public Safety. The victim has a general sense of who is doing it."

Incidents of harassment and misuse found on the DPS' Daily Activity/Crime Logs include both female and male students receiving harassing or threatening e-mails in October. A Jan. 11 report stated, "Male complainant reported that unknown subject(s) have used his checking account number to subscribe to several different pornographic web sites. Under investigation."

Kelso said if students encounter these types of problems with e-mail to report the incidents to the DPS.

"If they are NKU students, we deal

with them through the Code of Conduct and the university police," Kelso said. "If not an NKU student, (the case) is turned over to county government."

According to Gary Pratt, NKU's associate provost for information technology and chief information officer, misuse of someone else's e-mail could be prevented by proper use of passwords.

"I could walk into the offices of 60 to 70 percent of the people (on-campus) and get their passwords within one hour," said Pratt. He said the reason for this is because people put their passwords on their computer screens, in their desktop card files and drawers. They often use versions of their kids' names and birthdays.

"The best thing to do is find something you'd remember but don't use a name or something common," advised Pratt. "Pick a word you like and memorize it. Writing it down is the easiest way to help someone who is looking to do something detrimental to you. Some people have no problem going through drawers to find your password."

Joe Drury, IT lab manager, recom-

mended that users change their passwords fairly often.

"Protect your login and passwords just like your student ID and personal identification," he added. "Make sure you log off from your e-mail. Someone may accidentally or intentionally spoof you - somebody else can send nasty messages as you."

In addition to passwords, Internet chat rooms also appear to be a problem.

"I would say that students who engage in chat rooms and online dating services are prone to becoming victims to this kind of crime," said Kelso. "There are consequences to every choice we make. You have to use some judgment to protect yourself."

Drury said, "Chat rooms are just like going to a bar." In both cases, "there's a few bad guys out there. Use discretion. Don't put personal information out there," including your name.

Pratt said that anonymity is part of the chat room problem.

"Most people don't see the people in person, they feel safe," said Pratt. "They feel more comfortable and let

their guard down. It's easy to get pulled in."

Anybody can get on the Internet, so be aware and smart. According to Pratt, surfing the Web should be handled with caution.

"My advice to students is be aware of where they go (on the Internet), be careful, use common sense," advised Pratt. "Don't give your credit card information away. Do research on a site before you fill out a questionnaire. A little research will go a long way."

Pratt said that reputable companies on the Internet display e-commerce policies including information on security. Per FBI's television program, "Computer Chronicles," privacy and security policies and statements are found in the fine print at the bottom of many companies' Web sites. Information includes credit card protection, as well as how the site uses personal information. The policy will state if personal information is passed on to other companies.

In addition to the possibility that consumer-volunteered personal information is passed between Internet companies, data mining is also used.

See INTERNET, Page 10



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PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

College of Social Work

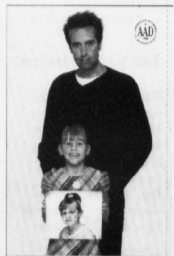


The College of Social Work is currently accepting MSW applications for the Fall 2001 semester to be held at the Northern Kentucky University campus. Scholarships are available covering the out-of-state portion of UK's tuition for all graduate program applicants who meet the 3.25 GPA requirements. Don't put that career move off any longer! Those who qualify can join the MSW program and enjoy Kentucky resident tuition rates!

For more information, or for an application packet, please contact:

Kathleen Bailey
MSW Admissions Officer
(859) 257-6652
or e-mail her at kbbai2@pop.uky.edu

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Cards lack originality

By Rick Amburgey
Special Projects Editor

What do you do when you care enough to send the very best? You send a Hallmark card, of course!

We somehow managed to survive through yet another Hallmark holiday. We're reasonably safe now, that is until Sweetest Day sneaks up on us again. And trust me, it will. It always does.

But back to the issue at hand - Hallmark. What is our fascination with America's favorite greeting card?

I personally believe all greeting cards with romantic messages, especially those produced by Hallmark, should be used for a better purpose: as toilet paper.

I am not opposed to romance. On the contrary, I think romance is a special thing. I think these greeting cards exploit that intimate moment and use it to fatten their wallets.

Let's examine these wretched cards yet another way. Do they say anything about how the person who gave you the card feels about you? No.

These cards are completely impersonal and only reflect what the buyer felt was the nicest card in his/her price range. Isn't that romantic!

Call me old-fashioned, but I prefer a little

more originality when expressing my feelings to a special someone.

Any time I buy a Hallmark, I feel the need to add a personal touch. It's not that I don't think these writers sitting up on the seventeenth story of a New York skyscraper regurgitating corny pickup lines aren't qualified. But they don't know how I feel. Only I have access to that information.

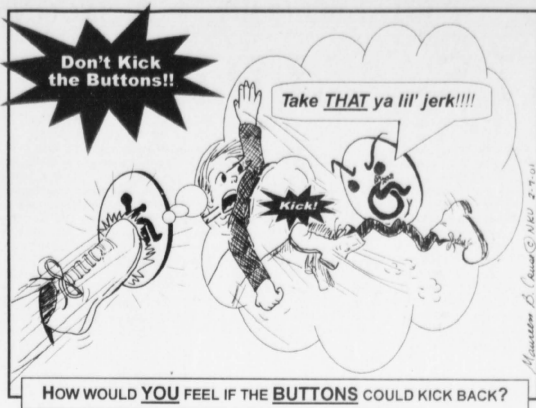
Maybe the words I write aren't as poetic or clever as what those guys may produce, but mine are guaranteed to come straight from the heart.

In all fairness to Hallmark, I will now take an opportunity to elaborate on other aspects of these so-called holidays I despise.

We can't forget about Hallmark's partner-in-crime: Esther Price. Somehow our society has developed the notion that if you buy a box of chocolates and other assorted candies, they express love as well. If anyone understands this concept, I beg of you, please enlighten me.

Does anyone remember the Beatles song, "Can't Buy Me Love"? In my humble opinion, all Valentine's Day accomplishes is putting a price tag on an emotion. It's sad that our society has developed such a mentality.

What good is Valentine's Day anyway? We didn't even get that day off school. Bummer!



Don't insult the people behind the button

By Rick Amburgey
Special Projects Editor

Would you want to put your hand where someone had walked? Of course not!

Although it's very subtle, that is exactly what we are asking the students with disabilities at Northern Kentucky University to do when we kick the automatic door openers.

Many students with disabilities feel a lack of respect and even insulted when they see individuals kick the button.

I see students, staff, and faculty kick

the button at least once a day. I honestly don't believe this is done to be destructive. I don't feel like most people understands what they are doing when they kick the button.

Not only does the stuff stuck on the bottom of our shoes sometimes get on the button, the impact of kicking the button decreases the life of the button.

The buttons were designed to withstand the force of a hand pressing it, and to kick the button adds excess pressure that it is not designed for.

Kicking the can break the button, or can loosen it from the wall, according

to Coordinator for Disability Services Dale Adams.

Northern Kentucky University has recently released some of these buttons that had been abused, worn out, or both. Such replacement is very expensive.

I am not passing judgement on anyone who has kicked the button. I am a reformed button kicker.

I grew up in a very small town. It wasn't until I went to college that I began to interact with students with disabilities.

When I was at Wright State

University in Dayton, Ohio, there was much more emphasis on helping students with disabilities than there are here.

The school hired student workers to help students with disabilities function. These student workers took notes, helped with laundry, helped with shopping, and helped with any other need the wheelchair-based student might need.

At first sight, it seemed that automatic door openers were not completely essential.

During my time at Wright State,

however, I made a lot of friends which had disabilities.

I began to understand that I was wrong. For the first time, I had the opportunity to get to know students with disabilities on a more personal basis.

The main thing I learned was students with disabilities valued independence.

However, since NKU does not employ student workers to assist students with disabilities in the same capacity Wright State does, things such as automatic door openers are a

necessity instead of a preference.

The Disability Advisory Committee, in conjunction with Vice President Mike Baker, is sponsoring a campaign to educate people on the effects of kicking the button.

Signs have already been placed all over campus. This campaign will run from Feb. 14 to Feb. 19.

Buttons will be distributed this week for people to wear. Be sure to wear your button all week and be on the lookout for fliers from the Office of Disability Services.

Homecoming candidate garners support

After reading the Viewpoints section of the Feb. 7th edition of the Northerner, I have come to the conclusion that the reactions to Theresa Gienssen's homecoming candidacy are the strongest supporting arguments for the legitimacy of her candidacy. I don't personally know Theresa, but I would venture to say the never had any intention of winning the homecoming election. I perceived Theresa's actions as a vehicle to promote thought at NKU.

By running for king, Theresa has asked all of us to consider the effects of gender roles on our society.

Was there a necessity for Theresa's actions? It's 2001, everything is fair and equal, the civil rights movement was so long ago, and the 19th

Amendment was in the ancient era of 1920. So why did Theresa ask us to question the gender roles of our society? Legally women have equality in America, but there are still many underlying gender biases in existence. The commentaries of Doug Grieme and Kenneth R. Turner Jr. exemplify the need for all of us to consider the effects of gender on our society.

