

# THE NORTHERNER

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## In Brief:

### NEWS

#### NO FREUDIAN SLIPS:

The NKU team took the first place trophy home in the Annual Kentucky Psychological Association Psych Bowl Tournament. Despite Thomas More College's flaunting of last year's trophy, senior Kevin Rand said, "We pretty much trounced them."

Page 3

### FEATURES



#### BACK IN BLACK...

#### AND GOLD:

NKU's tradition of bringing high school seniors and transfer students to campus gives the university a chance to showcase programs like University 101 and learning communities.

Page 6

### NORTHERN LIGHTS



#### IT'S FINALLY HERE:

The most anticipated event of the century just may be the ending of it. Plans for New Year's, entertainment reviews, century history and a preview for NKU is all at your fingertips in a student Millennium guide. Special Section

### VIEWPOINTS

#### OFF WITH IT:

Cell phones may be convenient, but they are also highly annoying when they go off at inappropriate times like weddings. A student makes request to call off all phones during class.

Page 7

### WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



#### THE LOCAL WEB:

The web can take you all around the world, but it can also be a great way to find out about local event happenings and news. At [www.cincinnati.com](http://www.cincinnati.com), you can get dates, times and more info on holiday events, sports, movies and entertainment. Also read get your daily news on the Cincinnati Post and Cincinnati Enquirer.

#### TODAY'S FORECAST

High 54  
Low 37  
Partly  
Cloudy



### INDEX

DPS Reports..... 3  
Norse Notes..... 8  
North Poll..... 7  
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## Accessibility aimed to increase

By Rick Amburgey  
News Editor

The recently appointed Subcommittee on Campus Accessibility will begin to discuss and point out accessibility issues at Northern Kentucky University to the task force.

In an added effort to help increase accessibility on campus, the position of coordinator of disability services, which is currently held by Dale Adams was upgraded from part time to full-time this year.

According to Sara Sidebottom, legal counsel for NKU, said that the university is in compliance with the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act. However, the Kentucky Department of Vocational Rehabilitation has a separate set of guidelines, which are more strict. NKU is not compliant with all of these guidelines, according to the Northern Kentucky Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

According to Adams, it is not required by the ADA that everything pertaining to that certain requirement

meet that criteria. In other words, all facilities do not have to be handicapped accessible as long as accessible facilities that meet the guidelines are also provided. Adams also said that guidelines do not indicate that the university must provide handicapped people access to every floor, as long as what was on that floor was "non-essential." Adams cited the example that a class could be moved to the first floor than a higher level floor. However, Adams said that providing access to upper-level floors in buildings such as residence halls, when

first-floor housing could be provided, is "unnecessary."

Adams said that sometimes it is necessary to go beyond the requirements provided by the Americans With Disabilities Act in order to accommodate students.

"I have been called in at times to look at guidelines because they don't appear to work," Adams said.

One such circumstance arose concerning the hand buttons for the automatic doors. The original placement of the hand buttons were compliant with guidelines, but were difficult or

impossible for individuals with limited arm movement to reach. Adams said the changes were made to rectify the problem.

"Pretty near all our buttons are back from the doors so the person can drive up to the doors and hit them on the side," Adams said.

Sam Blume, an NKU student who is a wheelchair user, said that there were several accessibility issues on the campus. Blume took a representative of *The Northerner* on a tour

See ACCESSIBILITY, Page 2

## A foul Final Four



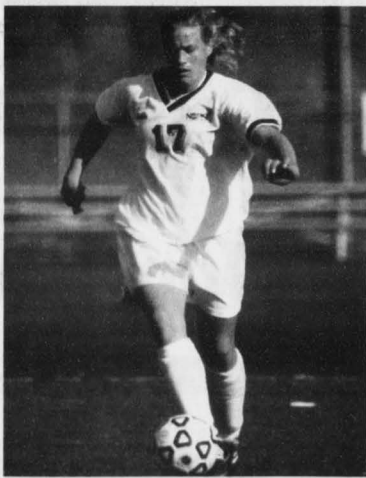
Jeff McCurdy/The Northerner

Northern Kentucky University had two women's teams make the NCAA Division II Final Four this past week.

The Norse women's soccer team lost to Franklin Pierce 2-0 in Miami Shores, Fla. NKU ended the season with a 22-3 record. They also won their second straight Great Lakes Valley Conference title in only their third year of the soccer program.

The Norse volleyball team lost to BYU-Hawaii in three sets at Battle Creek, Mich. NKU ended the season with a 33-2 record and a number 2 ranking.

This marks the second and third time that NKU has had a women's team make it to the NCAA Division II Final Four. The other time was when the basketball team got that far earlier in the year. For more information on the games and seasons of the teams, see page 8.



## Drastic measures not answer to gun violence

By Jeffrey B. Williams  
Features Editor

"They thought it was cool, that someone could open fire on a school," Sarah Jedd said. According to Newsweek magazine, Jedd, 15, was one of four students arrested for allegedly plotting a killing spree at Cleveland South High School in October.

In the wake of school shootings in Washington, Colorado, Arkansas, Georgia and Kentucky, 215 Northern Kentucky University students were polled between Nov. 11, and Nov. 23, to estimate students' views on gun control issues.

According to the survey, most of the university's students believe tighter security measures should be required in public schools and more female students proposed higher security measures than male students. According to the survey, 30.4 percent of NKU's students polled have at least one gun in their permanent residences and 13.3 percent of those have at least four guns in their households.

Thirty-seven percent of NKU's male stu-

dents said they own at least one gun, and eight percent of NKU's female students said they own at least one gun. Forty-six percent of those have children less than 18 years old and 32 percent of the gun owners said the minors know about the guns in the homes.

In his article "The NRA is Right" Josh Sugarmann, the communications director of the Coalition to Ban Handguns said, "The best way to curb a health problem is through prevention - in this case, the banning of all handguns from civilian hands."

