

## Northern Kentucky University

## THE NORTHERNER

Edition 33, Issue 14

www.thenortherner.com

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2003

## Former mayor added to faculty

By ROBERT JOHNSON

Contributor  
robertjohnson846@hotmail.com

Northern Kentucky University is shelling out big bucks for a big-name faculty member.

Beginning this spring, former Cincinnati mayor Roxanne Qualls will teach executive leadership in the master's of public administration program.

Qualls will be considered a visiting professor, but will be paid \$50,000, the same rate as a

## Qualls to teach, advise university on how to support local officials

full-time professor. Full-time professors at NKU typically make between \$50,000 and \$80,000 per semester.

"In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she will be involved in several initiatives with the Center for Civic Engagement, creating a demanding schedule," said Gail Wells, dean of arts and sciences.

"Because of this, along with

many engagements, she will make a salary comparable to a full-time faculty member," she said.

Qualls is "widely viewed, even by her opponents, as a person who combined vision and political savvy during her days as Cincinnati mayor," Wells said.

"My years of service made me aware of how helpful it would be to have public sector

leaders understand the policy behind governance, and for academics to understand the politics of getting policy implemented," Qualls said.

Wells said Qualls is "uniquely qualified to bridge the worlds of theory and practice related to local government leadership."

Qualls will help develop education programs at the university for local government offi-

cials and public sector leaders, and be an advisor to the university on the issue of political education.

Qualls will also conduct a regional needs assessment to determine how the university can best support the work of local officials, according to NKU President James Votruba.

He said he believes Qualls "will bring a combination of

See QUALLS, page 3

## Roxanne Qualls

• Cincinnati City Council member (1991-1993)

• Mayor of Cincinnati (1993-1999)

• Received a master's of public administration from Harvard University (2002)

## University celebrates Kwanzaa



Tony Reel / Photo Editor

Année Ruth (above), visual artist, poet and author, presented "Cultural Expression" at the annual Kwanzaa celebration Dec. 3 in the Otto M. Budig Theatre in the University Center.

Students, faculty and staff attended the event, sponsored by the Office of African American Student Affairs, to celebrate the African family, community and culture.

The event featured African dance and storytelling presentations. Information on Kwanzaa is featured in the holiday display case in Steely Library.

## Tuition hike to be discussed

By TRAVIS GETTYS

Copy Editor  
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Students will be given an opportunity at the start of next semester to voice their concerns over a proposed tuition increase, which the Board of Regents is expected to pass in January.

The Student Government Association tuition committee will hold an information forum Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 4 p.m. in the Otto M. Budig Theatre.

All students are urged to attend to learn more about the increase, as well as the budget shortfall administrators say necessitated the hike, which is expected to be \$300-\$600 per year, effective for the 2004-2005 school year.

Input will be sought from students on ideas for budget cuts and how a tuition increase could personally affect them.

"We really want to show up as possible, because nothing could send a stronger message to the (university) administration than a lot of students being there," said Joe Mayer, SGA senator.

— Joe Mayer, SGA senator

The SGA executive cabinet and tuition committee will meet Dec. 11 to discuss the university budget, which is underfunded by \$26 million, according to state estimates.

SGA hopes to gather information from students and administrators about how the funds generated through the increase could be used to benefit students, said Eric Fegan, SGA executive vice president and tuition committee chair.

"We can't prevent a tuition increase," Fegan said. "That's not what we're here to do. We just want to make sure all revenue sources are explored."

Fegan will present the tuition committee's recommendations Jan. 16 to SGA at its retreat at Blue Lick Battlefield State Park in Carlisle, Ky. During the weekend-long retreat, SGA will discuss and make its final vote on its tuition recommendations.

NKU receives less state money per full-time student than any other Kentucky university and the yearly tuition of \$3,744 is third-highest among state universities in the Commonwealth.

President James Votruba told SGA at its Nov. 10 meeting that the proposed hike, which would raise tuition between 8 percent and 11 percent, was necessitated by increased enrollment.

However, Fegan is skeptical, noting that enrollment grew by only 1.4 percent this year.

## Idle PCs may move into dorms

RHA seeks to rent old, unused computers from the university for use in campus dorm rooms

By AMANDA VANBENSCHOTEN

News Editor  
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The Residential Hall Association is trying to put a computer into every dorm room on campus by the spring semester.

RHA wants to lease approximately 200 unused computers from the university and install them in campus dormitory rooms for residents' use.

The organization plans to rent the computers to students living in the Residential Village for an estimated fee of \$30 per semester.

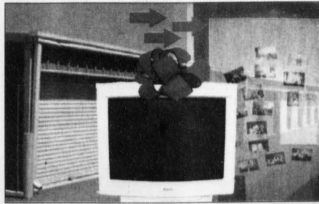
"I think this program would really benefit residential students who do not have a computer," said RHA President Lindsay Hunter.

"The computers aren't great — they're old and that's why the university is done with them. However, they would be perfect for typing a paper and checking e-mail, which is the main use of a computer to many students."

Hunter said the project is currently in progress, although there are currently several roadblocks.

RHA is working with the Information Technology (IT) department to procure a site license to install Microsoft Windows onto the computers.

Hunter said the computers' hard drives also must be cleared in order



Photographer illustration by Mike Brennan

Plans are underway to distribute university-owned computers previously kept in storage to dorm rooms for student to use for papers and e-mail.

to erase any confidential information that may still exist.

She said this process will take anywhere from half-an-hour to one hour per computer, and RHA is trying to organize the effort.

The organization plans to store the computers in and distribute them from its new office in Woodcrest Apartments.

The computers were formerly used by the university, but were put in storage when they became outdated.

The university has auctioned them off to the public in the past, but the Board of Regents ended the auctions when a computer that had confidential information on its hard drive was accidentally distributed to the public.

## Stress stinks!

What can you do to relax with exams looming?

Page 7



## Inside

## Graduation Day!

December graduates: Are you ready?

Page 3

# newsbriefs

Section Editor  
Amanda VanBenschoten  
859.572.5260

## dpsreports

**DEC 6 2003**  
**Saturday 7:38 p.m.**  
Classification: MEDICAL  
RESPONSE - Squad  
Location: DORMS/WOOD-  
CREST/OAK - SECOND  
FLOOR  
Disposition: Closed  
Summary: Medical assistance  
was requested for a subject at  
the listed location. Officers and  
Central Campbell County  
Squad responded. Subject was  
transported to St. Luke Hospital  
East for further evaluation and  
treatment.

**DEC 6 2003**  
**Saturday 4:32 p.m.**  
Classification: PROPERTY -  
Found Property  
Location: CORBETT THE-  
ATRE  
Disposition: Closed  
Summary: A wallet was found  
at the listed location. The owner  
was contacted and the item was  
logged into DPS  
Property/Evidence for safekeep-  
ing.

**DEC 6 2003**  
**Saturday 12:19 a.m.**  
Classification: MEDICAL  
RESPONSE - Squad  
Location: DORMS/WOOD-  
CREST/SYCAMORE - SEC-  
OND FLOOR  
Disposition: Closed  
Summary: Medical assistance  
was requested for a subject at  
the listed location. Officers and  
Central Campbell County  
Squad responded. Subject was  
transported to St. Luke Hospital  
East for further evaluation and  
treatment.

*These are the latest reports  
of our print deadline.  
For a full listing visit  
the DPS website at  
<http://access.nku.edu/dps>*

**Common Ground holds  
sexual orientation forum**  
Common Ground will hold an  
open forum about sexual orien-  
tation Dec. 10 in the Otto Bug  
Theater in the University Center  
from noon until 2 p.m.  
Common Ground is an organi-  
zation of gay and straight stu-  
dents, faculty and staff that pro-  
vides support and a safe envi-  
ronment for students of all sexual  
orientation.

**Student recognized  
for peace efforts**  
Marian Weage, 69, freshman  
fine arts major, received the  
McCrackin Peace & Justice  
Award Dec. 7 for her commit-  
ment to increased understand-  
ing and acceptance of gay, les-

bian, bi-sexual and transgender  
persons.  
Weage, who has three gay  
children, started the Cincinnati  
chapter of PFLAG, Parents,  
Family and Friends of Lesbians  
& Gays, in 1985.

**Welcome Center  
to remain open  
during break**  
The university's new  
Welcome Center will be open  
on Dec. 26, 29, 30 and 31.  
The Welcome Center is locat-  
ed on the ground floor of Steely  
Library and serves the needs of  
prospective students.

**Prospective graduate  
students invited  
to orientation**  
Students interested in

Northern Kentucky University  
graduate programs are invited to  
attend the Graduate Student  
Orientation Jan. 6 in the Otto  
Bug Theater.

Attendees will receive infor-  
mation on Spring 2004 graduate  
programs and have the opportu-  
nity to purchase books and reg-  
ister for classes.

For more information, call  
572-1555 or e-mail grad-  
prog@nku.edu.

**Kids invited to  
'Night Out' at NKU**  
Children in grades 1 through  
5 are invited to attend the annu-  
al winter Kid's Night Out Dec.  
12, sponsored by the Student-  
Athlete Advisory Committee  
(SAAC).  
From 7 p.m. until 11 p.m.,

children will have access to the  
basketball, racquetball, volley-  
ball and soccer courts and to the  
swimming pool and gymnastics  
room.

Admission is \$10, which  
includes a t-shirt and snack. To  
place a reservation, call 572-  
5193.

**Fraternity brings Santa  
Claus to area kids**  
The Pi Kappa Alpha fraterni-  
ty sponsored its 3rd annual  
Christmas Buddies Party, with  
the Cincinnati Big Brothers and  
Sisters program, Dec. 9. Over  
130 first and second grade  
school students attended the  
party, which featured refresh-  
ments, games and a visit from  
Santa and Mrs. Claus, who  
brought toys for the kids.

## nationalbriefs

**Cocaine and ecstasy  
trigger genetic mutation**  
Italian scientists said Dec. 5  
that cocaine and ecstasy trigger  
genetic mutations, in addition  
to causing addiction and raising  
users' risk of cancer, according  
to a Reuters report. Scientists  
said the drugs attack DNA, pro-  
voking mutations and altering  
hereditary material. They said  
the longer a person uses the  
drugs, the greater damage  
caused to the user's DNA.