... anything that the feminist groups and minority groups don't have to get involved in? There is nothing demeaning about a man being a king and a woman being a queen. It's been that way for thousands of years. All you want to do is make some noise, get the feminists a little 15 min. of fame. Grieme. By the nature of Mr. Grieme's comments one would

come to the conclusion that there are still aspects of society where females and minorities are not welcome, tradition is justification for anything, and that asking people to question the effects of gender roles in our society is a publicity stunt.

According to Mr. Turner, "Northern Kentucky University has sunk to an all new intellectual low." I would postulate that Mr. Turner's commentary is a new intellectual low. The sheer brilliance that is demonstrated by refusing to use someone's name is almost enough to win me over to his point of view.

The compelling intellectual baggage continued with some very witty name calling and some labeling that would have made McCarthy

proud: "a spineless Dean, small minded officials, feminist kings, militant leftists, etc." Turner also mentions scientific evidence, but never reveals his secret scientific source; this is almost as compelling as quoting the oracle known only as "they say..."

There is also the fact that he uses 3 of the most clever political debate tactics: 1) for the children, 2) a plea to God, and 3) liken your opponent to a horrific historical figure. "1)...a time when young men and women need strong leaders, 2) God knows we... & 3)...rather lived under Queen Elizabeth than King Henry VII." Lastly, I would like to thank Mr. Turner for the following statement: "It is this simple: age, sex and ethnicity do matter when electing

representatives of your university. I would be proud to have a young African-American woman as my homecoming queen." This reminds me a statement I heard once, "I'm not a bigot, one of my friends is black."

Thank you Theresa for making us think about broader social issues in our society and thank you Mr. Grieme and Mr. Turner for showing us why we need to think about them.

J. Murphy

BFA Painting

NORTH POLL

What are your plans for Valentine's Day?

Mary Schaffer
Underclassman
Crescent Springs

"I'm going to see some of my grandchildren."



Kirk Hamberg
Information Systems
Cincinnati

"I will be working at Cincinnati State, but after work I'll go home and take care of my wife. I'll probably get her a dozen roses because they seem to be cheaper this year."



Amanda Chalk
Business Management
Danville

"I will be attending my Phi Sigma Sigma sorority meeting and then going to Barleymom's."



Pete Townsend
Photography
Erlanger

"My wife and I and my little girl will go out to eat at Don Pablo's and then catch a movie."

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SPECIAL REPORT: THE SECOND FRONT OF THE DRUG WAR

U.S. Aid Package draws criticism

By Forrest Berkshire
Editor in Chief

A \$1.3 billion aid package aimed at curbing the international drug trade has drawn criticism from the international community, U.S. citizens, human rights groups and citizens of Colombia.

Most of the criticism points out the military focus of the plan, and many advocates of peace claim the money will do more harm than good.

But others, such as Colombian President Andres Pastrana and leaders in Washington, say the assistance is crucial to bring an end to the 37-year civil war and eradicate the cocaine coming out of Colombia.

The U.S. contribution is only a small, yet important, installment in the 30-page, \$7.5 billion program. The Colombian government has pledged \$4 billion and has called on the international community to provide the remaining money. European countries have since balked at sending their portion of the funds, citing concerns over the government's human rights record.

Yet the United States and the Colombian government are proceeding with the plan without the support of the international community, drawing heavy criticism from international non-governmental organizations. Most of the criticism focuses on two aspects of the assistance

package, aerial fumigation of coca crops and the transfer of military helicopters to the Colombian military and police.

The plan funds procurement and support for 14 UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, the most advanced military choppers in the U.S. arsenal, and 30 UH-1H Huey II helicopters for the Colombian military. These two portions of the plan alone account for more than \$268 million. U.S. pilots are also providing training for the Colombian pilots.

In addition, U.S. Green Berets are almost finished training their third special Colombian anti-narcotics battalion, who assist in ground operations of coca eradication.

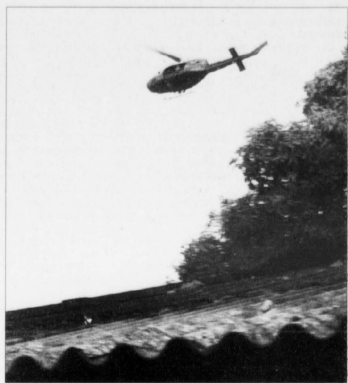
Amnesty International has criticized the plan. In a statement released last June, it stated "The Plan, a principally military strategy (in the U.S. component of Plan Colombia) to tackle illicit drug cultivation and trafficking through substantial military assistance."

The U.S. position on the focus of the plan could best be described as a split-personality. The country's largest insurgency group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), have become more involved in narco-trafficking in recent years. The FARC routinely taxes coca farmers in their regions of control to fund the war effort. Thus the line begins to blur between counter-insurgency and coca eradication.

tion. "At the end of the day (the insurgency) will only be solved by a political solution. I don't think there is a military solution," Secretary of State Colin Powell said at a press conference Jan. 30. "They (Colombians) are in danger of seeing their democracy destroyed, frankly, by the combination of narco-trafficking and insurgency."

Pres. Bush stated earlier this year that the United States needed to re-assess the plan and perhaps expand it from a counter-narcotics program to include counter-insurgency. Sanho Tree, a policy expert at the Washington, D.C.-based Institute for Policy Studies, said the basic flaw in the counter narcotics policy is the targeting of the small farmers who produce the coca, and the victims of addiction, who consume the product.

"These are the most vulnerable and easily targeted groups," he said. They are also the most numerous, which provides a costly logistical problem for enforcement. He described the drug problem as an hour-glass shape, with the consumers on the top and the farmers on the bottom. The narrowest portion in the middle is composed of the international drug smugglers, who are fewest in number. Tree said this portion of the trafficking is almost untouched by enforcement agencies.



Forrest Berkshire/The Northerner
An American-made Huey II helicopter flies over Puerto Asis. The U.S. Congress has promised 30 more Hueys and 16 Blackhawks as part of the anti-narcotics aid package to Colombia.

Peace is not always safe

Working to end violence puts many Colombians at risk

By Forrest Berkshire
Editor in Chief

Hector Mandragon sits in a small apartment in Bogota, Colombia, wringing his hands in his lap, his eyes shifting to every point in the room.

Mandragon looks like a hunted man, perhaps because he is.

"My work isn't secret, but I always have to speak as if today," he says by way of introduction. "In the last years the government has never tried to persecute me in an open way, because they know the work I do is legal."

Mandragon does not fear arrest or imprisonment, that is not the way it works in Colombia. Instead, he is watching for the gunmen, and he has to watch everywhere. Many of his colleagues have been killed or had attempts on their lives at home or work. One friend was gunned down at his birthday party, another recent attempt on a union organizer happened as he left his house for work. An indigenous leader, in the same line of work as Mandragon, from Chocoma, was attacked while celebrating Christmas with his family.

"Abandoning all routine in my life is the only thing that has kept me alive," Mandragon says.

Mandragon fled for a while to the U.S. after he learned his name was one of 20 activists on a hit-list the para-militaries were circulating.

Yet he is back in Colombia working, like so many others in his situation, on the long and winding road to peace. He is but one representative out of hundreds of grass-roots organizations trying to promote peace in this war-torn country. They range in size and scope, from small groups working in certain areas to national movements made up of coalitions of several smaller organizations.

Mandragon is an advocate for the indigenous peoples of Colombia, a segment of the population that has suffered most in the current and past conflicts of Colombia.

In Colombia there is a political and social genocide that is happening," Mandragon said. Social genocide has persisted as a characteristic of Colombia for the past century, he explained. It began a century ago with the massacres of indigenous peoples in southern Colombia, on the edge of the Amazon, on the rubber plantations. Mandragon said the only reason for the massacres was to curb the competition.

Again, in the period known in Colombia as "La Violencia" between 1948 and 1958, millions of the poor and indigenous were

displaced. Mandragon said more than 2 million campesinos (peasants) were displaced from their land, and more than 200 thousand were killed.

"The pretext was the war between the Liberal and Conservative parties," Mandragon said. In this civil war the Conservative government said the Liberals, Communists and Protestants had to be eliminated.

Yet Mandragon said the war mainly affected the campesinos. Out of their abandoned lands sprang the great sugar-cane plantations.

And it is happening again, he said. Colombia's largest land owners, the ruling elite, have moved from owning 32 percent of the land to now holding more than 45 percent, he said.

According to the U.S. State Department, the top 10 percent of the population holds 46.9 percent of the wealth, while the poorest ten percent holds one percent.

But while it appears similar to the past in some ways, the new land-grab is markedly different from the earlier conflicts. The new land acquisitions do not have the same agricultural production aspect as it did in the last violence. In fact, Mandragon said the productive land in Colombia has dropped by a million hectares, to just more than 2.4 million, producing hectares today.

Yet Mandragon asked, "What percentage of the land?" Mandragon asked.