The NKU survey showed that the university's students want less drastic measures taken to prevent school violence. More than 87 percent of the male students and almost 96 percent of the female students said all guns should be registered with the state. Fifty-two percent of the males surveyed said security cameras should be required in public schools while 77.5 percent of NKU's female students said security cameras should be required.

Rod Ours, an NKU theater major, said if school violence continued to escalate he would be in favor of security cameras and metal detectors at public schools.

"I hope it doesn't come to that," Ours said. "I think greater attempts should be made to control who gets their hands on the weapons."

He said he would favor laws that mandate vaults and trigger-locks but that stricter parenting and more parent involvement with their children's lives is the key to halting school violence.

Many NKU's students not in the survey's majority agreed with Ours that other solutions to the school violence problem are needed.

"I don't think we should turn our schools into jails," said NKU English education junior Janette Baker.

"Communication is the answer. I think teachers and counselors should get more involved in students lives."

Baker said schools have become too static and that teachers are seen as opponents of

students instead of people who can teach and guide them.

Baker said there are instances in life when guns are needed and she does not want an unarmed public.

"Lock it up," Baker said, "But I don't think government should just bear arms and there are some things kids don't need to know."

Emily Danner is a junior art student at NKU. She said her father is a superintendent in the Cincinnati school district and her mother is a teacher.

She said requiring public schools to install security cameras and metal detectors is not the answer to preventing school violence.

"I think that's a little extreme," Danner said. "Parents should be more responsible and think about where they put their guns. If kids want to kill people, they're going to do it and no amount of security is going to stop them."



## ACCESSIBILITY: Residence halls have barriers concerning accessibility

From Page 1

across campus to point out some of the obstacles wheelchair users face on a daily basis.

One of these obstacles was the potholes and imperfections in the concrete.

During the course of the tour, Blume got stuck in the large pothole between the Natural Science Building and the NKU Corbett Theatre.

Carol Mashinot, an English major, said that she has had problems with potholes as well.

"You have to watch where you're going. I have to dodge the holes," she said.

Jeff Wilson, a former NKU student who returns to campus every semester to lecture about spinal cord injuries, said NKU is a lot more accessible now than when he started. He believes one thing that led to the positive change was when the administration took a tour across campus in wheelchairs in 1994.

"I think it opened their eyes. There were some cracks some of them couldn't get their wheelchair across," Wilson said.

Blume said the bathrooms are a major concern for handicapped individuals. She said that because the stalls in the bathrooms are so small, the door will not shut completely. Blume said that results in an invasion of privacy.

Blume recalled one particular incident while she was trying to use the bathroom.

"One time, I was sitting on the toilet and there was a woman watching me while I was on the toilet," she said.

Some of the restrooms at NKU are not practical for use by people with disabilities. According to the Northern Kentucky Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, the stalls should be big enough for someone to turn their wheelchair around. This capability allows the student to do independent transfers to and from the wheelchair.

The grab bars that are located in the handicap accessible stalls meet the criteria set by ADA and state guidelines. However, these bars have become weak and shaky. Students such as Blume worry that this could be a potential safety hazard.

Both the ADA guidelines and state guidelines call for mirrors being no more than 40 inches off of the ground. While many of the mirrors in restrooms meet this specification, there are some that do not.

Some restrooms do not have the international symbols that indicates there are handicap accessible facilities available in the restroom. Some do not carry braille and raised characters for visually-impaired students.

"You would think that the cafeteria area's bathrooms would be good, but they're not," Blume said.

Mashinot said that the metal bars at the entrances of the library can be very dangerous for wheelchair users.

"Coming out, I got hurt one time. I went to the Nurse's Station," she said.

According to Mashinot, the metal bar swung back and hit her in the neck.

Joe Gebelt, a student who lives in the traditional dorms, recalls three days in a row where the handicap entrance to Norse Commons was locked.

Patty Hayden, director of Residential Life, said the cause of such problem is a malfunction of the locking mechanism. She said when they are made aware of such problems, they call the locksmith to have the problem remedied.

Hayden also said that the residential village is "handicap accessible" and was "built according to ADA guidelines".

Gebelt, who is a senior, said he recognizes positive changes in accessibility since he came to NKU.

"There are still barriers that still need to be taken down," Gebelt said.

He said that the problems in accessibility haven't affected his studies, but the problems are upsetting.

"It has made me feel unwanted at times as far as being part of the student body," Gebelt said.

Adams says that the disabled community does have a place on NKU's campus.

"President James C. Votruba seems to have the drive and desire to work with many different groups of people - disabled being one of them," Adams said.

Adams believes we are one of the most accessible campuses in the midwest, but there could be some changes to the existing buildings on campus.

One danger to disabled students that Gebelt cited deals with the stoves in the kitchens and apartments in the dorms. Gebelt said that in order to turn off the burners, an individual has to reach across a hot burner.

"I know of students who could not and refused to cook with the stove top due to the risk and the difficulty in doing so," Gebelt said.

Adams believe that this is a problem that could be remedied.

"I would think there would be modifications that would be made," he said.

Another problem that concerns Gebelt are concerns the showers in the apartments.

"There is a step to get into the shower. It is about a foot high. You have to transfer almost two feet from

the wheelchair to shower chair for a person to transfer across," Gebelt said.

According to the ADA guidelines "curbs in shower stalls 36 in. by 36 in. shall be no higher than 1/2 in." The ADA guidelines also says that showers that are 36 x 60 or larger shall not have curbs. The state does not have any specific guidelines regarding curbs, but enforces the guidelines set by the ADA.

Hayden said she isn't sure of the exact number of disabled students who live in the Residential Village. Gebelt believes that the small number is linked to the obstacles found in the dorms and apartments.

"The reason there are so few students with disabilities living in the residential village stems from problems that have yet to be addressed," Gebelt said.

He said he has addressed his concerns with the campus planning committee, Dr. Mark Shanley, President Votruba, Residential Life, and advocacy personal on and off campus. Gebelt said many of these attempts were to no avail.