**South Dakota state  
representative convicted  
of manslaughter**  
Rep. Bill Janklow of South  
Dakota was convicted of  
manslaughter Dec. 8 for run-  
ning through a stop sign Aug.  
16 and crashing into and  
killing motorcyclist Randy  
Scott, 55.

Janklow said he will resign  
from the House of  
Representatives as of Jan. 20,  
the same date he will be sen-  
tenced.

He could receive up to 10  
years in prison.

**Cincinnati police may  
get gun guns**

Cincinnati Mayor Charlie  
Luken proposed Dec. 6 to  
spend \$1 million of the city's  
2004 budget to buy gun stu-  
dents for police officers. The  
guns can shoot a person from up  
to 25 feet away. Luken's initiative  
comes in response to the death  
of a black man Nov. 30, who  
was beaten with metal night-  
sticks when he lunged at an  
officer.

**Fletcher takes oath as  
Ky. governor**

Ernie Fletcher was sworn in  
as governor of Kentucky Dec. 8  
at midnight. Fletcher is the  
state's first Republican gover-  
nor in 32 years.

Fletcher and his running  
mate, Steve Pence, defeated  
Democrat Ben Chandler by  
25,000 votes Nov. 4, according  
to the Kentucky Post.

## Northerner appoints spring staff



Amanda  
VanBenschoten

By D.J. CARTER  
Executive Editor  
[carterdj@nku.edu](mailto:carterdj@nku.edu)



C.J. Fryer



Emily Chalfant



Dominick Wise



Jon Divita

"We've turned The  
Northerner into a credible  
news source," she said, and  
added that she wants "to con-  
tinue that standard."

As editor in chief, she hopes  
more students become  
involved in the paper.  
"It's a student publication  
and should reflect the views of  
all students on campus," she  
said.

VanBenschoten said that  
next semester, for the first  
time, the paper will accept  
opinion pieces from all stu-  
dents for the Viewpoints page,

in addition to accepting letters  
to the editor.

Freshman mathematics sec-  
ondary education major C.J.  
Fryer will be replaced by Van  
Benschoten as news editor.

This fall was Fryer's first  
semester contributing to The  
Northerner. Fryer was a staff  
writer.

"(I am) looking forward to  
covering important issues that  
students care about, getting  
underneath the issues," he said.  
Junior journalism major  
Emily Chalfant will be the  
assistant news editor.  
This is Chalfant's second

year as a staff writer for The  
Northerner.

Chalfant said she looks for-  
ward to helping with the news  
page construction and writing  
stories.

"I can't wait to get started.  
We've got a great group of  
people," she said.

Two assistant editor posi-  
tions have also been filled for  
the spring semester.

Dominick Wise, current  
"Football Picks" columnist,  
will be assistant sports editor  
and staff writer Jonathan  
Divita will be assistant features  
editor.

# Need Cash?

The semester is almost over and the holidays are  
around the corner. Get some cash back for your  
textbooks at Campus Book and Supply.

Bring your textbooks in starting in December and  
sell them back.  
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Store Hours  
Open at 11 am everyday  
Sunday - Thursday open until midnight  
Friday and Saturday open until 1 am

# campusreport

## Graduation Special

Have you...?

### The Guide to Graduation

#### The Northerner "To Do" List:

- ☒ **Cap and gown**  
Dec. 20 graduates may pick up cap and gowns at the NKU Bookstore through Dec. 19. Cost is \$21 for associate's and bachelor's; \$41 for master's.
- ☐ **Honors cords**  
Any graduate with a current overall GPA of 3.5 or above and at least 64 credit hours at NKU is eligible to wear Honors cords at the December commencement ceremony. Check with your dean's office to find out if you are eligible to graduate with honors. Fall 2003 semester grades will be available Dec. 22 and will determine if honors will be listed on transcript and diploma.
- ☐ **Masters candidates**  
Hoods must be purchased for presentation at the commencement ceremony. Masters candidates must bring the hood to the ceremony and give it to your college representative upon arrival at U.S. Bank Arena.
- ☐ **Diplomas**  
Diplomas will be available to pick up at the Office of Alumni Affairs after Feb. 15, 2004. The office is located in the Mark R. Herrmann Center on the corner of Nunn Drive and U.S. 27, the NKU main entrance.  
If you are not able to pick up your diploma, call the Office of Alumni Affairs at (859) 572-5486 to arrange to have the diploma sent to you.
- ☐ **Pictures**  
A professional photographer will be at the commencement ceremony taking pictures of all graduates as President James Votruba presents the diploma case and congratulations. The photography company will contact graduates when photos are available.
- ☐ **Address change**  
Be sure to notify the Registrar's office of any address or other contact information changes as soon as possible.

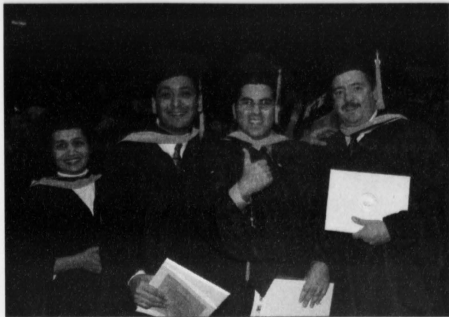
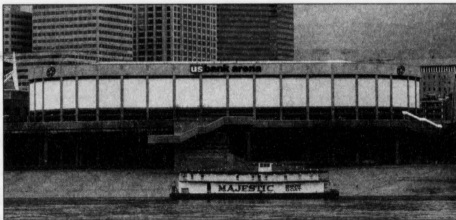


Photo contributed by University Communications office

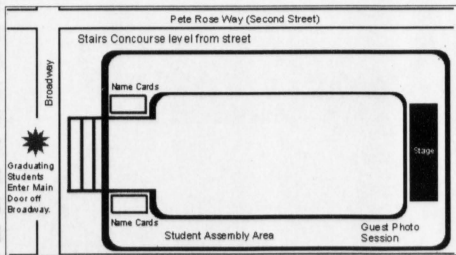
2002 master's graduates show off their goods after many hard years of work.

- ☐ **Exit interview**  
If you have student loans, be sure to go online at [www.nku.edu/foa](http://www.nku.edu/foa) to complete an exit interview. Your account/diploma will be on hold until the exit interview is complete. Call the financial assistance department with questions at (859) 572-5144.
- ☐ **Parking reimbursement**  
Students not returning for classes for Spring semester are eligible for a pro-rated reimbursement on parking.  
Students/graduates may return parking passes to the Bursar's office within the month of December to receive a \$32 refund.
- ☒ For questions or information contact Sandi Cunningham, assistant registrar, (859) 572-6428 or [cunninghams@nku.edu](mailto:cunninghams@nku.edu). There is a link to commencement information on the NKU main page at [www.nku.edu](http://www.nku.edu).

## Attending Graduation at USBank Arena



US Bank Arena, located on the Ohio River in Cincinnati, hosts the Fall 2003 NKU graduation ceremony.



Candidates must receive a name card and with their College upon entering the Arena.

### Qualls *Continued from page one*

academic strength and practical experience that would complement our current MPA faculty."

He said Qualls is "not only well-informed about the realities of local government and its challenges, but she is also deeply informed on the current literature on cities and their future. This combination will be of great value to our students, faculty and community."

Votruba said he hopes Qualls will bring a combination of public administration theory and practice that "is essential for any practice-oriented program" and will be beneficial to the university.

Qualls brings an impressive resume with her to NKU. She was elected to Cincinnati City Council in 1991, and was elected mayor in 1993, serving until 1999. In 1998 Qualls ran against Rep. Steve Chabot for a spot in the United States House of Representatives, but lost.

In 1999, Qualls left the mayor's office after exhausting her term limits. She taught at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, where she also studied and received her masters in public administration.

"With her unique perspective both on the scholarly and 'real world' arenas,

Professor Qualls will help insure that the direction we take to support local government leadership will be grounded in both relevant scholarship and the realities of political practice," Wells said.

"Professor Qualls will be working with colleagues in both the MPA program and in the Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement. We look forward to her contributions to NKU."

"I intend to bring both my appreciation and knowledge of public policy and my very practical and pragmatic experience in politics to the MPA program," Qualls said.

#### Degree candidates

U.S. Bank Arena is located in downtown Cincinnati at Broadway and Pete Rose Way (Second Street).

Graduation candidates should arrive no later than 8:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 20 and enter near the Box Office on Broadway. Parking is available for a fee at several locations downtown including the East Garage, adjacent to U.S. Bank Arena, Western-Southern garage on Third Street and other garages and lots throughout downtown.

Candidates will first receive a name card and then be directed to the area reserved for their respective college. Graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences will be called first and others will follow in alphabetical order.

#### Guests

Guests should enter at the Concourse level not at the Broadway level. No tickets necessary, first-come-first-serve seating. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m.

#### Disabled graduation candidates and guests

Disabled candidates and guests may enter at the Concourse level via the fifth floor of the East Garage or the entrance near Broadway and Mehring Way.

#### Directions to U.S. Bank Arena

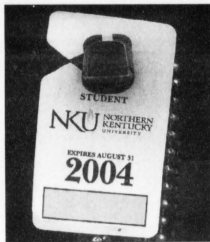
U.S. Bank Arena is located directly across the river from the Newport Aquarium and Newport on the Levee and next to the Great American Ballpark, Cinergy field, and Paul Brown Stadium.

#### From I-75 South:

Take the Second Street exit. Stay in the right lane and follow Second Street until it ends at Pete Rose Way, right in front of U.S. Bank Arena or take the Freeman Avenue exit. Freeman Avenue ends at Mehring Way. Go left on Mehring Way. U.S. Bank Arena is on the left, after passing Paul Brown Stadium and Cinergy Field.

#### From I-71 South:

Take the Gilbert Avenue exit. Turn right at light



Tony Redell / Photo Editor

Graduates may return parking passes during the month of December for a pro-rated refund.

by bus station onto East Court Street. Turn left onto Reedy Street, the first street on left. Turn left at light onto Eggleston Avenue. Follow Eggleston until it ends at Pete Rose Way, turn right at light. Follow Pete Rose Way and U.S. Bank Arena will be on your left.

#### From I-71/75 North:

Take the Second Street exit. Stay in the right lane and follow Second Street until it ends at Pete Rose Way, right in front of U.S. Bank Arena.