The explanation is that the new land acquisitions are not rooted in mega-projects and foreign investment, such as a proposed

site in northern Colombia for a new interoceanic canal to replace the old Panama canal.

The indigenous population living in this area have repeatedly requested titles to the land they have lived on for over a century, Mandragon said. Yet the government repeatedly refuses. It was after they began organizing to protest that they came under fire by paramilitaries, suffering attacks like the attempt on Alberto Achiro's such as on Christmas morning.

"Many of the recent massacres that have happened are related to their closeness to oil reserves and oil wells," Mandragon said.

One area he mentioned is the area sur-

rounding the Chevron and Amoco (who owns BP) oil wells. Recently there have been numerous massacres on the indigenous population and Afro-Colombians living in the area.

"Many of the massacres happen without anyone saying anything about it," Mandragon said.

Mandragon said he does not know when the violence will end, but he said the U.S.-backed Plan Colombia will not help solve the problem of the poor.

It is not only the poor who are being represented by peace advocacy groups. Planet Paz (Paz means peace in Spanish) is a coalition of 1,138 small organizations. It is composed of labor unions, Afro-Colombians, gays and lesbians and indigenous groups such as Mandragon's.

"We are a political organization," Fernando Quintero, one of the organizers of Planet Paz and an artist himself, said. He said they do not attempt to start from scratch, their role is to act as a sort of organizing mechanism with all the different groups.

"One tragedy of Colombian society is we have a hard time working together," Quintero said. They focus on development and articulation for their member groups, he said.

Quintero said there is a need for civil society to have a voice in the peace process, but that voice is often ignored by the government. With the Jan. 31 deadline for peace-talks to resume with the revolutionaries, Quintero's words proved true when he stated the peace process will not end there. Talks are still shaky between the government and the rebels two weeks after the deadline has expired, and no one is willing to predict the future of the talks.

The church is also playing a role in the fight for peace. Ricardo Esquivia with the organization Justa Paz works with non-Catholic churches on the issue of conscientious objector status for Colombian citizens.

"Twelve years ago when it was just a small group of us that started this people said we were crazy to talk about conscientious objection and non-violence," he said. Justa Paz is now a national program with a considerable amount of involvement and recognition, he said.

"We haven't officially been able to get the government to accept conscientious objector status," Mandragon said. "But they have given special status to certain churches under what they call 'Freedom of Conscience.'"

Mandragon said they currently have 42 young people in the program, and at one time had more than 250. He said they will keep fighting until they win the right to conscientious objection.



Forrest Berkshire/The Northerner
A Colombian peace activist stands outside of the Colombian Supreme Court building soliciting "donations for peace."

Snapshot: The Actors

The conflict in Colombia is a complex issue with several different factors contributing to the violence and several key players.

Plan Colombia- The Colombian program aimed at ending the 37-year conflict. It is an international plan calling on the international community to help fight coca production. The United States has contributed \$1.3 billion, mostly in military aid.

Andres Pastrana- The Colombian president who won on the promise to make peace with the FARC.
Carlos Castano- Leader of the paramilitaries. Though Colombian officials claim he is wanted for human rights abuses, he walks the street openly, even granting TV interviews occasionally.

Manuel "Sureshot" Marulanda- Leader of the FARC

Campesinos- Colombian peasants, the coca farmers

Paramilitaries- Self-defense groups organized and financed by wealthy land owners. They are responsible for 70 percent of the human rights abuses in Colombia.

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)- Marxist guerrillas fighting the government. Largest rebel faction.

Putumayo- Southern Department of Colombia, responsible for 70 percent of the coca grown in Colombia.

Coca- Green, leafy bush which is refined into the powder form known as cocaine. It is also brewed into tea and is used in religious and cultural exercises by indigenous peoples in Colombia.

SPECIAL REPORT: THE SECOND FRONT OF THE DRUG WAR

The southern front of the War on Drugs

By Forrest Berkshire
Editor in Chief

Before the airplane lands in Putumayo the flight attendant says, "Welcome to Puerto Asis. Please refrain from taking photos, this is a military base."

One glance out of the window confirms it. Sandbag bunkers with the tips of M-60 machine guns peering out from dark slits line the runway.

Once off the plane a boy who doesn't look old enough to be out of high school checks the passengers' bags. His Israeli-made Gali assault rifle leans against the wall close at hand.

This is it. This is the very front of the War on Drugs. For any American citizen interested in U.S. foreign policy this is the place to see it in action. Soldiers with U.S. Army stenciled on their gear patrolled the runway.

Two middle-aged guys escorted by a couple young toughs sporting Levi's, T-shirts and Uzis led us to the open-air cafe.

Manuel Alzate, the mayor of Puerto Asis, showed up soon. His body guards moved out to the street as he apologized for their presence.

"I was the victim of an attack on my

life," he explained. As is typical with anyone in the political spot light of Colombia, Alzate could only say, "Up to now we still don't know who it was."

Alzate does not know if he will ever find out who really sent the assassins who tried to gun him down in the street.

Alzate's life is like any other outspoken Colombian in this political climate. The same week an attempt was made on his life, the leading negotiator with the guerrillas was executed on a back country road. Neither side has taken credit for the slaying, but everyone, including the government, is suspect.

Putumayo is one of the most violent areas in the most dangerous country in the Western Hemisphere. In Puerto Asis right-wing paramilitaries patrol the streets openly, and any resident can point out the leader's house. The leftist guerrillas control the countryside, making any road travel risky. Occasionally the two sides cross paths and shots are exchanged, but the majority of the victims are the civilians.

"Many of our friends die daily," Alzate said. On Sunday of that week a man had been shot, and the next day two more were found dead. It was only Thursday.

"The law here is the law of silence," one campesino said. In this political climate one wrong word to the wrong person can mean a death sentence. Much of the population do not say anything at all for fear of becoming an example.

Ten miles out of town is the military base of Santa Ana, where about 500 government soldiers are stationed.

"At any time we expect an attack," the comandante of the base said, "most likely a car bomb, or the infamous gas cylinders that are lobbed in like mortars." The gas cylinders are propane tanks rigged by the guerrillas to explode, cheap homemade bombs. The week before one detonated in Puerto Asis, destroying a store front and wounding several people.

The 24th Brigade will not be receiving any aid from the U.S. government any time soon. Rumors claim the brigade's human rights record was too spotted.

Citizens of the town claim that after the brigade moved in the paramilitaries soon followed. There is some evidence of collusion between the military and the paramilitaries, who are responsible for 70 percent of the thousands of human rights abuses each year.

The comandante explained that it is



Forrest Berkshire/The Northerner
Campesino children look out from the front porch of a house in the southern department of Putumayo.

true some soldiers have left the military and joined the paramilitaries, who generally pay better.

"Because of their needs, they went down the wrong path," he said. "We need

to attack them as delinquents and not ex-military."

Meanwhile the paramilitaries still roam the streets of Puerto Asis at night, only ten miles away from Santa Ana.

Losing Paradise

Alternative crop program threatened

By Forrest Berkshire
Editor in Chief

Deep in the jungle of one of the most dangerous areas in the Western Hemisphere is a paradise.

Several miles outside of Puerto Caicedo in Putumayo a small dirt track heads back through the jungle off a primitive dirt road. A five minute walk through the jungle leads to a small sunlit clearing where a herd of goats graze. A few simple but neat buildings on the hill above them is the home of Antonio Narvas, a campesino who has escaped the grip of the coca trade so many other campesinos are held in thrall by.

"Out here we can live in peace without the violence," Narvas explained.

He has lived on his 106 acres of farmland, pasture and jungle for 10 years as part of an alternative crop program started by a Catholic priest in Puerto Caicedo.

Narvas' farm is one of six farms in the program designed to provide the campesino with an alternative to growing coca. The farm is completely self sufficient, with all the needs of Narvas and his family supplied through their work on the farm.

Narvas and his 15 children raise a herd of goats, 20 head of cattle, pineapple, sugar cane, coconuts, beans, corn and a varied assortment of other crops.

The farm is not supported by money directly. The program focuses on educating the farmers to better feed themselves and provide them with the knowledge to better their lives.

Advisers focus on four areas: basic sanitation such as the house and water sanitation, health issues which include keeping the animals out of the house, community building and decision making, and production. Narvas produces shampoo and several different jellies and marmalades that he sells locally for a small profit.

"You should not join the project if you want to make a lot of money," Narvas said.

However, he said it is worth it. "I have been able to support my family without ever planting a plant of coca," he said.

However Narvas is the exception in this impoverished area, and his future is not certain. The program is in danger of shutting down because of a lack of funds needed to support the advisers in the program. Padre Assides, who began the program, was gunned down a year ago while he celebrated Mass with his congregation, and the program is without a leader.

Narvas' eyes are mirroring the fear in other campesino's eyes. Faced with a lack of even the most basic support, such as adequate roads to move crops to market and health services, the future is uncertain. With the increase in recent months of fumigation by Colombian and U.S. planes in an effort to eradicate the coca, many campesinos are uncertain of their future.

"The fear you see in the people is the fear of how they are going to live once their coca is taken away," Heimi Perdomo, who works with the crop substitution program, said.