"Their response was some of these things didn't need to be taken care of. Other times, changes were made and forgotten again," Gebelt said.

Gebelt knows of students who would have come to NKU, but did not because of accessibility issues.

"Having talked to several disabled students, many would have liked to come here, but did not want to deal with the stress these problems cause," Gebelt said.

Adams said that NKU, the youngest university in the state, is a very accessible campus, but admits other schools such as Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio have better programs.

"Our school was not set up as Wright State was to deal with a huge disability body," Adams said.

Wright State implements an attended care program that employs student workers to assist students with disabilities.

Wright State also is equipped with

handicap ramps, tunnels and elevators to ease in accessibility.

"NKU and most universities have not gone to those programs," Adams said.

The new Natural Science Building will be one of the most handicap accessible buildings on Northern Kentucky University's campus. According to Monarch construction, the company contracted to build the science building said they are following specific guidelines and the building will be very accessible.

Mary Paula Schuh, director of campus planning, said that the building will meet all guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Schuh said that the labs in the new building will provide accommodations for disabled students, which the current science building does not have.

Schuh also said that there were ramps that will go from the street level to the second floor level and from the second floor to the plaza level. Currently, the only way for a student in a wheelchair to get from the street level to the plaza level is by going through a building.

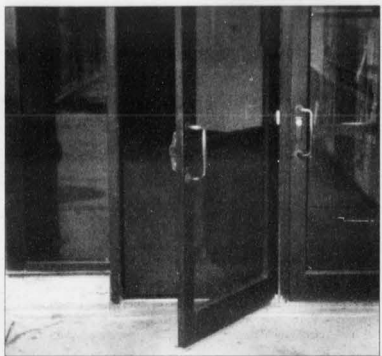


Rick Amburgey/The Northerner

Jeff Murray said that he has trouble getting in and out of elevators sometimes.

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Rick Amburgey/The Northerner

The door openers have been placed away from the doors so they are easier for disabled students with limited arm movement to use, said Date Adams.

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## CONSTRUCTION: plan

From Page 1

not re-open. It will be landscaped with trees, shrubs, over 4,400 perennials and various built-in seating areas.

"Forty spaces in Lot C will be closed temporarily. This spring a total of 5,778 parking spaces will be available at NKU," said Schuh. This is about 476 more spaces than in the spring of 1999.

To replace lost parking spaces, new parking spaces have been created: A 230-space terraced parking lot (Lot T) behind the Lucas Administrative Center opened at the beginning of the fall semester. Lot M near the Residential Village has been expanded by 200 spaces.

An additional 80 spaces are available near the Softball Field and Albright Health Center.

Part of the new \$3.7 million, three deck, 321-space parking garage on the south side of the campus will be available by the spring semester. The cost for parking will be fifty cents.

According to Sgt. Allen Thomas of Northern Kentucky University's Department of Public Safety, recent changes have been made to promote driver safety:

- Stop signs and speed bumps have been placed on Kenton Drive to slow traffic.
- The exits from lots D and E to Kenton Drive has been blocked to prevent accidents.

For Northern to grow, it must build classrooms are currently full Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. The new Natural Science Building will allow the school to expand beyond its Nunn Drive boundary and toward Kenton Drive.

The new facility will shift the center of campus. Parking lots K.L. and M will be close to the new Natural Science Building.

The \$38 million Natural Science Building will be the most expensive single university building funded by the Kentucky legislature, said Schuh. The money will pay for construction costs of \$38,722,000, and furniture, equipment, design costs and other such items. The building will have 172,000 square feet of space. And a state-of-the-art mechanical system will provide a safe indoor environment.

Dr. Jerry W. Warner, professor and chair of biological sciences, describes the building as having two wings—one for labs and one for classrooms. The lab wing will be larger because lectures will be held in the labs. Students will have an opportunity to learn by doing. The labs will contain computers. The building is being designed so students can plug in lap-top computers.

"The building enables us to provide undergraduate research opportunities for students. And the better funding will allow us to do things we've dreamed of," said Warner.

Chris Boggs, student government president and a member of the campus planning committee, described the building as open and inviting.

Although the new facility will be designed for students studying the sciences—biology, chemistry, physics and geology, it will also house the offices for the Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics, and the Environmental Resource Management Center. Objectives of the Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics include: maintaining links with local businesses, becoming a national model for science and mathematics instruction building on the university's reputation of excellence in undergraduate research.

The Environmental Resource



Rick Amburgey/The Northerner  
Monarch Construction crews began clearing land last week for the new Natural Science Building last week. Construction will be finished by 2002.

Management Center and the biology department will offer technical and regulatory help for Tri-State businesses and government to protect the environment now and in the future, said Warner.

Other Projects at Northern Kentucky University:

- The \$3.7 million, three-tier, 321-space parking structure is near completion and part or all of it will be open in Spring 2000.

- The Fire Alarm Modernization Project is near completion in the Lucas Administration Center and the

- University Center. State funds will pay for the work.

- The new Softball Field is near completion for use in Spring 2000.

- The Market Demand Study for the Convocation Center is complete. It indicates that a market demand exists for a 6-7,000 seat sports facility, but only if the project is sought by the entire Northern Kentucky community, not just the university.

- The first floor slab of the east wing of Landrum Hall is funded and scheduled to be repaired in summer of 2000.

- The University Center roof repair is funded. Work will begin in the fall of 2000.

- Replacement / repair of the steam boiler system is being studied.

In addition to these projects, Schuh says that more trees, shrubs and flowers are needed around the university to soften the look of the buildings' concrete walls.

Although this may take some parking spaces, anyone should still be able to get across campus in ten minutes or less, says Schuh. During her 21 years in Campus Planning, Schuh has measured and charted the time it takes an individual to walk from each campus building to the most distant parking areas. Each walk was completed in less than ten minutes.