#### From I-471 North:

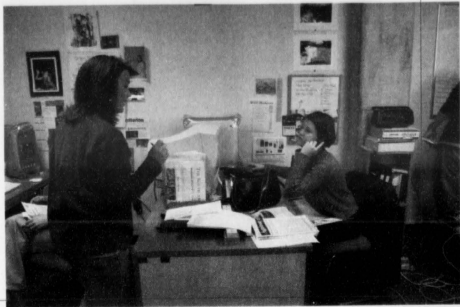
Stay in right lane across bridge. Follow North I-75/West U.S. 50 exit. Stay right and exit on 3rd Street. Turn left at first light onto Broadway. U.S. Bank Arena is at the corner of Broadway and Pete Rose Way.

Some information/directions compiled from the U.S. Bank Arena Web site at [www.usbankarena.com](http://www.usbankarena.com) and the NKU Web site at [www.nku.edu](http://www.nku.edu). Visit [www.nku.edu](http://www.nku.edu) for more information on the commencement ceremony.

writing? graphic design?  
 photography?  
**Do you like...**  
 editing?  
 interviewing?  
 online design?  
 layout?  
 join the staff of The Northerner

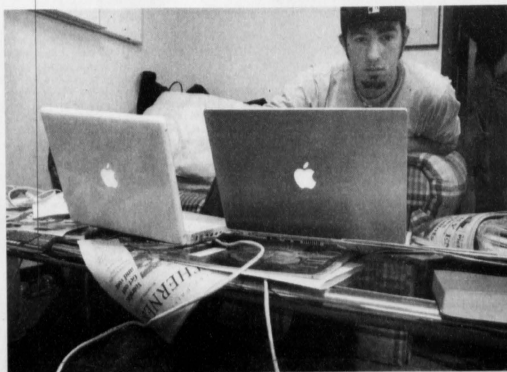
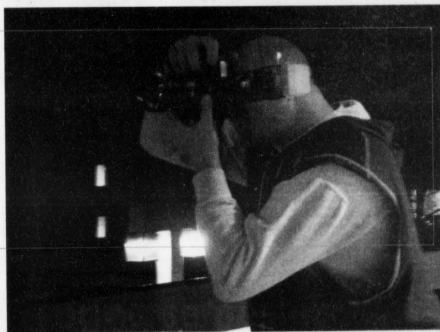
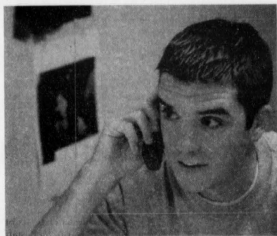
We're recruiting for the spring semester

# THE NORTHERNER



stop by uc 209  
or call 859.572.5260

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graphic designers  
layout designers  
advertising reps





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## furtherdetails

The Northerner, the newspaper  
of Northern Kentucky  
University, is published weekly,  
except during holidays and  
examination periods from  
August through May by  
students.

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

# Letters to the editor

## Ignorance at fault for low voter turnout

If Ms. Anita Adkins misun-  
derstood the intent of my let-  
ter to the editor (published  
Nov. 12), then I'm sure she is  
not alone.

Like her, I realize it is vital-  
ly important for college stu-  
dents in politics and not just  
the party lines.

Like her, I am concerned  
about inexcusably low voter  
turnout among young people  
— so concerned, in fact, that I  
have written a six-page propo-  
sal on how to raise political  
awareness on campus through  
an interactive course that  
focuses on current events at  
local, national and interna-  
tional levels, and gives  
instruction about where to  
find accurate, up-to-date  
information on current poli-  
cies, candidates and  
where/when to register and  
vote.

However, there is no place

in our newspaper to publish  
lengthy letters in such  
lengthy detail.

Unlike Adkins, I do not  
believe that voter apathy  
keeps students from the  
polls.

As she mentioned,  
"[M]any had no idea there  
was even an election going  
on. All were uninformed on  
who to vote for."

This is ignorance, not ap-  
athy, and it is not wholly the  
fault of the individual.

As a student who has just  
voted for the first time, I  
believe that most students do  
care, but they are embarrassed  
to ask the basic questions  
about voting that they feel  
they should already know, but  
don't.

Some students do not vote  
because they feel that all  
politicians lie and break  
promises anyway, so voting is  
a waste of their already  
precious time.

Yes, there are some who  
really don't care, but this is  
also partly due to ignorance,  
because they do not realize  
the importance of an individ-

## How to write The Northerner

Editors and staff of The Northerner welcome input from the  
campus community. Submit letters in the following format:

- E-mail letters to the editor to [northerner@nku.edu](mailto:northerner@nku.edu), or sub-  
mit letters by visiting the  
online edition at  
[www.northerner.com](http://www.northerner.com).
- Letters must include writer's  
name, telephone number, class  
year and major.
- Letters must be 400 words or  
less.

- Letters must be received on  
Friday before publication in  
order to be included.
- Event or organization  
announcements will not be  
printed on the Viewpoints  
pages. Submit to Annie Vogt,  
[vogtmari@yahoo.com](mailto:vogtmari@yahoo.com).
- The Northerner reserves the  
right to edit for content/space.

ual voice, and feel that govern-  
ment is so far removed  
from them that their participa-  
tion does not matter.

I responded to Mr. Meeks'  
article because, as a student  
starving for political knowl-  
edge, I have no tolerance for  
media that treats me as though  
I'm not intelligent enough to  
draw my own opinions.

Give me in-depth analysis of  
issues, give me several  
sides to consider, and give me  
honest answers to my ques-  
tions.

The sound bites, the mud-  
slinging, and the misleading  
information given by political  
leaders and media do nothing  
but turn voters away.

Therefore, student leaders,  
professors, and NKU admin-  
istration must consider our  
educational needs when shar-  
ing information, in ways that  
encourage, rather than discou-  
rage, our civic participa-  
tion.

Sharon Schuchter  
Senior, English

## editorialnote

# Parting a sweet sorrow

"Good Luck!" to the 2004 Northerner staff, not, "Good-bye."

There are people who refuse  
to say "Good-bye." To them,  
the words mean they will  
never see you again. Instead,  
they say, "see you later" or  
"have a nice vacation."

As the semester ends, six of  
us on The Northerner staff  
prepare to graduate. It's an  
odd feeling. (Or maybe it's the  
nasty cold that has taken over  
most of campus this week.)

Either way, this is a bitter-  
sweet time. We look forward  
to the future with anticipation,  
while knowing we'll leave  
behind a group of people to  
whom we've grown so close.

None of us will graduate in  
the standard four-year time  
frame. Some of us came back  
to school after starting "real  
life," while others didn't know  
what to do with ourselves after  
high school. Some of us are  
married, some are not. Four of  
us transferred to NKU from other  
colleges (some more

than others). We've bounced  
around different majors. And  
contrary to popular belief, we  
are not all liberal Democrats.

But one thing we all found  
in common was NKU and The  
Northerner.

Here, we've been able to set  
aside our differences and use  
our experiences to create a  
newspaper of which we are  
darn proud. This semester,  
we focused on change. We  
thought, "bigger!," "broad-  
er!," "deeper!," "action!" and "white  
space!"

We also focused on learning  
— learning from each other and  
from those around us.

We learned things not taught  
in the classroom. We had to  
create new rules and standards  
for future editors, based upon  
lessons taught by our unantic-  
ipated problems. We learned  
that, as journalists, we must be  
more diligent and skeptical,  
and we must be willing to take

more risks.  
We learned that being editor  
of a newspaper, on any level,  
is not an easy task and regard-  
less of how hard you work,  
there will be those who will  
hate it — or at least be dissat-  
isfied. But, if students are talk-  
ing about us — good or bad —  
that means they're reading our  
paper.

Another valuable lesson:  
The "dead" in headline is how  
your body feels upon the com-  
pletion of another paper. But  
along with that, there is a  
sense of great pride. A lot of  
blood, sweat, tears and frustra-  
tion goes into this paper. It's not  
just one person who makes a  
paper, but a team.

This team has grown by  
leaps and bounds this semes-  
ter. Most of us didn't know  
each other in August, but now  
it seems we've been working  
together for years.

We are proud of The

Northerner and confident that  
it will only get better with time  
and with the efforts of the  
Spring 2004 staff.

By Dec. 20, we will have  
sold back our final textbooks,  
turned in the keys to our office  
and drank our last late-night  
"wake me up!" caffeinated  
drink in room 209. And as we  
walk down the aisle to the  
sound of our names, we will  
feel satisfied with all that we  
have accomplished and all that  
we have to look forward to in  
the future.

We wish everyone at NKU a  
safe and peaceful winter break  
and, "Good Luck!" to the  
2004 Northerner staff, not  
"Good-bye."

Lori Cox  
Bryan Ashcraft  
Brittany Contois  
Elias Hajjar  
Bree Culnan  
Travis Gettys

# Too many issues unresolved

"SGA beads into its holiday break with much unfinished business"

By TRAVIS GETTYS  
Copy Editor  
[travis\\_northerner@hotmail.com](mailto:travis_northerner@hotmail.com)

Like their counterparts in  
the Congress, the Student  
Government Association  
began this term with a full  
palette of legislative goals and  
it appeared the political sol-  
diers would attempt to imple-  
ment them.

President Chris Pace and  
Executive Vice President Eric  
Fegan last spring became the  
first candidates to run on the  
same ticket at Northern  
Kentucky University, and  
both came into office with  
high hopes of increasing  
SGA's role in university deci-  
sion-making.

"We want student govern-  
ment not only in perpetu-  
ity, but in reality," Pace told  
The Northerner.

But, like Congress, SGA  
heads into its holiday break  
with much unfinished busi-  
ness left on the table.

At its August retreat, SGA  
presented three strategic  
goals: take over funding for  
extracurricular programming,  
increase university funding of  
SGA and relocate Disability  
Services from the University  
Center's third floor to the first  
floor.

Of those, only the last item  
has been set in motion, and  
university funding has planned  
before SGA's presentation to  
move Disability Services  
upon completion of the new  
student union.

Pace in September issued  
an executive order to review  
a plan allowing SGA to assume  
control of the Activities  
Programming Board, spark-  
ing hard feelings among some  
senators.

After vigorous debate, SGA  
voted in October to table the  
plan indefinitely.