Perdomo explained that it has not always been this way. The campesino has not always been dependent on the coca.

The coca arrived 22 years ago, mostly as a result of aggressive attempts by the governments of Bolivia and Peru to drive the coca cultivation out of their countries.

Once the coca arrived, the campesino's life of self-sufficiency was ended. Seemingly overnight these poor farmers were offered what seemed to be vast amounts of money for a crop they did not even have to transport to a market. The drug merchants representing international drug smugglers would come to them and pay good money, offering around \$600 U.S. for a kilo of coca paste.

The cultivation of coca spread like a wildfire overtaking the countryside. The southernmost department of Colombia, Putumayo, now supplies nearly 80 percent of Colombia's coca.

Perdomo explained that the campesino no longer needed to grow any other crop. If a campesino needed something, he could now buy it, he had never had this luxury before.

The inflation soon followed. Nearly every type of product needed for survival is now imported, and with the imports came an increase in the price of the products.

But in recent years, and especially in the last months, the fumigation planes have been flying over more frequently, destroying more and more crops, and with the death of the crops comes the death of the campesinos' livelihood.

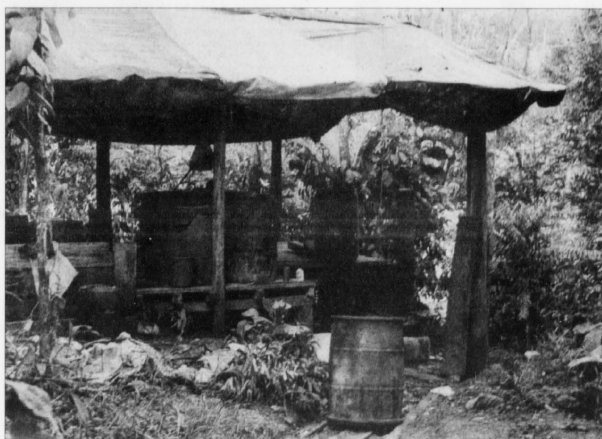
Perdomo said it is virtually impossible for the campesino to move off the coca now, given the current circumstances. There are limited local markets, and with the free-trade across borders from neighboring countries the campesino can not even break even on legal crops. The only road that leads out of this area to the department's capital, Mocoa, is almost a day's journey along a primitive gravel road interspersed with guerrilla and paramilitary check points that charge tolls for traveling.

Many of the efforts that Perdomo has tried to ween the campesinos off the coca have failed due to a lack of support and infrastructure.

A couple years ago, he said, his program identified a crop the campesinos in the area could grow and support themselves with. They started the local farmers growing Heart of Palm, a luxury fruit that is in great demand and could bring a good price.

But, Perdomo said, the 13 million pesos (\$6,500 U.S.) the government promised for a processing plant never materialized.

"The crops are rotting in the fields," Perdomo said.



Forrest Berkshire/The Northerner
Coca is ground into paste and then refined with chemicals in primitive jungle labs, like this one, all over Colombia.

Poor the targets of the Drug War

Small farmers face starvation as their food crops and livelihoods wilt

By Forrest Berkshire
Editor in Chief

The sound of choppers in the distance is replaced by the steady hum of an airplane. It streaks into view over a small clearing in the middle of the rainforest and dumps a fine spray over the vegetation, then just as quickly as it appeared, it is gone.

In a day or two the results of the spray will begin to show. The plants start to turn brown and dry until they are brittle. It is all part of the strategy devised by the United States and the Colombian government to eradicate the coca supply in southern Colombia. The plan calls for aerial fumigation of nearly 116 square miles in the southern department of Putumayo, which supplies 70 percent of Colombia's coca according to the U.S. State Department.

But many of the campesinos whose crops are being sprayed claim that more than the coca is dying after the planes are long gone.

"It not only kills the illicit crops, it also kills the legal crops," Manuel Alzate, the mayor of Puerto Asis in Putumayo, said.

"The planes fly at a very high altitude," he explained. He and many campesinos claim that many times the planes are so high the chemicals are spread by the wind

onto other crops. One reason the planes fly so high is to evade fire from guerrillas in the government who target the spray planes.

"Not every spray pilot is perfect," said David Becker, deputy director of narcotics at the U.S. embassy in Bogota. "I'm not saying there hasn't been mistakes."

Becker, who works with the Colombian government on fumigation, said he supports the fumigation strategy. He explained that the pilots are supplied with maps from satellite imagery pin-pointing the coca crops.

He said he believes aerial fumigation is the key to eradicating the coca.

"You have to convince the campesino that his time is limited," he said.

"The campesino lives from the coca," Padre Alfonso Gomez of the parish of San Francisco in Puerto Asis, said. "Then the fumigation comes, and they fumigate what you eat."

Alzate is working on getting communities to sign promissory notes to manually eradicate their coca crops. He said 148 communities have agreed to manually eradicate their coca in a government program that is supposed to help develop alternative crops.

"The campesinos will agree to eradicate the coca," he said. "But only when the government picks up their part of the agreement."

He said much of the problem is the campesinos no longer believe the government. Once the promissory notes are signed, the communities are supposed to be guarded from fumigation. They have one year to move from coca cultivation to other crops. Yet Alzate said he has seen

the fumigation happen even after the agreements have been signed.

Roberto Cruse, a

campesino in Putumayo, had his farm fumigated and his crops destroyed. "Of all my crops I had growing, they all died, but the coca died last," he said. "They say they will stop fumigating if we stop growing coca, but why do they spray our food crops?"

Alzate said the campesinos want the coca gone. "There is no product that will replace the coca, it is too profitable," he said. Yet the campesinos want it gone because, he said, it has only brought misery, death and violence.



Cabaret: more than just provocative dancing

By Julie Stratton
Staff Writer

With a cup of coffee in his hand and the light of the morning peeking through the window and beaming upon his face, Joe Conger, chairman of the theatre department, describes "Cabaret," the latest show he is directing.

Conger has directed students at Northern Kentucky university since 1984, usually in musicals. He said that in his years of directing,

this is the first time that he has directed "Cabaret."

"Cabaret" is a musical set in the late 1920s in Nazi Germany. It was first performed in the 1960s and made into a film in the 1970s. It deals with the time before World War II, and some might say that it foreshadows the persecution of Jewish people. "Nazis were beginning to take power, the people in 'Cabaret' should have stopped them, but they didn't," said Conger.

Bob Fosse, one of Broadway's most influential choreographers, was the first to produce "Cabaret." Fosse's work can also be seen in musicals "All That Jazz," "Chicago," and "Sweet Charity."

The show is scheduled to open on Thursday, Feb. 15. According to the dialogue and musical numbers in the script, it is a somewhat sexually charged musical. When asked about how the audience would respond to this, Conger said, "It's the place in Berlin where

people go for an adventure, a sexual adventure. It's controversial in that it is a musical about leading a hedonistic lifestyle." However, he said there is "no foul language or nudity." He also said that the department is blessed with a talented group of performers who are both mature and enthusiastic about working on the production.

Conger said he hopes that after seeing the show, the audience will become more politically aware and that if citizens see something

wrong they will say or do something to stop it.

Nick Demizio, a theatre student who played Will Parker in "Oklahoma!" last season, plays the character of Herr Shultz, a German-Jewish man who sells fruit in Nazi Germany in the late 1920s. "I embody the Jews who spent their entire life in Germany as citizens but began to be persecuted just for being Jewish," said Demizio.

Demizio said the rehearsals are

mainly centered on dancing and the members of the cast get along with each other for the most part. He said he believes the audience will enjoy the show. He does not want to give the plot away, but he did say this: "At the end of Act I in the original production, there is an amazing moment which caused many people to walk out of the performance. It was such a shocking moment. Our show embodies some of this, however not quite as much as the original."

Do you hear what I hear?... this is fightin' music

By Sara Reilly
Staff Writer

Dr. Dianne Dugaw's message is in her music. Dugaw, who has a doctorate in English and folklore from UCLA, and is currently a professor at the University of Oregon, played her guitar to a packed house and lectured from her book, "Warrior Women and Popular Balladry."

Dugaw's lecture, entitled, "I'll tie back my hair, men's clothing I'll put on," was presented by the Arts and Sciences lecture series at Northern Kentucky University Wednesday, Feb. 7 in Landrum 506.

Even the audience was involved in her performance. "I'll ask you to imagine yourself in an English pub. Join in with the chorus at the end of the stanzas," said Dugaw, as she strummed the opening chords of "The Larks They Sang Melodiously," which is a song about a woman who wants to go to war to be with her sweetheart.

Dugaw's lecture exposed the experiences of women who had fought in war, while disguised as men. Her message was intertwined with an acoustic performance of popular balladry and folklore written from the late 1500s to the 1800s that detailed the experiences of these "female warriors."

According to Dugaw, these ballads are normally love stories, based on true experiences, about a woman who disguises herself as a man and goes off to war in search of her beau. The heroine is both celebrated because of her feminine behavior as well as her masculine behavior, and she is rewarded with a happy marriage and a happy ending.