Time spent walking to class can be a planning issue. In 1998, 857 students, less than 10 percent lived on campus while more than 90 percent were commuters, said Gary Graff, director of the NKU Office of Institutional Research.

NKU's Master Plan Advisory Committee will hold an open meeting in January 2000.

## NKU wins Psych Bowl

By Chris Barlow  
Staff Reporter

After a nail-biting overtime round against Georgetown University, psychology students at Northern Kentucky University, took home the first-place trophy at the annual Kentucky Psychological Association's Psych Bowl Tournament for the 8th.

The Nov. 13 tournament pitted NKU against such heavy hitters as Georgetown University, Eastern Kentucky University, last year's champion Thomas More College and four other Kentucky colleges in a contest of knowledge.

"NKU has a proud tradition with the Psych Bowl. We have a total of eight wins. No one else has more than two," Doug Krull, assistant professor of Psychology and Psych team coach, said.

He also said that six of those wins were consecutive between 1989 and 1995.

Three 40-question rounds with questions of increasing difficulty determined the winner. Teams took turns answering questions and each team had five seconds to answer and could not discuss the questions. If time was called or the answer was missed, the opposing team had the opportunity to answer the question.

The questions covered all aspects of psychology, including developmental psychology, physiological psychology, social psychology (the study of attraction, attitude changes and impression formation) and cognitive psychology (the study of memory, attention, language, problem solving and decision making).

NKU defeated Thomas More in the first round, Eastern Kentucky in the second round and after a ten-question overtime, Georgetown in the third round.

"We were ahead of Thomas

More at the half, and they never caught up," Krull said. "It's not like they didn't do well, they just didn't do well enough."

"The biggest drama was going to overtime against Georgetown," Krull said. "Georgetown was down by five questions at the half. They tied it up on the last question and time was called for the round. The entire audience was clapping."

Kevin Rand, a senior psychology major, was the only team member from NKU to have competed in last year's tournament. Rand said, "I've really enjoyed it. It really flashed by quickly last year. It was still intimidating going against [students from other colleges] and being up there in front of all those psychology professors."

Rand said that Thomas More was feeling overly confident and flaunted last year's trophy.

"They were kind of talking trash about us before the event. We pretty much trounced them," Rand said.

Rand said that the absence of a graduate psychology program at NKU affords greater access to the department's professors. "I have always had the opinion that NKU's psychology department was good. Winning this tournament is a matter of education," he said.

Krull said that the team is selected by the faculty. "Schools pick the students they think will be the best. The questions can come from anywhere, requiring students to have a large breadth of knowledge. The typical 'good student' would only be average," he said.

The Psych Bowl Tournament was started in 1987. This year's team included Rebecca Foltz, Sarah Mueller, Kevin Rand, Margaret Savelle and Kim Schulenberg.

## Study to show program impact

By Tara Ewing  
Staff Reporter

A study is being conducted beginning in Jan 2000. There are more than twice as many new students enrolled in the Fall 1999 program, which is slightly more than one-third of all new freshmen.

Northern Kentucky University has started a program called, "Learning Communities," to help make the transition easier. Studies have shown that grade point averages of students within the learning community are higher.

Last year's study conducted by the Office of First-Year Programs found that out of 328 students in the fall semester of 1998 Learning Community students earned a significantly higher GPA (2.61) than the 328 students in the control group (2.34). The control group consisted of students matched by categories of the following: admissions, enrollment and major status; gender, race; enrollment in the course University 101; and ACT scores. Fran Zaniello, director of the first-year programs said, "The main goal of the learning commu-

ties is to integrate academic and social life for students. It also provides a solution to the question of how I make friends? The program is a great transition for students to help them make friends and feel comfortable on campus."

Zaniello said that the program



File Photo  
The Peer Mentor program also helps college success and retention.

can be defined as a small group of NKU students who take two or three popular courses together. By taking the same classes, these students meet new people, make new friends, form study groups, participate in class discussion, and get to know each other.

Nathan Dutle, undeclared sophomore, said, "I would recommend the learning community to any new

student. It really helped me to become adjusted to NKU. The learning community gives you a great opportunity to meet people and do better in classes."

A study done on retention of freshman students and the learning community. The study showed that 328 students enrolled in the fall 1998 Learning Communities returned at an 8 percent higher rate in fall 1999 than the 328 students in the control group, and a 10 percent higher rate than all first-time freshmen.

"It's great for a commuter student to join a learning community because it's much easier to enjoy coming to class and attend social functions," Amanda Peller, education major, said.

Zaniello admits that there are problems with the program. She said that students can become very comfortable in their environments and become chatty during lecture. Faculty have had rowdy classes because of all the talking going on amongst friends. The Learning Communities program is working in classroom management skills.

A report was made to DPS regarding a 2000 decal removed from a vehicle. The person making the report said he left the vehicle at 10:30 a.m. and returned at around 2:30 p.m. to find it missing. He said that he could not secure the automobile because the window was open.

DPS responded to a report of a report of injury by custodial workers. The victim said she unlocked the door to clean the room. She said as she opened the door, the door bounced back and injured her forearm. The reason the door bounced back was because there was two piles of Northern newspapers behind the door. She had a large lump under the skin of her right forearm and it was beginning to discolor. The victim's supervisor took her to the Physical Plant office and planned on probably taking her to a hospital for X Rays. DPS took pictures of

## D.P.S. REPORTS

the injury, outside of the room, and the pile of Northerners.

Campbell County dispatch received a hang-up 9-1-1 call from somewhere on the NKU campus. The number reported was a trunk (extension) line which was traced to the telephone switch box on University Drive between Sunset and Tessenner Drive. Nothing was found. DPS believed that it might have been a result of moisture (rain) in the equipment.