To its credit, SGA still  
holds about two-thirds of its  
allocated budget, but has not

managed to gain additional  
funding.

With budget cuts and  
tuition increases looming, it  
now appears unlikely, and  
unwise, to do so.

Some senators are frustra-  
ted by this SGA's lack of  
accomplishment, complaining  
that too many resolutions  
remain in committee and  
never reach a vote.

Too much meeting time  
is devoted to planning and  
discussing retreats and other  
activities, and senators have  
expressed concern that too  
much time in committee  
meetings is spent bickering  
about Democratic-Republican  
political issues.

Individually, SGA mem-  
bers express a desire to  
improve life for students at  
NKU, and there is little rea-  
son to doubt their sincerity.  
Many talented and experi-  
enced students sit on SGA,  
and they are certainly capable

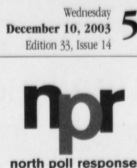
of more — and with a likely  
tuition increase and budget  
cuts on the horizon, they'll  
have an opportunity to test  
their abilities.

A tuition information  
forum, planned for the first  
week back to school in  
January, is a good start, and  
NKU students must do their  
part by showing up and mak-  
ing their voices heard. It's  
your university, and it's your  
money.

Unlike most students, how-  
ever, SGA members hold the  
additional responsibility of  
serving as elected student rep-  
resentatives.

Serving on SGA should be  
considered an honor, and not  
just a bullet-point on a  
resume.

Let's hope SGA remembers  
whom it works for, and  
approach with seriousness the  
tuition increase and other  
issues of vital importance to  
students.



## north poll responses

Compiled by Tony Redell

## Graduating Northerner Editors: What will you miss about NKU?



Lori Cox  
Editor in Chief

"The people — definitely, argu-  
ing with D.J. and the slap-  
happy giggles that go with  
2 a.m. Tuesday deadlines."



Bryan Ashcraft  
Executive Copy Editor

"This was a place where I  
could dream. Now I have to  
go out and use what I have  
learned. It's exciting, but  
a little daunting."



Brittany Contois  
Advertising Director

"Bussing Ryan around,  
Beer Sellar on Thursday  
nights and amazing  
everyone with my singing."



Elias Hajjar  
Hot Seat

"Chief Filer with D.J. MOST  
of my journalism professors, all the  
friends I have made, the great  
times I had to take and the papers  
I had to write. I'm gonna miss  
those a lot — yeah, right."



Bree Culnan  
Layout / Design Editor

"Room 'C' and all the  
pillbugs who reside there."



Travis Gettys  
Copy Editor

"Gathering the  
necessary signatures  
to change my major.  
That's good exercise."

## EDITORIAL POLICY

The views expressed on the Viewpoints page do not necessarily  
represent the views of The Northerner, its editors, or its writers. The  
individual articles express those of the author. The Northerner and  
its staff respect the right to a free and open dialogue allowed under  
the First Amendment.

## SUBMISSIONS

The Northerner welcomes letters. Letters should be legibly written or  
typed and should include the author's signature, year in school, major  
and telephone number. Faculty and staff should include title and  
department. Unsigned, anonymous letters will not be printed. Submit  
letters to The Northerner at [northerner@nku.edu](mailto:northerner@nku.edu)

# slimbone

by mike mayday

AHH, THE SWEET FRAGRANCE  
OF MY FIRST SUCCESSFUL  
PANTY RAID.



## horoscopes

### Aries

(March 21-April 20)  
Sudden intuitions require a response. Before midweek expect loved ones to be moody, insightful and introspective. Ask gently probing questions and watch for new levels of sensuality or romance. All reactions and comments will be closely scrutinized. Thursday through Sunday, financial records may prove misleading. Official documents and short-term employment contracts will demand added negotiations. Carefully study all facts, details and deadlines.

### Taurus

(April 21-May 20)  
Ask authority figures for clear instructions and verified documents. Improved policies or last-minute business changes will require constant effort. Avoid appearing disinterested. At present, key officials are highly motivated to correct yesterday's mistakes. Late Saturday, a surprising romantic attraction may prove distracting. Group events and new social introductions are highlighted. Don't doubt your feelings. Friends and relatives will eventually offer support.

### Gemini

(May 21-June 21)  
Previously confident colleagues may ask for guidance or support. Be diplomatic but provide detailed descriptions of new instructions. Some Gemini's, especially those born early in June,

will be offered a revised workplace role or new title. Job promotions will briefly cause political tensions. Stay balanced. After Friday, loved ones may challenge established social habits or family routines. Respond quickly and expect group indecision or delays in the home.

### Cancer

(June 22-July 22)  
Love relationships will expand to include new goals or unique family gatherings. Group dynamics and social politics will be complex, but delightful, over the next four days. Use this time to outline creative plans and home improvements. Cancerians born after 1972 will also experience a dramatic expansion of financial duties. After midweek, minor health concerns affecting the lower back, spine or reproductive system will fade. Go slow and regain all physical vitality.

### Leo

(July 23-Aug. 22)  
Personal spending and daily money habits will need to be re-evaluated. Unexpected home expenses or revised payments may be accepted. Financial strain will be brief, so not to worry. Do, however, plan for extra repairs, new obligations or sudden large purchases. Later this week, long-term relationships begin an intense phase of emotional negotiation. Close friends and romantic partners expect added loyalty, new promises or bold public

support.

### Virgo

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
Before Wednesday, workplace negotiations or subtle comments from authority figures may prove misleading. Areas affected are short-term contracts, special assignments or revised paperwork. Instructions may be unworkable. Ask for clarity and wait for new ideas. Later this week, planned family events may be canceled or postponed. Unexpected travel plans, business contracts or financial restrictions are accepted. Offer encouragement but respond only to reliable promises.

### Libra

(Sept. 23-Oct. 23)  
Career dreams and lost ambitions will return. Pay special attention to practical planning, funding or revitalized business proposals. Many Librans will adopt an active and outgoing attitude toward workplace improvement or rare sources of income. Listen to sincere advice and expect quick changes. Officials and mentors will prove helpful. After Friday, a close friend may require extra encouragement. Family triangles and romantic doubt are accepted; be diplomatic.

### Scorpio

(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)  
Early this week, potential friends and lovers are attracted to your social

By Lasha Seniuk, Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service (KRT)

charm or emotional style. Confidence and humor will be delightful themes in new relationships. Watch for group events, quick invitations and fresh introductions to be captivating and worthwhile. Thursday through Sunday, a close friend or relative may feel isolated in the workplace. Unusual business politics will require detailed social planning. Advocate caution and subtle group diplomacy.

### Sagittarius

(Nov. 23-Dec. 21)  
Yesterday's financial promises or documents may demand clarification. After Wednesday, older relatives or key officials may ask for detailed records and lengthy explanations. Go slow and carefully consider all options. Money plans, revised job choices and home decisions will eventually prove accurate. Friday through Sunday, romantic discussions intensify. Expect long-term partners to actively seek deeper commitments, new promises or detailed family planning.

### Capricorn

(Dec. 22-Jan. 20)  
Social invitations are unexpectedly complex. Late Wednesday, respond quickly to proposed plans or group events. Friends and colleagues may be sensitive to small delays or last-minute reversals. Offer reliable promises and detailed personal information. Thursday through Sunday also high-

light financial complications and revised business procedures. Allow partners and officials extra time. Key decisions and long-term policy changes may be unusually difficult.

### Aquarius

(Jan. 21-Feb. 19)  
Avoid delicate business or financial discussions over the next four days. Before Thursday, loved ones or other encounters may be moody and unresponsive.

Areas affected are money decisions, private loans or short-term work assignments. Remain patient. Workplace relations will return to normal. Later this week, a social triangle or misunderstanding in the home can be easily resolved. Pay special attention to traditional roles and established habits and all will be well.

### Pisces

(Feb. 20-March 20)  
Late Wednesday, a close friend or relative may ask for detailed social advice. Romantic disputes or distant relationships may be a strong concern. Provide clear options but avoid controversial involvement. At present, the emotional expectations of loved ones are unpredictable. Friday through Sunday, plan unique home events or private romantic encounters. Someone close may wish to explore new family roles or serious promises. Take time to full discuss all possibilities.

## classifieds

To place a classified ad: contact Brittany Contois at 859-572-5232.

### Holiday Help



Local Venetian offices are looking to fill many positions in the City's N.E.V. area. Consumer sales/service with flexible schedules. \$12.25 hour appointment. 513-531-6654 / 859-341-6000  
www.winterbreakwork.com

### JOBS

Local furniture store needs part-time worker to help in warehouse and with deliveries. Must be organized and able to move furniture. Call 859-282-9019. Ask for John.

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### FOR SALE

A Bed-\$150 Dbl. Pillow top Set, New in plastic, Warranty. Can deliver 859-991-1073

Mattress Set- \$120 Full Pillow top, New in plastic, with warranty. Can deliver 859-991-1073

Leather Sofa- \$400 matching loveseat \$350, Brand New, in plastic. Can deliver 859-743-6182

1990 Nissan 240 SX SE, 5-speed, A/C, Flip-up Sunroof, Power Windows/Locks, AM/FM/CD, Cruise Control, Well Maintained with Records. Mileage 161,000 (Vehicle near campus) \$1900 Flexible. Contact: Scott or Demis 513-231-3212

### FOR RENT

Condo One mile from campus. 2 Bed, 2 bath, patio, lots of storage, community pool. 859-760-7703

### FUNDRAISING

Fraternities - Sororities Clubs - Student Groups Earn \$1,000 this semester with a proven Campus Fundraiser 3 hour fundraising event. Our free Programs make fundraising easy with no risks. Fundraising Dates are filling quickly, so get with the program! It works. Contact Campus Fundraiser at 1-888-923-3238, or visit [www.campusfundraiser.com](http://www.campusfundraiser.com)



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EOE/AA

# life&times

## Stress!

With exam week less than seven days away, many students are starting to feel the pressure on their brains. How can they relieve the tension?

By JEN VORHOLT

Contributor  
star008@hotmail.com

The minutes are ticking until your next class begins, and you know that the last test of the semester is waiting for you just beyond the classroom door.

While you're trying to cram as much information into your distracted brain as possible, in the back of your mind you're worrying about the oil change your car desperately needs, the cell phone bill you've been putting off for too long, and the cash that you don't have to buy presents for Christmas.