These ballads were the equivalent of top 40 hits in the 1600s through the 1800s and were printed on broadsides, which is paper used mainly for distribution or posting. After that, the songs were passed down by oral tradition.

One popular ballad recounted the story of Ann Jane Thornton who, in 1855, sailed the Atlantic Ocean for 31 months as a cabin boy. "Ann Thornton is not unique," explained Dugaw. "She stands in a long line of women who fought and sailed in real life and starred in popular songs and stories."

In the 1640s there was a song, which sang the true tale of a woman who marched alongside her husband through Ireland, France and Spain. It was not discovered that she was not a male soldier until she gave birth to a son, ending her tour of duty.



Dianne Dugaw poses with her guitar, which she uses to illustrate her lectures on her book "Warrior Women and Popular Balladry."

Sometimes it was not love that drove these women to follow their husbands or boyfriends off to war. Occasionally it was monetary compensation. In the case of Hannah Snell, however, it was neither.

Dugaw explained that Snell enlisted to service as a man, not to find her true love, but "to find her renege husband who deserted her."

Other themes are present in these tales of heroism and courageousness as well. Dugaw also discussed gender issues, saying, "The cross-dressing woman flourished when ideas about human identity and sexuality shifted. It's important to think about, because it shapes our ideas about gender and the belief in female delicacy."

Many of these popular ballads created quite a stir because of the belief system in place at the time. The idea that women must be passive, frail and soft had been widely accepted as being in accordance with natural law, according to Dugaw. That is why cross-dressing and a belief system which supports heroic efforts by women were assumed to be unnatural. Dugaw countered that argument by presenting the cases of female warriors.

"Although the songs fashion a heterosexual love story, the disguise element always guarantees some homoerotic innuendo," said Dugaw. In "The Bristol Bridgroom," the bridgroom,

who has gone off to war, falls in love with his surgeon's mate. The mate is revealed to be the bridgroom's own love, disguised as a male.

"I thought it was interesting that she was very interdisciplinary in that she studies literature, music, history, and is involved in gender studies, 18th century literature, and 19th century literature," said Dr. Roxanne Kent-Drury, assistant professor of literature at NKU. "It crossed a broad historical range."

Gary Walton, events committee chairman for the Arts and Sciences lecture series says he would like to see more events such as this one. "We try to think of things that would interest students and faculty as well as people in the area," said Walton. "It does a lot for the reputation of the university to bring in outside, nationally-known people."

"I think it's a neat tradition," said Cyndi Brinkso, an international studies major. "It's a good thing we don't have to dress up like men to do the things we want to do."

Dugaw concluded her lecture by saying, "The female warrior opens our eyes to the laws and ideals of the past and to the ways our own lives and idea and experience potentials are shaped. Although she remains hidden away in archives, her story is not so far kept. Just ask any little girl who's tucked her ponytail up inside her cowboy hat."

Student's views on racism stem from personal past

By Rick Amburgey
Special Projects Editor

Freshman Amanda Paoello found her way to serve the Northern Kentucky community about six months ago - being a member of the Northern Kentucky chapter of the NAACP.

Paoello, who is the recording secretary for this branch of the NAACP, said she joined in August after getting information from a member on campus doing voter registration.

In addition to the NAACP, Paoello is a member of Students Together Against Racism, and regularly volunteers to work in soup kitchens and hospitals.

Why would a white girl want to be a part of the NAACP? "I got tired of ignoring what was going on as far as race relations," Paoello said.

She said she isn't the only white person in the group, but says she is one of "a handful."

She said that made her curious in the beginning. Paoello said that curiosity was not linked to her acceptance, but unsure if those she would be helping would be willing to accept aid from a "19-year-old white college girl."

"Some people welcomed me. Other people looked at me like, 'What are you doing here?' but that's to be expected," she said.

Paoello said she has been exposed to racism all her life because she grew up in a small town in Southeastern Indiana.

"There's a lot of KKK involvement where I am from," she said.

She said after they moved to Ohio, she hung out with a lot of non-white friends in Clifton during her sophomore and junior years in high school.

She said she was subjected to being given labels, such as slut and weirdo, because of her open-minded views.

"I outcast myself from everyone in my age group - lack of trust in people," she said.

Paoello traced her first recollection of racism to when she was in second grade. She said her father would watch television and make racial slurs when minorities were on TV.

She said her mother doesn't understand her views, but accepts them. Paoello said her father totally disapproves of her views.

She described her relationship with her father as very business-like and very tense.

"In my whole lifetime, I have heard him say 'I love you' once and that was when I was in the hospital in intensive care," Paoello said.

How did she get exposed to more open-minded views? "I had a mind of my own. I would go to the library and read up on this. I explored the world through the library, Internet and anything I could get my hands on," she said.

Her roommate, freshman Charlene Gilliland, said Paoello has influenced her.

"I think there needs to be more people like her. She makes me want to get involved with the NAACP," she said.



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Valentine's Day: more than just a Hallmark holiday

Read how the beheading of a priest birthed this 'beloved' tradition

By Rachel Dietz
Photo Editor

Every February couples reach into their wallets to purchase the perfect card or gift for their sweethearts. How many of these couples really know why they are following these Valentine's Day traditions? Is this "Hallmark holiday" really just a conspiracy by card companies to make money?

Junior Ryan Spingler said she agrees with that theory. "They invented the holiday to make money and make single people feel bad," she said.

There are three main theories about the history of Valentine's Day, none of which has anything to do with a card company.

According to www.historychannel.com, St. Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families and he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine defied the

emperor and continued to marry couples secretly. When Claudius discovered Valentine's actions he ordered that he be put to death. While in jail, Valentine supposedly fell in love with the jailer's daughter, sending her notes signed "From your Valentine," an expression still used today. On February 14, he was beheaded.

So what does a beheaded priest have to do with love? There are three legends about what links St. Valentine to a day for romance.

One legend, also found at www.historychannel.com, comes from an ancient fertility festival in Rome that was held about 200 years after Valentine's death. The festival was held around February 14 and was called Lupercalia. At the festival, men chose women's names from a box to see who their

mates would be for the festival.

The men would pay special attention to their woman or "valentine." If they liked each other they often stayed together even after the festival. Since the festival was held right around the same date that St. Valentine was executed they linked him with the special day. Another theory, found in The World Book Encyclopedia, says that during the Middle Ages it was commonly believed in France and England that Feb. 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season. This added to the

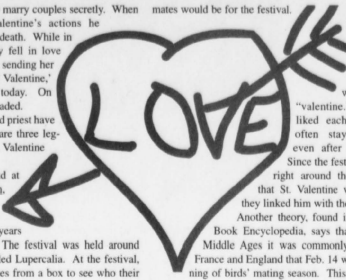
idea that the middle of February and therefore Valentine's Day should be a day for romance.

The History Channel also recognizes a third theory, the weed mix-up theory.

The Norman-French word "galatin" means "a lover of the fair sex." Since the letter "G" was pronounced "V" in French, "galatin" evolved to be spoken and written as "valatin" or "valentine." Therefore, the word was linked to St. Valentine and love because of Valentine's efforts to marry couples secretly.

Valentine's Day isn't celebrated everywhere. In addition to the United States, the holiday is only celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia.

It seems that because of the famous St. Valentine, anything revolving around Feb. 14 or resembling his name is linked to love and romance. Even though there may never be just one true reason for this holiday, the many theories given help us realize that Hallmark may not have just made it up.



Finding affordable love at the five-and-dime

By Stacy Tieman
Staff Writer

"He loves me, he loves me not," so the old saying goes. It's the night before Valentine's Day and you still don't have a gift for your valentine and with your student budget you start to panic on what gift to send in fear of it coming across too cheap or cheesy to make them feel special.

Hmmmm, what to do? Walgreens, which is conveniently located right off campus, is a life saver for the last minute shopper. It is open 24 hours and has a wide variety of inexpensive gifts, not to mention two aisles full of Hallmark cards.

For only \$10-\$20 a box of assorted candies may be bought in an array of designs and packaging. For \$8 a Dove chocolate rose with heart truffles can be purchased.

If you're not into the candy thing, V-Day unisex books are only two for \$10 and they come with a free gift

bag. For all you guys out there that want to seem "oh so sweet," reach for the selection of plush animals in bags including the devil bear with a heart, the pucker-up kiss-able frog, or the traditional bear holding a balloon exclaiming your love.

For those who can afford a bit more, Lazarus is offering nine selections of name-brand watches (Fossil, Guess and Anne Klein) for women, your choice for \$55—not bad. Men's cologne is also on sale, and with a minimum purchase you receive and free gift set.

For a more unique approach to the love holiday, Dennis Buttelworth Florists in Hyde Park, approximately 10-15 minutes from campus, offers a sweeter way to say "I love you." The product is called Sundae, and it is a chocolate body paint complete with paintbrush and instructions. The cost is only \$10 for an 8-ounce jar.

Whatever your budget may be, there is definitely something out there to show your valentine that they are special.