DPS responded a report of alcohol intoxication in the lobby of Kentucky Hall. The subject had been arrested the day before for disorderly conduct. Two other DPS officials and an RA were also on the scene. The subject was "very verbal" toward DPS and demon-

strated "defensive resistance" and "verbal non-compliance". The subject told DPS, "You'll be talking to my lawyer, just like last night". The DPS officer responded, "You do have the right to an attorney to argue your case and I wouldn't dream of refusing you that right."

DPS responded to a report of a female student being stalked and harassed by her former boyfriend both on and off campus. She said that after returning from class, he confronted her and demanded that she tell him who she had been dating the previous weekend. When she refused, he became more aggressive. She said that in the past this abuse was verbal, physical, and sexual. She said she caught several memorandums he sent via the internet that were sexually explicit. She also stated that he had forced himself on her sexually without consent.

DPS advised her to press charges.

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Ziggy Marley, musician

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Killed by a drunk driver on August 11, 1995 on Route 2 in Great Mills, Maryland

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Helps not just friends drive drunk



# Fairy tale revived

By Jeffrey B. Williams  
Features Editor

Washington Irving's classic fairy tale "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" which entertained children with its quasi-frightening story line in days of old was returned to the forefront of fairy tale favorites Nov. 19 by the movie premier of "Sleepy Hollow" at the Showcase Cinemas in Norwood.

Unlike Irving's story which left a lot to the children's imaginations, "Sleepy Hollow" the movie, is addressed to adults and leaves little to the imagination.

Heads were severed cleanly by a headless horseman wielding a sword from hell so hot it cauterized the wounds while passing cleanly through the necks of the victims.

There was little blood and gore in the film but the special affects

for the decapitations and other remarkable scenes were believable and very entertaining.

According to a Paramount Pictures press release, "Sleepy Hollow" is set in 1799 in a village with the same name near the Hudson River Forest in New England.

Johnny Depp plays the role of Ichabod Crane "an eccentric and earnest constable with an avant-garde approach to solving crimes".

Crane becomes a thorn in the sides of his superiors in New York City and, in order to get rid of him,

Crane is sent to the village to investigate three murders allegedly committed by a headless horseman.

It is clear from the beginning that Crane's methods are unique and that, although the superiors called the case a proving ground for his techniques, Crane's superi-

ors would have been happy if he had become one of the victims.

At Sleepy Hollow, Crane meets a very interesting five-some who are clearly the community leaders and the focus of the headless horseman's attacks.

Crane uses his futuristic methods and some unconventional machinery to try and solve the case before more of the leaders are murdered.

Despite Crane's best efforts, the ghoul gets some of the leader's heads with a swish of his tempered sword and the audience witnesses the decapitations.

Tim Burton directed Depp in the films "Edward Scissorhands" and "Ed Wood" and the two teamed up again in "Sleepy Hollow".

Depp's performance as Ichabod Crane began well in the genre of a Sherlock Holmes like character and proceeded into what Entertainment magazine described as "more of a nervous dandy" with leftover characteristics of Edward Scissorhands.

The magazine described Depp as one of the finest actors of his generation and I agree.

I liked "Edward Scissorhands", I liked "Sleepy Hollow" and I like Johnny Depp. His acting in this film was memorable and I expect a fourth Golden Globe Award nomination for best actor in his portfolio because of his role in the film.

"Sleepy Hollow" is an entertaining movie that combines good direction, good acting, wonderful costumes, and great special effects.

What more could I want in a fairy tale? I give this movie three and a half stars out of four.

# 'Green Mile' goes far

By Jeffrey B. Williams  
Features Editor

"The Green Mile" starring Tom Hanks premiered Nov. 30 at the Showcase Cinemas in Springfield in the shadow of \$80 million, first-week earner "Toy Story II." While "Toy Story II" advertisements flooded television screens, radio speakers and the walls of MacDonald's, "The Green Mile" crept out of the shadow and filled the cinema without such commotion.

We will hear a lot about "The Green Mile" in the days to come, if not from the promoters, then by word of mouth. The movie is a train ride of switched-track emotions that had the audience laughing one moment and somber the next.

"The Green Mile" is set in 1935 on cellblock E (death row) at Cold Mountain State Prison in Louisiana. Green tiles stretch from the cellblock to the electric chair, and the film's title represents the last, long mile in the lives of the men condemned to walk it.

Hanks plays Paul Edgecomb, the kind, head-guard on the cellblock who tries to make the inmates as comfortable as possible while they await their executions. Edgecomb is surrounded by like-minded deputies, but Percy Wetmore, played by Doug Hutchinson, best known for his role as one of the two redneck rapists in "A Time to Kill," enters the prison as a guard and becomes one of the tormentors in the film.

Wetmore is a small man with big connections who takes every opportunity to antagonize the prisoners and alienate his co-workers. He is joined in his antics by William "Wild Bill" Wharton, a crazy death row inmate played by Sam Rockwell from NBC's "Dream Street" series.

Wild Bill is crazy but likable as the doomed inmate getting his just reward while Wetmore is crazy-mean, hiding behind his ability to maneuver within legal bounds. He is the nephew of the governor and seems untouchable under his curtain of connections.

That angered me and the audience groaned in disbelief at Wetmore's atrocities. The scenes made us want to see Wetmore pay for his moral transgressions. Together the two characters' inclinations toward chaos was sometimes disgusting and sometimes hilarious, which kept the audience's emotions running from one extreme to the other.

The other supporting cast members in "The Green Mile" added spice and credibility to the film. David Morse, from "The Rock" and "Crazy in Alabama," played Brutal Brutus Howell, Edgecomb's right hand man of similar temperament, and Michael Clark Duncan from "Armageddon" played a gigantic but timid John Coffey, the pivotal role in the film.

"The Green Mile" is a film with the characteristics of "The Shawshank Redemption." The film, as did "Shawshank," coupled a best-selling, Steven King novel with director Frank Darabont.