If you deal with stress similarly to sports fan Aaron Biddle, a junior education and history major, this is about the time that you did up your mother. "When I'm stressed, I talk to my mother most," said Biddle. "Or I stop studying to watch a movie in my football. I just take some time off to breathe."

When stress is closing in on you and your sanity, your mother's open ears are not the only pair willing to listen. Free, confidential, and professional help is available on campus, as close as your next class, at the Health, Counseling and Prevention Services offices located in the University Center.

Lisa Barresi, one of four counselors at NKU, acknowledges that many people who come to her office already have someone to talk to, but that some find it helpful to have sources outside of the situation to talk with.

"We most often see students for depression and relationship issues, and stress can be a component of depression," she said. "Depression and anxiety is common, especially with college students, who may be dealing with roommate issues, parental issues, problems with their significant other or friends."

"We do give stress management presentations in classes, and we usually speak to University 101 classes," she added. "The center offers group help, as well."

One focus of the counseling services is the prevention of stress. While it is not always possible to prevent the pressure felt by tests, papers, empty wallets and relationship trials, there are ways to strengthen your tolerance to such blood pressure predators.

"Be realistic with oneself advises NKU counselor Robert Wells. "Too often students overextend themselves, resulting in a build up of stress."

Wells, who is beginning his third year counseling at NKU, has a list of ways to prevent the effects of stress, including: regular exercise, sufficient amounts of sleep, a balanced diet, learning to express your feelings, learning to feel good about yourself and trying not to make too many changes at once, among others.

Kristin Koester, a junior literature major, chooses to release her stress through yoga exercises.

"I feel the most stress during the start of school, mostly in the first couple of weeks, when you're not sure how professors are with tests and papers," she said. "I also get stressed at test time, or finals."

Koester is not the only one who releases her stress through her pores with physical exercise.

Kristina Loyd frequents the gym to release her stress.

"I can tell when I'm getting stressed because I just feel overwhelmed, like there is not enough time in the day, and I get a claustrophobic type of feeling," said the senior sociology major.

While Loyd said she has never been to the counseling services at NKU, she knows what she would look for in her advisor.

"They would have to be a good listener, not to necessarily give advice, but to be understanding and not form judgments," she said. "Whether they are male or female wouldn't matter."

If senior political science major Nick Brauer were looking for a counselor to talk to, he said he would prefer to talk with a woman. "They [counselors] would have to be mellow - they couldn't be in my face, that would make me nervous," said Brauer. "I would feel more comfortable with a woman. They're better listeners."

On the other hand, for commuter student Justin Hackett, a dedicated listener might be hard to find when he's relieving stress. Although he claims

not to be affected by stress, the senior psychology and political science major distresses by drumming out his frustrations, a hobby he has had for the past 11 years.

Whether playing the drums, practicing yoga or hitting the gym, there are several variations of exercise that have been recognized as popular methods of easing the effects of stress.

Speaking of exercise, NKU's Campus Recreation Wellness Office offers a variety of fun, free workout programs, including yoga, kick-boxing and step aerobics as healthy, interactive ways of releasing stress.

The Wellness Center's website, <http://access.nku.edu/wellness/>, describes holistic wellness as six dimensions: physical, social, emotional, occupational, intellectual, and spiritual, all of which represent the interrelatedness of the mind, body and spirit. By making healthy choices in each dimension and making healthy decisions a way of life, wellness will be enhanced.

Susan Roth is associate director of Campus Recreation, and although she sees many students for traditional reasons, such as desires to be fit and lose weight, she also understands the correlation between stress and physical fitness.

"All [six dimensions] need to be in balance. When they are out of balance, that is when people feel the most stress," said Roth.

Fitness programs offered by the Wellness Center are being added all the time. For information on starting a fitness program or to obtain a schedule of events, call the Wellness Department at (859) 572-5197.

"Quite a few students come back and report to me or send me a note in the mail after hearing a presentation I give to a class, and they tell me I will never know what that did for them. That is the most rewarding thing," Roth said.

R o t h  
said.



Model: Ryan Wilham  
Illustration: Mike Brennan  
Layout: Brex Culnan

## Santa arrives early to spread holiday fun

Professor's yearly transformation into Jolly Old Saint Nick brings good cheer to kids

### Tea Time



with Susan

"All the sudden I go from being me to being 'Ho, Ho, Ho. It's magic.'"

Throughout the year Dr. Russell Proctor II, professor in the communication department and advisor to the Speech Communication Club, spends his time teaching various speech communication courses, being an advisor to many students, being an advisor to his wife and a father to a loving husband to Pam and a father to R.J. and Randy.

What many people don't know about Proctor is that, once a year, in place of his everyday attire he dons red velvet pants, overcoat, hat and black boots. His face is transformed with a white beard and long white hair.

Yes, Proctor is Santa Claus. At least for children from the Head Start Program, which provides day care for disadvantaged children ages 3-4.

For the past seven years the Speech Communication Club has held a Christmas party for

these children.

"The gift the child receives here might be one of the only gifts the child gets during the holiday season," Proctor said.

"We lose sight of that," he said. "I look at this and say 'Oh, this is my son, it's just a truck.' Well, it might be the only truck that he receives."

On Dec. 4, in the Baptist Student Union, surrounded by 20 children, Proctor said he had a bird's eye view of how much this Christmas party means to the family and the children.

"There was a little girl there who, when she opened up her present it was a Spongebob Squarepants. She opened it up (and) her mother burst into tears," Proctor said. When she (the mom) finally stopped crying, the little girl said "Can I go and hug Santa?"

"The little girl came running up and gave me a big hug

and the mom started sobbing all over again," he said.

"I looked at it as a \$15 gift, no big deal, but it's huge for these kids and these parents," Proctor said. "It was a very precious moment."

The idea for the Christmas party came about several years ago when a couple people in the club wanted to do something for someone else instead of just having parties and guest speakers, Proctor said.

One of the women in the club had been in the Head Start Program, and Proctor said she remembered things that were done for her as a child really meant a lot to her.

He said the woman remembered that someone threw a Christmas party, and it was one of the only gifts she received that year.

Knowing this, he said, the club thought it was a wonderful

idea because they thought they could make a difference.

Every year the club raises money for the party by selling various things. This year they sold candles and raised about \$300 to \$400 for a party that typically costs \$500.

With the money the club is able to purchase something each child placed on their wish list, Proctor said. They spend about \$15 dollars on each child.

At the party Santa passes out the presents, and Proctor said every time he does it he feels a warm, and generous.

"It just feels like I'm very special," Proctor said. "And that's a cool feeling."

Playing Santa one day out of the year is not one good feeling, it's magical, Proctor said.

"All the sudden I go from to being me to being 'Ho, Ho, Ho.' It's magic. These kids are mesmerized," he said.

"Everyone wants to hug you, and touch you. I put them on my lap and ask them what they want for Christmas and you just watch their big eyes."

Proctor has been the advisor for the Speech Club for the past 11 years, and this year is his last, he said. He said it's both a combination of getting older, and his son being a speech major at Northern Kentucky University.

Wendy Falato, another professor in the speech department, will become the coordinator next semester. The club meets every other Wednesday at noon in Landrum 108.

Susan Neltner is the Features Editor for The Northerner. You can e-mail Susan at [nku\\_features@yahoo.com](mailto:nku_features@yahoo.com)

## campuscalendar

To place an event : contact Amie Vogt at 859-572-5859

### wednesday

• The monthly meeting for the Academic Advising Committee will be in the Lucas Administrative Center 722 from 3-4:30 p.m.

### thursday

• There will be a **Vocal Jazz Concert** in Graves Hall at 8 p.m. Admission is \$3 and payable at the door.

• The **Feast for Finals** will be in Norse Commons from 8-11

### friday

• The **NKU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)** will be holding its annual winter **Kid's Night Out** in the Albright Health Center from 7-11 p.m. Open to girls and boys in grades 1 through 5. Participants will have access to basketball courts, the swimming pool, the gymnasium, racquetball courts, volleyball and soccer. The cost is \$10 and covers a T-shirt for the event and a snack. Application forms are available in AHC 250 or by calling 572-5193.

• There will be a **Greek Holiday Party** from 8-12. Contact Student Life for more information.

• The annual holiday tradition event, "Celebration of the Season," will be 8-11 p.m. in Graves Hall. Ticket are \$5 and available by calling 572-6399 or you can purchase them at the door.

• The **Native American Student**

### friday continued

Organization will have a "Sucker for a Raffle" from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the UC Lobby.

• **Zeta Phi Beta** is having a "Fam Jam" at 10 p.m. in the UC Ballroom.

• There will be **Norse Visitation Day** from 12:45-3 p.m. in the Steely Library Welcome Center. Reservations are required, contact 572-1400.

### saturday

#### • LAST DAY OF CLASSES!

• There will be another "Celebration of the Season" in Graves Hall from 3-4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and are available by calling 572-6399 or you can purchase them at the door.

• **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority** is having their **Firefighter Christmas**.

• The **National ACT** will be in Landrum 110 from 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

### monday

Exam week begins.

### tuesday

• The **Alpha Kappa Alpha "SKEE"** Week is in Norse Commons at 9 p.m.

## Feast rewards hard work



Tony Redell/Photo editor  
Students who are stressed from studying can reward themselves with free food on Thursday, Dec. 11.

With the semester drawing to a close, everyone is getting excited about winter break but, first, we have to overcome the biggest obstacle - finals.

Before students hit the books, Activities Programming Board (APB) is having one last event for students to relax.

The Feast for Finals will be held Thursday, Dec. 11, from 8 to 11 p.m. in the Norse Commons.

APB adviser Stephanie McGoldrick said the feast is a "study break for students."

She added that this is a way for the university to reward the

students for making it through the semester.

All students are invited to come and enjoy a free breakfast served by the faculty and administration employees.

There will also be various activities, including wax hands, airbrush tattoos, raffle prize giveaways and sand art, along with a DJ playing music.

The Resident Housing Association will make goodie bags to give out.

Health Services will be there as well, administering hand massages to relieve some of the study stress.

McGoldrick said the event is

to support the students through their exams. Last Fall and Spring 650 students attended each event.

This is also a Norsin Around event where students will be able to receive "thunder bucks."

The feast is put on by several organizations including, the Campus Life team, Sodesho, University Housing, Residents Housing Association (RHA) and the APB.