Lay one on me



A kissing contest was held Sunday. The winners of the contest were awarded an over-night stay at a hotel.

Jason Crislet/The Northerner

Pete's Poetry Corner

Sad Mate
By Cheryl Ritchie

Lying in bed next to you
Is a closeness I will never forget
Your heart beating next to mine
The freshness of your skin
The tenderness of your touch
The warmth, softness of your skin
Time is infinite, when I'm with you
The day ended without a blink
Boredom never arose
Security within your arms
Confirms me endlessly.

Being Replaced
By Dan Mecher

I was once useful. I was
once a machine.
Now I am merely scrap among debris.
You threw me away without a single thought.
What a tragic end to a beautiful plot!
I kept your fruit fresh, and kept your meat cold.
Naive to the notion you'd replace me when I got old.
What do you want with a crushed ice dispenser?
Is the upper freezer compartment easier to enter?
I apologize for needing more energy to run.
Than the more modern, more attractive, more efficient one.
Nothing I could have said would have changed her mind.
Once she saw him, to me she was blind.
Looking at my replacement, she can hardly be blamed.

So strong and so dignified, and I am so plain.
Now I sit among the others rejected.
All of us outdated, perhaps dejected.
Never in another kitchen will I ever reside.
Discarded in a junk heap, not waiting to die.

In Lieu Of Flowers
By Rick Ambrosio

All my friends said to bring
you flowers
When I picked you up tonight
To impress you, honey
To make everything
right
Maybe I should have
done it
Maybe you wanted me to
But there's something more
I wanted to give you
I forgot every line
I memorized to say
And I never brought the flowers
That would only wither away
So I'm here empty-
handed
And not sure where
to start
So in lieu of flowers
I'll give you my heart
I know you've heard
Empty words before
And you've had your heart
broken
By a stunning door
I could promise you the stars

But that's a promise I couldn't
keep
So all I have to offer you is
me

My Girlfriend Dumped Me For Bob Saget
By James Preffitt

My ex-girlfriend just loved Full House
Which was totally cool with me
Even though I thought it'd be weird to have a
spouse
Who was only entertained by Uncle Jesse.
We went to a comedy club one night
Because Bob Saget would be there.
The place was filled with neon lights,
Which really highlighted Mr. Saget's hair.
The show was endurable to say the most.
It was a far cry from fun.
Mr. Saget said I gave the audience a nose
When his act was done.
My girlfriend gave him a standing O.
She clapped and cheered quite loud.
She was the only one there that did so.
Yet Mr. Saget said I seemed quite proud.
So he came over to say hello.
My girlfriend asked him out.
He said "Sure. Come on, let's
go."
And out of the club they went.
I'm not going to say dating is a waste.
People have better experiences than mine.
But make sure Full House is something they
hate.
Because if it's not, that could be a sign.



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Mason manhandles NKU men's team

By Peter W. Zubaty
Executive Editor

NKU could not weather the torrid shooting of St. Joseph's College Thursday night, falling 101-82 at Regents Hall. The loss snapped NKU's 25-game home winning streak, its last loss coming Feb. 9, 1999 at the hands of the University of Indianapolis.

St. Joe's guard/forward Brent Mason was the biggest thorn for the Norse, pacing the Pumas with 34 points and 12 rebounds in delivering the season sweep. Mason, who averages 18.8 points per game, second in the GLVC, had the answer for everything the Norse threw at him defensively, hitting 11 of 17 from the field, including 4 of 5 three-pointers and 8 for 8 from the charity stripe.

Mason said it was his best game ever against NKU. "I was able to get my shots off, get into a rhythm early. It felt good."

NKU assistant coach Kevin Listerman said of Mason, "He's very capable. You try not to let him get too many early. He did."

The Pumas were hot all night, shooting 59 percent on the way to breaking the century mark. The Norse spotted the Pumas an early 8-2 lead, and coupled with the NKU's 37 percent shooting, St. Joe's gained confidence as the game wore on.

The Pumas opened a 10-point lead late in the first half, only to see the



Rachel Dietz/The Northerner
NKU senior Adam Norwell drives to the basket for two for the Norse.

Norse turn it up a few notches on defense, capped by Carl Mitchell's authoritative follow-up dunk of a missed lay-up to cut it to 48-44.

Whatever momentum the Norse had gained from cutting the St. Joe's lead to four just before halftime seemed to stay behind in the locker room. Listerman said, "We let them hit three threes to begin the half. We played hard in spots, that's when we made runs."

Unfortunately, the Norse could not piece enough of those spots together to push the squad over the top. "It's been a problem all year. We play hard in spots, but to be a contender, you have to play for 40 minutes," Listerman said.

NKU's poor shooting, coupled with St. Joe's hot shooting, led by the Brent Mason show, didn't leave the Norse much room for error. The lack of sustained effort on defense and rebounding was too much for the Norse to overcome.

Mason admitted that the Pumas didn't necessarily expect to win the game, but that he hoped the Pumas could stay in the game for a while to get confidence. "We knew the longer we stayed in we were going to give them trouble. We hit some big shots toward the end that made them roll over."

St. Joe's coach Dave Balza had nothing but humility and respect after breaking the home winning streak. "They (NKU) play so well-disciplined and they play so hard. We try to model our program after Coach (Ken) Shields." We talked about the fact that we had (Ky.) Wesleyan tied at the half; we wanted to work really hard to avoid coming out flat."

Second half 13-0 run sparks Norse men to 21-point win over IPFW

By Bruce A. Reller, Jr.
Sports Editor

The NKU men's basketball team came into its game against Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne without Carl Mitchell and ended the game without Mitchell and Todd Clark.

Despite all that, the Norse beat IPFW 94-73 Saturday at Regents Hall.

NKU coach Ken Shields said that Mitchell, who is averaging 14 points a game, violated a team rule and was not allowed to play.

"It was nothing horrible," Shields said. "He will be back Tuesday."

In the game, Clark, a senior center for the Norse, was called for a foul early in the first half, disagreed with the call and was charged with a technical. That technical came back to haunt him as he argued another foul called on him in the second half, which prompted his ejection.

"The officials made a terrible call," Clark said. "I said to myself, 'this is ridiculous,' and they called a technical on me."

Clark said the officials can't

always be perfect, but he expects them to be fair. "I'm big and strong and when I am hit on contact, I can take it. I can live with it and play against it," he said.

At the time of his ejection, the Norse were holding on to a slim 61-54 lead.

Clark's ejection was the spark as NKU went on a 13-0 run to break open the game and cruise to the victory.

Also, NKU senior Craig Conley helped spark the second half rally as he scored 18 points and grabbed eight rebounds for the Norse. "We played better in the second half," NKU junior guard Brian Schaefer said. "We stopped them from hitting wide open shots. We switched our defense around."

"We battled them all night long," NKU coach Ken Shields said. "We used our strength and played physical inside."

The Norse also won the rebounding battle against IPFW by a margin of 33-18.

NKU was led by Craig Sanders, who had 24 points in the game.

Adam Norwell also came away with 16 points.

Nick Wise was the high man for the Mastodons, scoring 24 points in the game.

"We had a bad loss against St. Joe's," Clark said. "This win really sparked us. We have to keep playing this way."

With the home win, the seventh ranked Norse improved to 20-4 on the year and 11-4 in the GLVC.

NKU is currently in third place in the conference and fifth in the region. For it to make a serious bid at the NCAA Division II Tournament, the Norse have to start piling up the victories, Schaefer said.

"We have to put together some wins. We have to get some momentum going," he said.

The road doesn't get much easier for NKU as it travels to Kentucky Wesleyan Thursday for a 6:15 p.m. game. Wesleyan is second in the GLVC ahead of the Norse. NKU then makes a trip to Bellarmine College Saturday. Game time is 5:45 p.m.

The Northerner Athletes of the Week



Photos by Rachel Dietz
Left: Craig Sanders
Sanders scored 24 points in each home game against St. Joseph's College and IPFW for the NKU men's basketball team.



Right: Julie Cowens
Cowens had the hot hand for the women's basketball team as she scored a combined 31 points in two home wins for the Norse.

NKU women improve to 19-2

By Bruce A. Reller, Jr.
Sports Editor

The NKU women's basketball team had a solid performance by senior Julie Cowens and the Norse extended its winning streak to five games as it defeated Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne 82-48 Saturday at Regents Hall.

The Norse never fell behind in the game, going on an early 21-8 run in the first 10 minutes of the game and led by 17 points at halftime.

There was a scary moment, however, in the first half for NKU. With eight minutes left in the half, junior Michelle Cottrell and sophomore Kristin Polosky ran into each other. "They were both going for a loose ball," NKU head coach Nancy Winstel said. "Polosky's head hit Cottrell's eye."

Neither injury was serious as Polosky only received a cut on her head, which required one stitch. Cottrell came away with just a black eye. "It wasn't very serious. Neither of them had a concussion," Winstel said.

The game did go on as the Norse shot 63 percent (17 for 27) from the field in the first half. IPFW was limited to 30 percent shooting in the half.