According to Warner Bros., "The Green Mile" Internet site, Darabont was hooked on the novel after reading



Tom Hanks stars in "The Green Mile", an emotion inducing film in the tradition of "The Shawshank Redemption."

five of the six installments in the King series published between April and September 1996. Each of the installments reached the top of the paperback bestseller list and all six appeared simultaneously on the *Publisher's Weekly* national bestseller list.

"The Green Mile" was as entertaining as any film I have seen this year. The actors carried their roles almost to perfection stirring my emotions as a movie should. I was surprised, I was angered, I laughed and I wept. You need to see this one and I have purposefully omitted most of the story line for your benefit. If someone tries to tell you about this movie "shush" them. I want you to be as surprised by this film as I was. I give this one four out of four stars.



Potential victims and Ichabod Crane stand over a freshly beheaded comrade in the movie "Sleepy Hollow."

# NKU stars say 'Get Some'

By Shelly Conrad  
Staff Reporter

Two Northern Kentucky University students have teamed up to show you how to "Get Some."

Sophomore Rick McCulley and junior James Risenen star in their own television show "Get Some" on channel 21 Saturdays at 11 p.m., Sundays at 10:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 10 p.m. "We are wacky guys and there are a lot of wacky people out there Risenen said. "Get Some" is not just a TV show, it's a way of life and not everyone can live it. But at least for a half an hour they can live vicariously through us."

"Get Some" has been showing on the Time Warner Cable station in the Northern Kentucky area since September.



NKU Rick McCulley and James Risenen demonstrate the genre of humor in their television show.

The students do skits, on-the-street interviews, and hang out and crack jokes.

McCulley and Risenen said they are shopping around for talent agencies

and they are in the process of contacting TV stations such as E-Entertainment Television, and Black Entertainment Television.

McCulley recently did amateur night performing what he called, "wacky humor" at the Go Bananas Comedy Club in Montgomery. McCulley said he will be performing again at the club and encourages NKU students to check it out.

Risenen said he is eager to become a movie star.

He said his was influenced by the television show "Chico and the Man" and Anthony Michael Hall.

Risenen said he has been influenced most by Alf and Andy Kaufman.

"I would just like to become famous like Charles Sheen so if I ever get arrested, I can get off the hook," Risenen said.

McCulley said he wants to hit it big one day as well.

McCulley said, "Hopefully I will be able to do my own TV show where I will actually get paid real dough. I would also like to write and direct someday."

The two guys recognize that there is a lot of talent out there and said they encourage people to act on it.

He said, "Comedy is not just a standard. There are many forms to comedy and anyone who has sort of a sense of humor and likes to throw stuff down they're pants, I would encourage them to tune in and get a good chuckle."

## Consuming Struggle



Graduating Northern Kentucky University senior Patrick A. Lusher's ceramic art will show at the Fine Arts Building from Dec. 2, through Jan. 17, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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# NKU audience chooses a murderer

## 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood' asks 'Who done it?'

By Phillip Solomon  
Photo Editor

If you haven't seen it, go now. It's that simple.

"The Mystery of Edwin Drood," is a murder-mystery musical, but originally a novel by Charles Dickens that was never finished.

As a character in 'Drood,' puts it: "He laid down his pen and died before he could finish any further."

Confused? I was too before I saw it. Once you see it, this puzzle fits gracefully together. But I will do my best to explain in the mean time.

Charles Dickens dies before finishing what was considered to be one of his best works by critics.

So what to do with a murder mystery with no indication of who the actual killer is? Why turn it in to a full length musical of course!

And now the Theater Department of Northern Kentucky University is staging "The Mystery of Edwin Drood."

The play opened Thursday Dec. 2, at the NKU Corbett Theatre, and received plenty of laughter and ovation from the audience.

What makes it so fun? Well here's the great part: Since no killer was ever decided



Graduating senior Branan Whitehead plays Durdles in NKU's last performance this semester.

Phillip Solomon/The Northerner

upon by Dickens before his death, the audience (yes, that means you) gets to vote on who you think it is. You have a choice of

five or six characters to vote on. There are so many different possible endings depending on who is selected by the audience.

You are also asked to vote on several other major decisions in the show. Sort of like a "Choose Your Own

Adventure Book," but, instead of turning a page and reading, you have it acted it out for you.

So imagine all the work that goes into making these several possible endings.

The cast involved in these decisions memorized and rehearsed several different conclusions. It's difficult enough for some actors to get down one ending, let alone dozens. Some of the actors performances are not to be missed.

Directed by Theater Department Chair, Joseph Conger, and stage managed by Theater Department veteran, Angel Weathers, this musical is enchanting, breathtaking, and just plain fun. And the choreography, is really something else.

Okay, you get the point. I like it a lot. As a matter of fact, "Drood," is probably the best musical I have seen performed at NKU in the past three years. Do not miss this. There is rarely a theater experience so alternative from the norm, so interactive for the audience, and with just so much exciting energy. Go see it! The play runs through Sunday Dec. 12, and after that, it's history. (well it already sort of is history in a way, being that the story is over a hundred years old, but you know what I mean!)

For more information, or to reserve tickets, call the NKU Fine Arts Box Office at 572-5464.

## Metallica goes classical

By Kelly Sudzina  
Executive Editor

Nobody can match Metallica, although many have tried. But if you ask nicely, they just might let you join in.

As it turns out it may have been their two did the asking. The San Francisco Symphony Orchestra and composer and conductor Michael Kamen were asked to perform a live concert with the hard-rock group.

"They think it was my idea. I think it was theirs!" Kamen said in the introduction to "S&M," the CD that recorded the event.

No matter whose idea it was, it was a great one. On April 21, and April 22, at Berkeley's Community Theatre in San Francisco, rock icons Metallica teamed up with the orchestra for a live concert "S&M" is the title of the 2-CD album containing the best of these two live performances in two hours and 20 minutes of music, including two new songs.

With this concert and CD, two things that are already great separately combined for an outcome that is exceptional. Classical mixes with metal to create a dynamic, full sound that runs the full spectrum of musical capability.