The Honors program, First Year Programs, Campus Recreation and the University Center also donate money to fund the event.

## THEATRE REVIEW

# 'Lucky Stiff' is fun, chaotic musical

By RYAN SMITH

Contributor  
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Imagine your everyday life being suddenly turned upside-down when you inherit \$6 million from a relative you never met, as long as you take care of their last request.

Sounds easy, doesn't it? You take care of this request, and suddenly you're rich. Life just got better, but in the musical comedy, "Lucky Stiff," when you get to inherit that much money it only spells trouble.

The musical comedy, which premiered Dec. 4, in NKU's Corbett Theatre, is about lonely shoe salesman, Harry Witherspoon, who unexpectedly inherits \$6 million from his uncle Anthony (who he has never met).

The only condition is, Harry must take care of his uncle's

unusual request to take his corpse to Monte Carlo for a week of fun-filled activities that include fishing, skydiving, scuba diving and enjoying the company of a seductive dancer.

As if taking a dead body to enjoy the sights Monte Carlo wasn't enough, Harry must also contend with an eye doctor, Vinnie DiRuzzio, whose sister is the neartight lover of Anthony.

Rita LaPorta, who had killed Anthony after finding him with another woman, emulates the \$6 million (which Harry has) from her hitman husband, rancid to find Harry to get the money.

To top that off Rita tells her husband that Vinnie has the money and soon the two are off to Monte Carlo to get the



Photo courtesy of the theatre and dance department  
'Lucky Stiff' is the first musical of the year for the theatre dept.

money or else Vinnie is going to lose his life.

As if that isn't enough, hard-working canine charity worker Annabel Gluck follows every

move Harry and corpse make to make sure Harry doesn't slip up or else, he warns, "the money will go to the dogs."

Chaos soon ensues with

plenty of surprises and lots of laughs to see who can get the money first, while one lucky stiff enjoys Monte Carlo one last time.

Each scene had entertaining musical numbers from the entire cast, including, "Speaking French" and "Good Day to Be Alive."

"Him Them, It Her" was choreographed perfectly with high-energy tunes.

The entire cast did a great job acting, singing and dancing but the highlight of the night was the interaction between Harry (played by Roderick Justice), Annabel (played by Kelly Strandemo) and the body of Tony Hendon (played by Toby Vinnip).

The three made a great comic trio, especially in the "Dog Versus You" number.

"Lucky Stiff" also kept the audience's attention with its hilarious storyline, which was

full of plenty twist and turns.

During the play the audience is never sure what will happen next, and all that buildup will eventually lead to a shocking ending.

Overall, I would recommend anyone seeing this musical comedy. With exams quickly approaching, it's nice to take a break from studying for a few hours and enjoy a good laugh. "Lucky Stiff" promises do that for you.

The musical comedy, which is based on the novel, "The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo," by Michael Butterworth, will run through Dec. 14 (starting at 8 p.m. except Sunday, which starts at 3 p.m.) at Corbett Theatre.

Tickets are \$6 for students and faculty and staff are \$9, and can be purchased at the theatre box office, located in the Fine Arts Building.

# Parent supports gay children with pride

By LORI COX

Editor in Chief  
editorlcox@yahoo.com

Coming to terms with homosexuality is often a confusing, frightening and isolating experience, but not just for gays and lesbians, also for their families and friends.

Marian Weage, the mother of three gay children, faced these feelings for the first time 25 years ago when she and her children lived in Michigan, away from family and friends, and her eldest child confided to her that she was a lesbian.

"Gays feel like they're the only one and they don't dare tell anyone. Parents feel the same. It's really scary," Weage said.

In Michigan, Weage discovered PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and

Gays), an international organization dedicated to support, education and advocacy for gays, lesbians and transgender individuals and their families.

Weage said PFLAG is "a safe place, a family really," for those who are struggling with their own homosexuality as well as family members or friends trying to understand or accept their loved ones life. "It was just a release to talk about my children, who they really were and how much I loved them," she said.

Upon moving back to Cincinnati in 1985, Weage realized there was no PFLAG chapter here, so she founded one.

She served as president of the organization for the first six years and then turned it over to new leadership.

"I was torn between being so

is kind of neat to see how my baby has grown."

The Cincinnati chapter has grown from a few people in 1985 to more than 1,000 members and on Dec. 7, Weage, along with three others, received a McCrackin Peace & Justice Award for her compassion, leadership and dedication

to creating a more peaceful and just community, particularly in founding the Cincinnati chapter of PFLAG.

"She's not just a mom with gay kids," Jim Bliss, executive

director for Greater Cincinnati Community Shares, the group presenting the award, said of Weage.

"She saw an injustice and, not only did she help, but she organized a group that continues to help many people here in Cincinnati. PFLAG is much more than a support group."

Bliss said.

"It's also about advocacy and education."

Weage has been a guest speaker at various business, high schools and colleges such

as the University of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky University, Seven Hills High School and Sycamore High School in order to help people

deserving of love and understanding.

"Gays and lesbians are rejected by family and friends when they come out about their sexuality and, too often, Weage said, it is due to religious beliefs."

"One young man's family told him, 'if he just prayed,' he would overcome his homosexuality," Weage said. "He prayed and prayed and finally tried to commit suicide."

"God made them that way. It's as simple as that," she said.

Bliss said Weage has a won-

derful way of telling her story and getting people to be more understanding of the gay and lesbian population.

"She's just a very enthusiastic and loving person. The perfect person to spread the good message," he said.

Aside from her work with PFLAG, Weage, 69, has won other awards including Woman of the Year by the Barony of Northern Kentucky.

She served as chairperson for the AIDS walk in Cincinnati and currently works part-time as the secretary for her church and a representative for Grand Bahamas Vacation.

"She is enrolled as a fine art/theatre major at Northern Kentucky University where she recently performed in 'The Crucible'."

But above all, Weage said her greatest accomplishment is her children. "Everybody should have kids like mine."



## artsentertainment

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Erzo's coffee: A cup of relaxation

BY STUART MACKENZIE

Contributor  
nortner@nka.edu

"We can beat Starbucks any day," said Enzo's Coffee Shop owner Al Sheets.

Erzo's is a new gourmet coffee shop that moved into the Highland Heights Shopping Center near Blockbuster and BW3. "We moved from Mainstrasse in Covington because that place was dead," said Sheets.

With their new location, this gourmet coffee shop hopes to cater more toward the college crowd. "We lowered our prices, especially on sandwiches, and we have free wireless Internet access," said Sheets. He said mostly Case Law students come in to use the wireless Internet access, but he hopes to gather all types of students.

He also has added a student information board for local events being held around the area.

The interior is newly decorated and painted. The walls are adorned with antique coffee advertisements and all the furniture is new and in good shape. The most noticeable characteristic of this new hangout is its cleanliness.

The bathrooms are immaculate and there aren't even any stains on the new furniture.

The seating consists of a comfy couch, a few plush sitting chairs and several tall tables with high chairs. This kind of coffee shop is more suited to the "Reality Tuesday" go-ers than the "Buzz".

The actual menu is very similar to Starbucks except Enzo's serves large sandwiches and its prices are a little cheaper.

The owner also promises to have a new, state-of-the-art espresso/coffee machine that can make eight cups of coffee at once. "I am big on customer service and hate to see people wait," Sheets said.



**Tony Redelli Photo Editor**  
While at Enzo's, customers can sit and enjoy a cup of coffee, browse the Internet study or converse in the brand-new and comfortable setting.

The coffee itself was good and the atmosphere was inviting. The lighting was very relaxing, and the overall decor was expensive without looking too ritzy.

The shelves were covered in attractive ivy, and the artwork consisted mostly of reissued antique coffee advertisements and slogans.

The condiments table had all the trappings of a Starbucks, like chocolate and cinnamon shakers.

The coffee was well-made. I had an espresso and my friend had a hot chocolate. The hot chocolate was one of the best I have ever tasted; you can tell Enzo's uses fine ingredients.

Overall, the atmosphere was very quiet and intimate. It is a good place for doing

homework or taking a friend for a quiet night out. Sheets said he normally tries to book live entertainment once a month, usually on a Friday.

In the past, Sheets said he has booked such famous acts as one of Eric Clapton's guitarists, who lives in the area. There are chess sets and magazines available for those looking for entertainment besides their coffee and food.

The Fox 92.5 was playing in the background so the music is aimed at an older crowd. The service is very friendly and the store has a "Mom and Pop" feel to it.

If you are looking for a Starbucks-like coffee shop without the corporate trappings or prices, this is the place for you.



**Tony Redelli Photo Editor**  
Erzo's coffee shop is located in the County Square shopping center on Martha Lane Collins Blvd. The owner likes to say that their coffee can beat Starbucks' any day.

## MOVIE REVIEW

## 'Elf' charming movie for the holidays

'SNL' alum Will Ferrell aims for laughs in an unexpected turn as a human raised by Santa's elves in new light-hearted Christmas flick.



**Ferrell plays Buddy**, a man who leaves the North Pole and everything he knows for Manhattan in search of his family.

BY JONATHAN DIVITA

Contributor  
nortner@nka.edu

If there's one thing more certain than socks and underwear for Christmas, it's a holiday movie attempting to be funny without being too corny.

The first pick of this season's offerings in the Christmas comedy category is "Elf", starring Will Ferrell. And, unlike socks and underwear, this movie won't develop holes or an awkward smell.

For those familiar with Ferrell only from "Saturday Night Live" and the movie "Old School", most of his gags in "Elf" may be considered watered down. There's very

little of that type of Ferrell's wildness and crazy humor in this character-driven comedy.

But don't be disappointed. What Ferrell does extremely well in this movie is create a persona that is both likeable and seriously quirky.

Ferrell plays Buddy, a human who was raised on the North Pole after crawling into Santa's toy bag as a baby. Buddy had a hard time fitting in with the other elves, but could never quite understand why.

His adoptive father, Papa Elf (played by Bob Newhart), decided it was time to have a little talk with Buddy and it was then that he learned he was not an elf.

Buddy also learned that he has a real family living in

Manhattan. So, Buddy decides to venture out into the world to reunite with his family. But there are serious problems.

Buddy's father, played by James Caan, is as miserly as Ebenezer Scrooge himself. And, even worse, Buddy has to deal with a world where it seems that everyone has lost the true spirit of Christmas.