NKU did not let up in the second half as it shot 53 percent in that half and ended up making 58 percent of its shots for the game. The Mastodons ended up shooting 33 percent.

"Our team defense is doing real well. We have improved a lot," said Cowens, who scored a season-high 20 points and pulled down eight rebounds. "That is a key in our

games."

The Norse also won the rebounding battle, 36-23, against IPFW. "That is something the team has been really working on. 'We rebounded terrible against Lewis,'" said NKU senior Heather Livingstone, who contributed 11 points in the win. "We out-rebounded St. Joe's by 20 and today, we won the battle by 13."

"We need to keep doing that. Our defensive intensity will continue to go up," she said. "It's important that it's there for us."

The home victory improved NKU's overall record to 19-2. The seventh ranked Norse, who are first in the Great Lakes Region, are 13-2 in the GLVC. They are by themselves in first place in the conference.

Even with all that, NKU needs to continue to work hard if it wants to stay where it is at in the GLVC, Winstel said. "We are trying to jockey for position. Our energy has been good. We need to continue that," she said.

The Norse now go back to the road for a few games. They travel to Kentucky Wesleyan on Thursday and end up at Bellarmine College on Saturday. Cowens said she feels that her team needs to continue its intensity as it goes on the road.

"We have the confidence to win," she said. "When we go on the road, we have to use it to our advantage."

Mumme resigns in shame

By Laura Parsons
Assistant Sports Editor

In a cloud of speculation and suspicion, Kentucky head football coach Hall Mumme resigned last Tuesday amid investigations of NCAA violations.

It seems that Kentucky is the next Southeastern Conference school to be placed on the NCAA's probation list.

What made Mumme, in this age of computerized accounting and Internet searches, think that payoffs to a Memphis, Tenn. high school football coach would be over-looked?

That almost 20 recruits had not paid the fees to attend Mumme's camp last summer?

That assistant coaches solicited funds for those same recruits to attend the football camps?

Even if Mumme asserts that he knew nothing of the NCAA violations, former assistant coach and recruiting coordinator Claude Bassett admitted to knowledge of \$14,000 in money orders to Memphis and to cashing a \$500 check from an athletic booster to fund the infamous summer football camp.

Kentucky athletic director Larry Ivey made the right

decision. Let's face it...Mumme did not just resign, he was forcefully asked to resign. And, Ivy did the right thing. The day before the 2001 high school recruiting class was putting pen to paper, Ivy announced Mumme's resignation. "I was concerned about potential student-athletes that had committed to us. I did not want to wait until after signing day and then have the

decision made, putting them in a position where they felt like they didn't have a choice," said Ivey. It seems that the new athletic director is committed to keeping the Kentucky athletic program in order and invoking a plan of intolerance to the rule violations that have plagued both the basketball and football programs for years.

Mumme entered the Kentucky program with plans to rejuvenate the program with a blistering offense and air-raid sirens blaring through Commonwealth Stadium. Unfortunately, what he did bring was inexperience and more questions about Kentucky's legacy of skirting the NCAA's rules.

Hal, you had the state of Kentucky eating out of the palm of your hand, plus an \$800,000 a year salary to boot. Why waste it, on summer camps and money orders?

Opinion/ Editorial

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NKU baseball team loaded with talent this season

By Aaron Stamm
Staff Writer

The NKU baseball team will begin the 2001 season in a transition period for the players and coaches.

For the first time in 29 years, the team will have a new head coach.

Todd Asalon takes over for the retired Bill Aker, who finished his NKU coaching career with a record of 806-572. Asalon played at NKU from 1980-83.

In his first season as head coach, Asalon faces the challenge of rebuilding the baseball program.

The team finished 7-19 in conference play last year and Asalon said he feels that is one of the big goals he has emphasized to his team in the preseason.

"We need to improve on our conference record. We also would love to be one of the six teams invited to the conference tournament at the end of the season as well," said Asalon.

Asalon said he also feels the key to this season is getting off to a good start for his kids. "We need to get off to a good start. I have some guys who have never won on the college level before. They need some confidence," he said.

Things could be getting better for the Norse. The top five hitters are back from last year and several returning pitchers could make this an easier transition for Asalon. "Offense has been struggling in the early season. We feel if our top hitter can get us into the middle of the lineup, we can score some runs," said Asalon.

Offense

In the fall season and the early preseason, the Norse have struggled at the plate. "Players are going to have to produce when called upon," said Asalon.

The Norse will be led by senior first baseman Matt Mason. Last year, Mason led the Norse with

nine home runs and 42 RBI's. He also led the team in doubles with 20.

"We will go as far as Mason takes us. He is a Division I transfer who has the experience and the leadership," said Asalon.

With the top five hitters returning from last year, there will be many players who will have the opportunity to step up for the Norse.

Senior catcher Michael Tudor led the Norse in hitting last year with a .347 average last year. Tudor will also share time with junior catcher Jason Martin, who finished second on the team in hitting with a .346 average.

Tudor and Martin will both catch and also split time as the designated hitter as well.

Asalon said he feels very good about the situation he has with the designated hitter position. "Martin may be our best pure hitter. With three knee surgeries, we will definitely try to give him some games that he will be able to DH. Tudor is also a very good hitter and really good athletic catcher," said Asalon.

Other notable hitting returnees are junior Beau Brake, who hit .329 playing many different positions. Junior right fielder Steve Walton will add some power to the Norse lineup. He returns after hitting six home runs last year.

Junior center fielder Justin Rahschulte also returns to the Norse lineup after hitting .305 last year with 27 runs scored. Rahschulte really likes the makeup of this year's team.

"We need to start the season well. It is very important for us to gain confidence. We need to develop the attitude to play to win," he said.

Rahschulte also likes how hard the team has worked in the early season to improve their hitting.

"We have spent lots of time in the cage to improve our hitting," he said.

Defense

The defense for the Norse could be what is the most improved area of the team. The team has added a new left side of the infield to improve on its defense.

Junior college transfer Charles Hatton will be the starting third baseman. Asalon said Hatton will be a very good defender at third base.

At shortstop, will be freshman Shane Gordon, who played his high school ball at Louisville Trinity High School.

Junior second baseman Chris Osterkamp returns to second base where he had a very good sophomore season with a .972 fielding percentage. He only had three errors last year.

Osterkamp said he feels the mood around the team is very upbeat going into the season.

"We just need to play together, play to win and everybody needs to be on the same page," he said.

Mason will be playing first base along with freshman Brandon Coffey from Walton-Verona High School.

The outfield will be very solid this year as Walton and Rahschulte will be playing left and center field. Junior college transfer Pat Eschan from Conner High School will be asked to play right field and leadoff for the team.

"Pat Eschan is an impact player, he can run and hit with power. He will be asked to lead batoff for us," said Asalon.

Tudor and Martin will again play the catcher duties. Asalon is very excited about the defense those two guys bring to the table.

"Both catchers are very good behind the plate, very athletic and they both call a good game as catchers," Asalon said.

Pitchers

The pitching staff is one of the most important positions on the field for a team to be successful.



This year's staff has the potential to be a very good one for Norse. They will be led by junior Lenny Bays, who was 6-6 last year for the team.

"It is important for us to keep the opposing team off the scoreboard," said Bays.

"Lenny brings experience and a competitive drive to the team. Lenny leads by example. He is really a blue-collar player who gives everything he has," said Asalon.

The staff will also consist of

senior Kyle Pletzer and junior Josh Whaley. They will both be asked to start for the Norse during the conference schedule.

"We really need to concentrate on getting our starting pitchers to give at least five innings. It will give us a chance to win," said Bays.

Also, pitchers who will be asked to start games will be sophomore Chaz Goetz and freshman Chad Anderson. Both will be able to gain valuable experience this season.

The bullpen will be led by senior

Shaun Fausz who will be asked to close down games for the team. Senior Andy Cox and Junior Bryan Ayers will be the setup man.

Asalon said he thinks senior Kyle Pletzer will be the pitcher who can blossom in conference play.

"Pletzer is healthy and this year and has experience that we need in conference play," said Asalon.

The team will begin regular season play Sunday at Lindsay Wilson.

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NKU women run winning streak to 14 against St. Joseph's College

By Aaron Stamm
Staff Writer

If the old adage, "Defense wins championships" is true, then the NKU women's basketball team is on its way to another title.

The NKU women's team held St. Joseph's College to just 35 percent shooting for the game en route to a easy 90-53 victory Thursday at Regents Hall.

NKU moved to 18-2 (12-2 GLVC) for the season and now have defeated St. Joseph's 14 consecutive times dating back to the 1993-94 season.

Norse head coach Nancy Winstel said she felt very good about the effort of her team. "The key to the victory was coming ready to play. Everybody played well and was ready to go," she said.

On offense, NKU shot the ball very well shooting 35 for 66 from the field for the game, which totals to 56 percent. They also had 27 assists, which led to easy baskets all night long.

Winstel credits good ball movement for the shooting percentage so high. "We moved the ball around really well. We pushed the ball up the floor, which gave everybody lots of touches," she said.