The symphony is used as an enhancement to Metallica's music instead of trying to recreate the harsh chords of a metal guitar with delicate symphony strings. The boys from the band are playing songs that the fans already know and love, but with an entire orchestra to make their music more powerful.

"Sometimes we supported the chords or the riffs, sometimes we commented on the lyric or on a solo line, adding our voices to the song, playing the right parts on the wrong instruments...giving every

player something to say; and above all making it feel and sound like it had always been there," said Kamen.

The first CD opens with two songs that are more orchestral than the typical hard-edged tone that the band produces. But the transition is smooth from "The Ecstasy of Gold" (originally released on "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" soundtrack) and "The Call of the Kulu" into the familiar "Master of Puppets."

From there, it's song after song of some of Metallica's best works from "Ride the Lightning" all the way up through "Reload" and beyond, including "Fuel," "Until it Sleeps," "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "Sad but True," "One," and "Battery."

One of the new songs released on this CD, "No Leaf Clover," is already getting significant air-time locally on WERN. The powerful orchestra and applause opening sound a little out of place on the radio, but sounds extraordinary and projects the expectation that the CD was recorded live.

It begins with a tribal sound made up of powerful bursts of bass and deep orchestral sound interspersed with a lyrical violin and mellow guitar melody. These patterns are repeated throughout the song even after James Hetfield begins to sing the lyrics.

The other new songs is "Human" - pronounced "minus human" - is equally worthy of radio playing time. Eventually it will get playing time in the United States as most Metallica songs do. It has already been released as a single overseas.

The heart of what the song is really like begins after the symphony's traditional introduction. Metal guitars first grind out the basic melody and is soon overlaid with a

staccato flute rhythm for dramatic effect. The rest of the song builds on what this establishes after Hetfield adds his voice, which is probably the most unique instrument that was on the stage that night.

The metal in both new songs meshes so well with the orchestra the listener is able to forget the heavy metal and symphonic sounds are an unusual combination. Musically, it sounds like the songs were written expressly for the purpose of this performance.

Kamen summed the concert up by calling it "just one very mood provoking storm of sound."

This CD is not just about the songs. It's about the music. In the words of Kamen, "[I]t was really about imagining music on top and alongside of their songs. Conducting a conversation between two different worlds that share the language of music. Creating a dialogue between two worlds that celebrate the power or music."

The members of Metallica realized how different these two worlds are of course, which is probably why they liked the idea of performing the concert.

"The band was quite adamant to include symphony season ticket holders at the show. They were hoping for a 50/50 split between symphony regulars and Metallica fans," according to their website.

After the show, several of the symphony personnel became Metallica fans as well.

"I really think that everyone, no matter what their musical inclination, should see at least one state of the art Metallica concert because it is such a phenomenon to see the whole thing come together," said Peter Shelton, cellist. "The band is so good, they are consummate musicians. If you had any musical training, you can really appreciate what they are doing."

Tom Hemphill, percussionist, said, "... they are very accomplished, incredibly efficient. It is amazing they can remember all of the parts of all of those songs. Their focus is amazing; they really connect with each other very well if you don't have the older versions of the Metallica songs included in this but you've been wanting to get them, don't purchase this CD to replace the void in your collection. It's just not the same as the original songs. It has a whole different sound and power."

But if you like a good orchestra a lot and Metallica even a little, or like Metallica a lot and a good orchestra a little, you should get this CD.

There's something for everyone to like about this one.

## 'Princess Mononoke' pits humanity against nature

By Scott Wartman  
Staff Reporter

"Princess Mononoke," playing at the Esquire theater, is a bizarre anime film which means it's a visual masterpiece. Even if there were no words in the film, it would be good. The animation is state of the art and second to none.

The movie, unlike most anime films, is not set in a post-apocalyptic neo-Tokyo like most movies of this genre, but rather, in a small isolated village in Japan a long, long time ago. The story is about a young man named Ashitaka who kills a huge demon boar to save his village but gets a curse put on him in the process.

In hopes of relieving the curse, Ashitaka goes on a crusade to an enchanted forest where he thinks the "forest spirit" can help him. On his journey he encounters many warring armies and hostile creatures.

Once he reaches the forest, he finds a neighboring town at war with intelligent forest animals, which have supernatural characteristics.

The plot concentrates on Ashitaka being torn between the conflict until the war culminates into the ultimate battle of nature versus humanity.

The battles are very graphic and suspenseful. If you like movies where people's limbs get severed, you will be in for a treat with this movie. It's definitely not a Saturday morning cartoon.

Even if gore is not your cup of tea, "Princess Mononoke" has a great plot and a lot of drama. The movie sets up its characters very well so that the audience actually cares what happens to them and they root



Photo Contributed

Ashitaka rides a wolf in quest of the "forest spirit" for the protagonist.

"Princess Mononoke" was released two years earlier in Japan and became that nation's second top grossing film behind the always annoying "Titanic."

Even if you still are not convinced you want to see the movie, consider it stars the voices of Claire Danes and Billy Bob Thornton.

The best part about "Princess Mononoke" is that it is not some abstract art flick but a movie which does what movies are supposed to do; entertain the audience. If you want to see a movie that combines mythology, samurai, warfare and excellent animation, then go see "Princess Mononoke."



Photo Contributed

Metallica and the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra combined their musical efforts to produce "S&M."

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# Black and Gold Day brings students to NKU

By Melissa Riggs  
Assistant Features Editor

More than 200 high school seniors and their parents, arrived Nov. 20 at 8 a.m. at Northern Kentucky University despite the cold, drizzling rain.

They came to Greaves Concert Hall to be introduced to the programs and activities offered by more than 15 combined student organizations and educational groups.

As students entered the building, they were eagerly greeted by the Admissions Department and NKU students to the event known as Black and Gold Day.

Black and Gold Day allows for high school seniors and interested transfer students to visit and obtain information to

apply for admission to Northern," said Associate Director of Admissions Melissa Gorbardt.