Ferrell's comical antics and the childlike innocence of the character Buddy create plenty of laughs as he tries to adapt to and change the busy world of Manhattan.

Finally, and just a bit predictably, Buddy manages to win over the heart of his father and spread holiday cheer to the whole city, thanks in part to a crash landing in Central

Park by Santa.

This movie has a little bit of everything.

Director Jon Favreau has a keen eye for classic holiday movies and you'll recognize certain scenes in Elf from other films like "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and the animated Rudolf movie.

The cast also features some impressive stars; the highlights include Ed Asner playing the rather high-strung Santa and Newhart's deadpan delivery as Papa Elf.

"Elf" is definitely a charming holiday film for all ages and all audiences. Although it is predictable at times and a little lighthearted, this film will make you a fan of Christmas again.

## CD REVIEW

## Strokes album 'Room on Fire' is pure retro pop

BY STUART MACKENZIE

Contributor  
nortner@nka.edu

They might not be "The Saviors of Rock 'N' Roll" or "The Coolest Band Alive" as they are so often hailed, but the Strokes can do one thing well: make a really good record. Not dogged by the sophomore slump, "Room On Fire" shows a more mature, better recorded side of the Strokes.

After a brief stint with Radiohead producer Nigel Godrich, the Strokes returned to their first album's producer Gordon Raphael. With a steady producer locked in, the Strokes pumped out 11 tracks of pure retro pop.

According to "Rolling Stone", notoriously elegantly wasted lead singer Julian

Casablancas even quit drinking for the project.

Unlike their first album, "Room on Fire" is not dogged with accusations that "all the songs sound alike."

Throughout the entire album, the listener is faced with interesting new hooks that sound different enough to be engaging, but similar enough to be warmly familiar. This time the Strokes have created an album that can be listened to, and sung along with, over and over again. Singer Casablancas's vocals are characteristically distorted but this time you can make out his honest, sing-song lyrics. Intermittently following Casablancas's vocal melodies is Nick Valensi's riveting lead guitar. This engaging combination especially stands out on their darkly beautiful new single "12:51." In this catchy song,

Valensi's guitar sounds strangely like a moog synthesizer as it dances along with Casablancas's angry crooning.

The best song on this album is "Under Control," which has the same components as the faster tracks, with catchy tremolo guitars and melodic bass, but at a much slower tempo.

In the same vein as Led Zeppelin's "Dyer Maker," "Under Control" has irresistible slow-but-driving drums, which, mixed with the song's beautiful melody and pounding guitars, makes for an instant pop masterpiece.

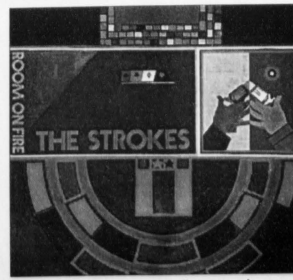
Other songs like, "Reptilia," showcase the Strokes' ability to rock without using the modern cliché conventions of distortion pedals and studio effects. "Reptilia" has frantic guitars that play different but comple-

mentary parts. The Strokes have also become masters of the stop/start technique, often using guitar bridges with no drums, vocals or bass. This adds to the quiet/loud dynamic of the song and makes their music much more exciting.

Tracks like "Automatic" combine beautiful guitar parts with fun melodies and interesting lead guitar hooks.

The catchy, syncopated guitar lick is carried out through the entire song. When this is combined with the driving bass and repeated lead guitar parts, the song really comes alive and rocks.

This entire album is filled with original, unique-sounding material that, when juxtaposed with each other, really shines. If you like pop, rock or music in general, this album is a great buy.



**The cover for the Strokes new album "Room on Fire."**  
Photo courtesy of amazon.com

Wednesday  
10 December 10 2003  
Edition 33, Issue 14

## Sports Scene

## NKU wins two at UW-Parkside

## Teams finish on top

The fall sports season has come and gone for the teams at NKU. Games were played and titles were won, starting with the play of the women's soccer team.

The team entered the season with some question marks about whether this group of players could continue the tremendous success of the soccer program since its 1997 inception. The resounding answer to this question is yes.

Senior Kendra Zinsler helped lead the Norse to a 17-3-4 record, a regular season conference championship and a fifth-straight trip to the Elite Eight in the NCAA Division II tournament.

Zinsler led the team with 13 goals and Amy Law's successful freshman season was rewarded with being named Great Lakes Valley Conference freshman of the year.

The women improved NKU's overall record to an amazing 125-25-11 in the history of the program.

Zinsler, Robyn Withers and Becky Schneiders were all named first-team All-Conference. Coach Bob Sheehan was named conference co-coach of the year.

In volleyball, NKU fought through injuries and a sluggish early season to finish with a 26-12 record, the regular season conference title and a berth into the NCAA tournament.

Junior Kristin Koralewski was the second player in the history of the program to be named first-team NCAA Division II All-American.

The Norse graduated three very successful seniors — Cammi Welter, Nicole Salisbury and Sara Taylor — who will be very difficult to replace. NKU has had a 103-54 record in the four years these women have been a part of the program.

The women's tennis team concluded an undefeated fall season by winning the GLVC tournament and securing a spot in the NCAA tournament next spring. Freshman Becky Dister went 8-0 in singles play and was named to the All-Conference team and was also named the GLVC freshman of the year. Senior Elizabeth Brunsman joined Dister, also receiving All-Conference accolades, by finishing with an 8-2 record during singles play.

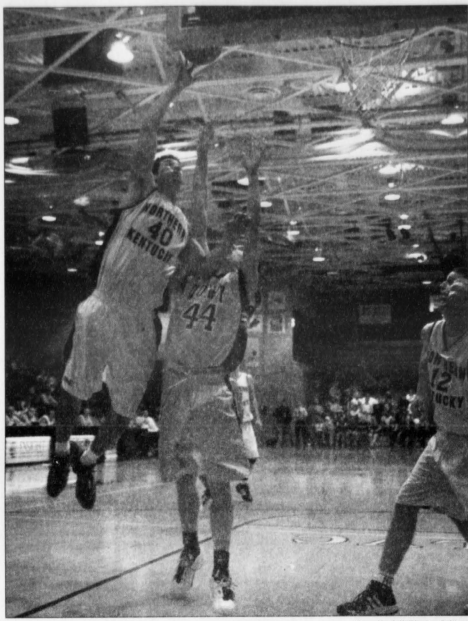
In golf the men and women's teams both finished relatively successful fall seasons, with a strong spring expected for both teams. Kim Keyser-Scott won the GLVC championship as an individual, and the men's team won its own invitation and performed well in the Fall Regional meet, putting them in good position to make a run at the NCAA tournament in the spring.

The men's soccer team under new head coach John Basalyga struggled little, but made strides with a strong freshman class gaining much-needed experience on the field.

The cross-country season was highlighted by Tracy Inman capturing All-Conference honors, the first woman runner in school history to receive such an award.

The fall sports teams have set up the year for the rest of NKU athletics and the other seasons should be just as successful. With basketball starting up, things should just continue to get better. I guess we'll see in January.

Kyle Burch is the Sports Editor for The Northerner. You can e-mail Kyle at [kiburch@uakron.com](mailto:kiburch@uakron.com)



Jesse Rupe scores in last week's Quincy game. Rupe scored 12 points in the one-point win over Parkside.

Tony Redell/Photo Editor

## Men edge UWP, women coast

KENOSHA, Wis. — Brian Lewitt's layup with 27 seconds remaining in the game Saturday gave Northern Kentucky University an 80-79 victory over the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

NKU (6-4 overall, 3-1 Great Lakes Valley Conference) rallied from a 15-point deficit with 14:52 remaining by making 8-of-13 three-point attempts in the second half.

With the Rangers leading 67-57, the Norse went on an 11-2 run to close the gap to one point. Adam Howell scored nine of his 14 second-half points during that run by making 2 of three three-point baskets.

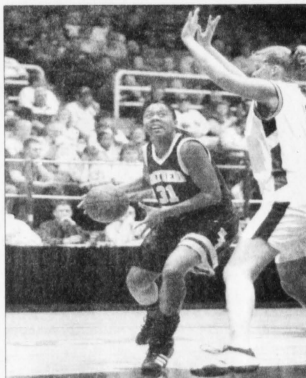
Glen Barlow converted 1-of-2 free throw attempts to put the Rangers ahead 79-78 with just more than a minute remaining. After a missed shot by Jerome King, Lewitt put in the game-winning basket on an assist from Sean Rowland.

Wisconsin-Parkside had a chance to win in the closing seconds, but Dean Pogodzinski's jumper in the lane was off target and King got the rebound as time expired.

NKU head coach Ken Shields picked up his 29th career win with the victory over Wisconsin-Parkside and NKU improved to 15-4 in the all-time series against the Rangers.

The Norse return to Regents Hall for a game against Central State University at 7:45 p.m. on Dec. 10.

In the women's game, Sharell Snardon scored 21 points and grabbed six rebounds as the Northern Kentucky University women's basketball team defeated the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, 77-66, in DeSimone Gymnasium.



Sharell Snardon scored 21 points leading the women to victory.

File Photo/Tim Downer

NKU built a 20-9 lead early in the first half as Snardon scored nine points. Wisconsin-Parkside rallied and cut the lead to 28-27 with an 18-8 run, but the Norse responded with a 11-0 spurt to end the first half with a 39-27 advantage. Sarah Woods came off the bench to score six points.

Wisconsin-Parkside cut the lead to 61-56 with 5:31 remaining in the second half on a jumper by Carrie Weir. The Norse responded with a 14-1 run, in which they converted 10 of their free-throw attempts. NKU also held the Rangers to a 37.7 field goal percentage for the contest.

"For the last 10 minutes of the game we really shot well from the free-throw line," said NKU head coach Nancy Winstel. ("Snardon) just dominated inside and (Myers) hit her free-throws and some key jumpers."