Another key stat in the game was the rebounding battle. The Norse won the rebounding battle with a total of 44 to St. Joseph's 24.

Junior forward Dana Schubeler said she felt the rebounding battle was a very big part in the Norse victory.

"It was obvious that we had a size advantage but the key was how well we boxed out and crashed the boards," she said.

For the game, Schubeler finished with 15 points and five rebounds. She said it was total team effort in the victory.

"We played good team defense. We stayed focused and played as solid 40 minutes together," she said.

Senior point guard Heather Livingstone also enjoyed high honors in points with 15 and contributed eight assists.

Livingstone said she felt the defense really led to everything else in the game. "Our defense led to our offensive success. They didn't have any options on offense and we really kept the attack on all game long," she said.

Down the stretch of the season, the Norse will have many tough road games they have to win in order to be in position for the conference tournament and NCAA's.

Livingstone feels very confident that the team can continue winning as long as they do the little things to win. "We have to continue to play hard. We need to be consistent rebounding the basketball and be patient on offense," she said.

The Norse will begin its journey of away games this week, travelling to Kentucky Wesleyan and Indianapolis.

Winstel said she feels her team just needs to continue playing with the same enthusiasm and continue execution to keep winning.

"We have to continue establishing our defense and taking care of the ball in these games. We also have to keep playing hard and try to stay as healthy as we can," she said.

Sports Trivia

For 24 wings compliments of BW-3 in Cold Spring, can you name the seven players to hit 50 HR's in a season yet not be named MVP? Hint: all were from 1980-present. Please contact northerner@nku.edu with your response. The first correct response will be notified by e-mail.

hroscope

By Tim Conboy
Northernstar Astrologer

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your possessiveness may scare off potential relationships. The person you are looking at is far too independent for you to handle. Hard work will pay off if you allow it. Use your imagination and creativity to benefit those around you.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are looking for all of your answers within your sphere of influence. Unfortunately doing this brings only what you want to hear. Take advantage of a good friend. Your sex life should be put in check in order to avoid a catastrophic end to a good relationship.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are looking too hard to satisfy your own selfish ends. A good friend is looking at you as more than friendship. They are plain to see but you are having trouble opening your eyes to them. Pay special attention to studies and friends.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Sexuality is out of control this week. If you are not careful you may be forced into something you are not ready for. Spend the week learning to better your communication with your partner. Try to avoid the trouble this week. Though it is your sphere of influence you may fall into certain homes here.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your dominant personality and aggressive lifestyle have done well for you. A very faithful partner has been found. But now is a time to try to avoid such domineering. Look for a new person, they will be hypersensitive to your such domineering which can lead to a run with them.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Though helping those around you you can better your own situation. The end of a relationship draws close but with proper preparation and acceptance you can move forward, someone is waiting on the other side of the wall called "Your Ex."

Lies (September 23-October 22)

Does it feel so much energy to mastery. A relationship with a female can turn profitable keep your spirits high and let your wisdom shine through. And while I'm at it, stop acting like gods for five seconds and relax.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are focusing too much on your surroundings. Turn your sights toward personal achievement. Friends should not be left as superficial entities this week. (Question: What did I last week about being manipulative?)

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your central focus this week should be within religious and scholarly applications. Your communication efforts are resisted by an extreme urge toward your more sensual nature. You are probably feeling a little weak due to secrets you are holding from friends and relatives, just relax and open up.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Free freely among your friends. Your possessions are solid and you should feel less concerned in the next week. Beware of women getting too close to the home. Stop worrying about pleasing employers and the public, it will only waste your energy this week.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Once again your sign is in power. Look to the fire signs (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius) and for aid and wisdom. They will be more than happy to teach you a lesson in humility. Look at the cups. Pisces, for further guidance in the more spiritual aspects of life.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Introversions is not always a bad thing. Remember though any criticism you suffer for you are still going to work on your own accord. For further information it would be very helpful if you checked out Aquarius as well.

Note: This week's chart seems at first, it seems everyone is on the same sinking ship. All of these signs hold something significant towards each other. In order to better understand your present position in life, look at your cups (the signs that fall directly before or after you.)

HOME COMING: God save the...

From Page 2

those things make this feel like more than just a crown on my head. It is an honor," Surgaski said.

Both the king and queen expressed the importance of continuing the Homecoming tradition at NKU. They said that tradition is something that every campus needs.

Surgaski is a marketing major at NKU and is from Ashland, Ky. Whitley is also a marketing major and is from Covington.

Professor Proctor said that the choice between the candidates was very tough because they were all excellent candidates.

"Everyone on that court should be proud because every one of them were winners," Proctor said. "We were just wowed by them all."

The other members of the 2001 Homecoming court were: Roxanne Dunaway, Stephanie Kappesser, Eliza Milow, Angel Chichester, Josh Heuser, Jorge Marcano, Joshua Jarvis and Josh Wick.

Both the king and queen said they are very proud of this accomplishment. Most of us would agree that they should be. Congratulations to you both and to all the candidates.

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DPS: positions discontinued

From Page 1

Sgt. Charlene Schweitzer held the position of head investigator until it was eliminated two weeks ago. She has been reassigned to the position of police officer.

Schweitzer declined to comment on the university's course of action. Her former duties are being handled by Mike Tussey, training and outreach specialist. Until a new organizational structure is implemented, he will be overseeing department's investigative work, Baker said.

Tussey predicts that more efficiency in the long run will come with a new system.

"Before it was one person doing it all," he said. Tussey added that, with more sergeants handling their own investigations, more cases could be handled at once. "There's going to be more input and expertise put into it. There will be more accountability, too."

"I say he would be present to supervise the department's investigation efforts. The sergeants will take it as far as they can go, and I'll check on it," he said. "I'll ask them, 'How's that burglary case going?'"

Baker referred to training as an item that will be emphasized in the future. Investigative skills, such as fingerprinting and securing crime scenes, will be a training area of focus to help to place what Baker and the report named as "lead investigators" in each working shift.

Unlike the eliminated position, these will have other responsibilities. "We haven't investigated, Baker said."

"We haven't really sorted through the lead investigator position yet as to know exactly what they would do," he added. "Human resources will have to work with the new chief on developing the position."

Interim Chief Jeff Butler has been named as DPS Director since Donald McKenzie retired in February. Butler, according to his resume, has 40 years of experience with the Cincinnati Police Division and the Kenton County Police Department. He will remain in the position until a permanent candidate is selected, Baker said.

Another personnel change came with the elimination of the associate director position. The lack of distinct responsibilities of the position led to its discontinuation, Baker said.

"In the report, they've recommended two lieutenant positions instead of one assistant director," he said. "We haven't made the decision whether that's the model were going to use, but we knew that we weren't supportive of having an associate director without sufficient duties to warrant that."

Baker described DPS as going through a transitional period. He said Butler would be working with the officers to help facilitate changes.

INTERNET: Harrassing e-mails

From Page 2

Pratt said, "Data mining helps companies to customize what their customers actually want," explained Pratt. He added that data mining is an effective commercial tool. One type of data mining is a cookie.

"Cookies are electronic tags that are placed on the hard drive of an individual user's computer by Internet sites while the individual is on the Internet," states the handbook, "Know the Rules, Use the Tools," issued in September 2000 by the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary. These cookies collect and store information about the user, such as a 1, 01e color, credit card numbers and e-mail addresses. Quite often the Internet user is not aware that this process has taken place.

The handbook offers information on how users can protect themselves from cookies. It can be found at the website, <http://judiciary.senate.gov/privacy.htm>. The top two Internet browsers, Netscape Navigator and Internet Explorer, employ an on-screen alert box flash option to inform users when a company is trying to place a cookie on the hard drive. Also, software is available to block and remove cookies.

According to Pratt, cookies may be of minor concern if users use NKU

computers instead of their own computers.

"Most students don't access from the same machine (such as in the NKU lab)," said Pratt. Therefore, any cookies placed on NKU computer hard drives contain irrelevant information. Also, the Information Technology department re-images the computers every semester.

Pratt said that the Information Technology department does not police what students can access on the NKU computers. There are too many users with different uses. He explained that as an academic institution, NKU cannot place physical limitations on students' Internet usage.

However, if any NKU student encounters trouble with the NKU computers, Pratt stated that he or she should bring the issue to the department's attention.

"The best place to start is to call the Help Desk at extension 6911," Pratt advised. The call will be directed to the appropriate person or department for assistance.

For additional advice, students can find Internet Safety guidelines by a c e s i n g <http://www.nku.edu/www/safety>

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-TV-CHALLENGE

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He left the circus for acting and earned two Oscar nominations

- The identity of the featured celebrity is found within the answers in the puzzle. In order to take the TV Challenge, unscramble the letters noted with asterisks within the puzzle.
- AGROSS**
- Actor Ken
 - Gardner and others
 - grow on, extra
 - First name of 82's best actress Oscar winner
 - Crawford, Private Eye
 - 83 sitcom
 - Wired, for one
 - One-time tyrant
 - Wizard of Menzies Park's initials
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