Wisconsin-Parkside was led in scoring by Carrie Weir who posted 20 points. Sammy

Kromm also contributed 18 points and seven rebounds for the Rangers. It was the first loss in the conference for Wisconsin-Parkside, which now falls to 4-3, 2-1 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

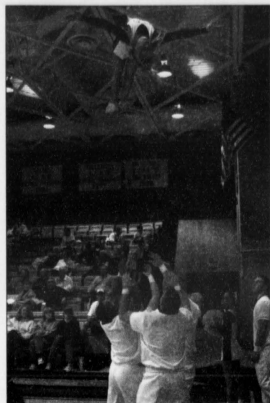
Nikki Perkins added 14 points for NKU (4-3 overall, 2-2 GLVC), which snaps their two-game losing streak. The Norse shot 67.7 percent from the field — including 75 percent in the second half — and led the entire game.

Connie Myers scored 10 of her 12 points in the second half for the Norse, who upped their lead in the all-time series with Wisconsin-Parkside to 18-1. Jessica Brock added 11 points, and Elizabeth Burrows added six assists for NKU.

NKU will return home and resume play at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12 against Kendall in the first round of the Community Recorder Classic in Regents Hall.

\*Article by Sports Information

## Cheer team aims high



Tony Redell/Photo Editor

Members of the NKU cheerleading team at a home game.

## Cheerleading at basketball games is just half of season for team

The tryouts for the squad can be very rigorous. Once the squads are selected, they continue with open gym sessions three-to-four days a week throughout the summer and are expected to stay in top physical condition. In addition to these requirements, the coed squad attends a three-day UCA camp.

"The camp is a chance for them to showcase their skills, learn new techniques that are big this year, and just basically have a team-building weekend," Schaeffer said.

The cheerleaders support the men's and women's basketball teams through the entire season, which is a little more than 50 games. At national competitions over recent years, the squads' performances have been, "an up-and-down battle," according to Becky Schroeder, former NKU cheerleader who became coach when Schaeffer resigned.

"Our goals for this year are to build up our ability level and keep it up," Schroeder said. "We need to maintain a strong, collegiate athletic level."

The squads spend their season preparing for nationals. Practices, open gyms, even the basketball games are used to prepare and master a winning routine. "We want to put together a routine that we are not only proud of, but hopefully one that will win," said Kelli Stevens, a senior public relations major.

"The all-girl squad has nationals which will be after March Madness ends," said Jaime Schaeffer, former NKU cheerleading coach who recently resigned when she learned she was expecting her first child.

Koralewski, a junior outside hitter and a native of Muskego, Wis., finished the season with a team-leading 580 kills, 487 digs and a 328 hitting percentage as NKU posted a 26-12 record and advanced to the NCAA Division II Tournament. She was also named the Great Lakes Valley Conference Player of the Year this season.

Koralewski recorded 26 double-doubles this season and added 55 service aces.

Koralewski is just the second NKU volleyball

## NCAA honors Koralewski

player in history to receive first-team All-American honors. Jessica Buraker also was named first-team All-American in 1999.

Molly Donovan (1998) and Jenny Jeremiah (1999) each received second-team All-American honors for the Norse.

NKU senior right-side hitter Cammi Welter also received national honors. Welter was given honorable mention All-American accolades from the AVCA. Welter, a graduate of McAuley High School in Cincinnati, finished with 503 kills and 101 blocks this season.

\*Article by Sports Information

## hotseat

### Men's Basketball

Saturday, Dec. 20 vs. Saginaw Valley State @ 3:15 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 22 at Wayne State @ 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 30 vs. Mt. St. Joseph @ 7:45 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 2 vs. Indianapolis @ 7:45 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 8 vs. Kentucky Wesleyan @ 7:45 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 10 vs. Southern Indiana @ 3:15 p.m.

### Women's Basketball

Community Recorder Classic (at Regents Hall)  
\*Friday, Dec. 12 vs. Kendall @ 7:30 p.m.  
\*Saturday, Dec. 13 vs. TBA @ TBA

Monday, Dec. 29 at Wayne State @ 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 2 vs. Indianapolis @ 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 8 vs. Kentucky Wesleyan @ 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 10 vs. Southern Indiana @ 1 p.m.



with Elias Hajjar

This week the tables are turned, as Northern Executive Editor D.J. Carter puts Elias on the hot seat.

**DJ:** You are the all-time Northern Trashketball Association leading scorer. Now, here at your retirement, what do you attribute to your success?

**EH:** Hard work. Dedication. Countless hours of practice. I'd have to thank God for giving me the ability and my parents for having me.

**DJ:** If you could become any NKU athlete for a season, who would it be?

**EH:** Men's Basketball player

Sean Rowland, so I'd understand what it feels like not to be able to jump, run or shoot. Just kidding, Sean...

**DJ:** What female NKU athlete?

**EH:** Former women's basketball player Michelle Cottrell because she is the best women's basketball player I've ever met. She knew how to take over a game and win in the clutch.

**EH:** I'll admit it, I was wrong. I can't always be right.

**DJ:** You said you thought the Steelers would win the Super Bowl this year. How do you feel about that statement now?

**EH:** I lived for the positive feedback I got from students. I wanted to give students the opportunity to really meet the players.

**DJ:** What was your most memorable hotseat interview?

**EH:** The interview with Chris Seabrooks in the Feb. 26 issue

**DJ:** If you could make one professional sports management decision what would it be?

**EH:** Dismantle the New York

Yankees. I'm sick of the high-payroll franchises buying all the good players and leaving all the low-payroll franchises with hardly any players to choose from.

**DJ:** Who is the best sports-writer who inspires you?

**EH:** The late Dick Schaap. He was a great interviewer and writer. I also enjoy reading Rick Reilly in *Sports Illustrated* every week.

**DJ:** What's the best local high school sports team?

**EH:** Elder football, the back-to-back Ohio state football champions.

**DJ:** What's the best thing you got from doing this column?

**EH:** Getting to meet and know the best athletes at this school (in different sports).



Hajjar

**DJ:** What's the best Dave Matthews Band song?

**EH:** It's a tie between "Two Step #41," "Tripping Billies," "Pig," "I'll Back You Up" and "Crush"

**DJ:** What's the best thing you got from doing this column?

**EH:** Getting to meet and know the best athletes at this school (in different sports).

## Colts to beat Falcons and Vick; Rams keep winning

### Football Picks



with Dominick Wise

#### Atlanta Falcons at the Indianapolis Colts

When the NFL schedule came out at the beginning of this year, most people thought this game would be a preview of the Super Bowl. The Falcons had high hopes before the season began with the strong play of Michael Vick last season. Vick was a human highlight film last season and electrified the league with his dazzling moves. Vick went down with a severe ankle injury in the preseason and hasn't played until the last two weeks. The big question when the season began was, can the Falcons win without Vick? The answer...NO!

The Falcons have become one of the NFL's worst teams. Their suspect defense can't tackle, cover anyone, or play tough defense. The offense has struggled to put points on the board. Now, the human highlight film has recovered from his injury and is ready to end the season on a good note.

A victory against the Colts this Sunday would be a big confidence builder heading into next season. On the other hand, the Colts are on a roll to the playoffs and can't afford a let-down against the Falcons. This could be a trap game for the Colts. Peyton Manning should have a big day picking apart a suspect Falcons secondary and

Edgerrin James should have a big day running against one of the NFL's worst run defenses.

On paper this looks like a blowout, but with Vick back, this game will be close. Vick can sure make a struggling team play a lot better. Peyton and company will be ready. The Colts will win this game by ten.

#### Colts 31 Falcons 21

#### Seattle Seahawks at the St. Louis Rams

Ladies and gentlemen, may I introduce you to the greatest show on turf? There has been no team better on its home turf than the St. Louis Rams. The Rams

are averaging over 30 points a game at home this season, and I look for the trend to continue against the Seattle Seahawks.

This game will decide the NFC West. Earlier this season the Seahawks beat the Rams at home, but the Seahawks are one of the league's worst teams on the road.

The high-powered Rams are back and so is Marshall Faulk, who has resurrected his career with strong running of late.

No receiver in the league has been more explosive and dominant than Tony Holt, who leads the league in receiving yards and will get plenty in this shootout. This game features two of the league's most explo-

sive offenses. Can Seattle quarterback Matt Hasselbeck get some Pro Bowl recognition please? He is having a career season and is putting up unbelievable numbers.

The Rams should have won the first meeting between these two. Rams defensive coordinator Lovie Smith had the Rams playing nickel defense on the goaline in the last minute of the game.

Whoever plays mistake-free football and doesn't turn the ball over will win this game. I look for the Rams to be on top of their game and remain the greatest show on turf.

#### Prediction:

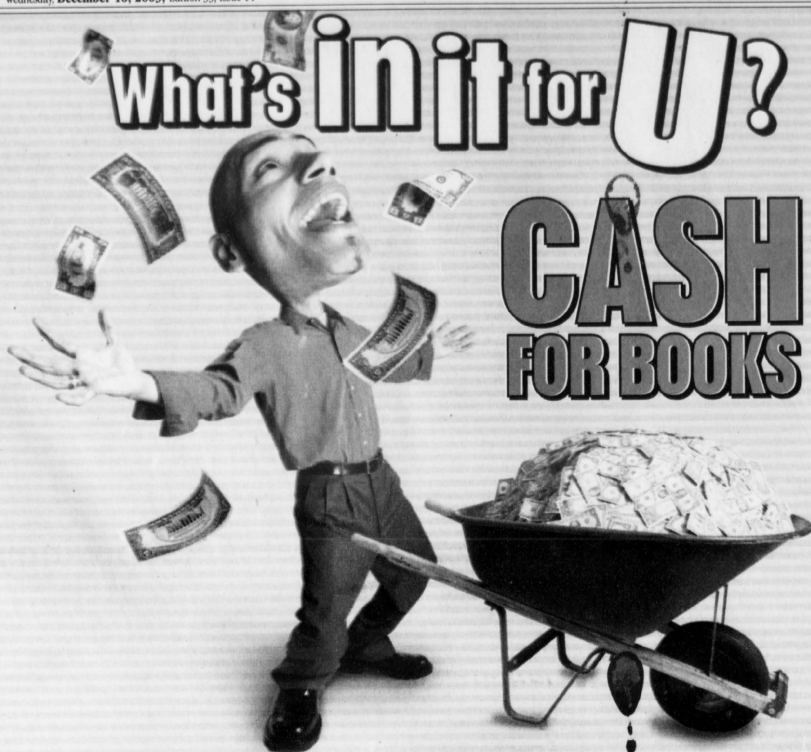
Rams 41 Seahawks 31

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