She said more than 200 students arrive each time the event is held, and that it is always beneficial from both the Admission Department's aspect as well as the for the programs that exist on campus.

Black and Gold Day shows prospective students what unique opportunities NKU has to offer.

A student representative from the Norse Leadership Society, Stephanie Kappesser said the event was a great opportunity to expose potential students to leadership opportunities.

She said many of the high school seniors have leadership potential and she wanted to show the students their potential would be utilized on campus. She said if the uni-

versity can get new students involved early during their college careers, the students are more likely to continue to be involved.

By exposing the prospective students to the opportunities also exposes NKU to new ideas and new people said Kappesser.

Black and Gold Day was also an opportunity for the students to see programs that no other Kentucky university offers.

Fran Zaniello, a representative of First-Year Programs at NKU, said she learns a lot by talking to the parents, and she is able to see what their concerns and worries are.

She said that after hearing parents' worries about isolation she tells them about NKU's University 101 classes and Learning Communities. "We are the only university in Kentucky at this point that

offers University 101," Zaniello said.

University 101 is geared toward placing incoming students with people who already involved in programs and activities the students are interested in.

Melissa Gorbardt said, "We invite student offices to host booths at these events."

She said Black and Gold Day allows prospective students to see what is available to them.

It is a wonderful way for the campus to get involved in bringing outstanding students to NKU.



Melissa Riggs/The Northerner  
Jennifer Hodges recruiting at Black and Gold Day.

# Charity begins at home to bring Christmas smiles

By Rick Amburgey  
News Editor

Linda Gabbard remembers a few Christmas seasons when her family was going through rough times.

She recalls there were a few years she didn't receive any Christmas presents.

"When you go to school and they ask you what you got and you tell them nothing, they laugh at you," Gabbard said.

Gabbard is now the president of Project Christmas Smiles, a charity organization that helps provide a Christmas for children from less-fortunate families.

"Who is Christmas for other than kids?" Gabbard asked.

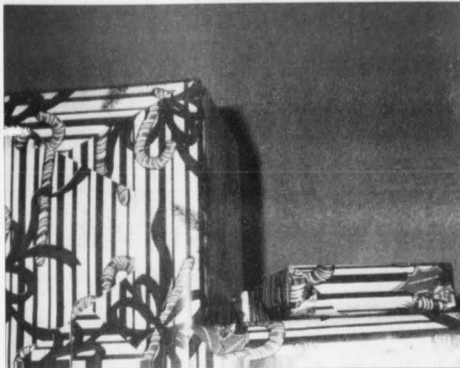
This is Gabbard's 26th year being a part of Project Christmas Smiles.

She said she finds it very rewarding and it makes Christmas more personally meaningful.

"It's a heart project. We do it from the heart because we care," Gabbard said.

Project Christmas Smiles was founded by Gabbard's friend Barry Hobart, known as Dr. Creep from Shock Theatre and Clubhouse 22.

Hobart founded the organization in 1972 to help a family, including 10 kids, whose father had been killed in an accident. He used his own money and bought



Rick Amburgey/The Northerner

"Project Christmas Smiles" brings presents to children who's parents can't afford them.

presents for these kids.

"I hate seeing a child hurt in any way shape or form," Hobart said.

Gabbard said the organizations start collecting toys in February every year.

"With every bit of money I get, I buy toys all year long. Whatever gets donated is a plus," Gabbard said.

Gabbard's sister, Peggy Howard, became involved in Project Christmas

Smiles at 18 years old and she has volunteered every year since.

Howard says she finds being involved very rewarding.

"It makes it worthwhile when you see the faces of the people when they pick up the toys," Howard said.

He said one of the most rewarding and most emotional moments happened when Melinda Miller picked up some toys last year.

Miller is a single, unemployed parent with four children - two of which are disabled. One was diagnosed with leukemia last year and is currently in remission.

"They were really helpful in a time of need," Miller said.

"[They] made Christmas a little more special than it would have been," Miller said.

Miller said that Project Christmas Smiles relieved a lot of worry as a parent.

"Throughout the year, I know I can call [Linda] if I need her," Miller said.

Gabbard said some people, such as Carol Clark who has been helped several times by Project Smiles, choose to volunteer.

"I feel I should help because she has helped me in the past," Clark said.

Clark said she feels that Project Smiles

is a good organization because it helps some less-fortunate kids have a Christmas.

"When I was young, we'd wake up many times with nothing. There are a lot of kids who do wake up like that and that's sad," Clark said.

Gabbard said they help of approximately 30,000 families every year.

She said their goal is to not turn anyone away.

Gabbard and Hobart credits the help of the media for some of the success of Project Christmas Smiles.

A Dayton country music station, 105.9 FM, has been working with the organization for several years.

Morning disc-jockey Wild Willie devotes a lot of time every year to helping the organization.

"Willie is a swell guy and I love him dearly," Hobart said.

Other radio and television stations are also going to be helping this year.

There will be designated drop off points for donations throughout the season.

Gabbard said that people who wish to make a monetary donation can do so by sending it to:

Project Christmas Smiles  
PO Box 242  
Dayton, Ohio 45404

# Calling All Accounting Students

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# Turn it off

Don't reach out and touch...your phone

Dear Editor,

Recently, I was at the movies when I was distracted by a recognizable noise. This was a noise that I have heard a lot lately at very inappropriate times. A cell phone was ringing. As usual, I turned and looked at the culprit and let out a guttural sigh. The frustrating part was that he answered it and didn't hang up right away. In fact, he carried on a 15 minute conversation during the movie. I was waiting for the guy to order a pizza or set up a dentist appointment.

This disturbing sequence of events was nothing new to me. In the past three months, I have heard a cell phone ring during a wedding ceremony (during the exchange of vows). I have also heard these annoying devices ring and ring several times in my classes at Northern Kentucky University. It is troubling to me because the teachers don't say anything when this happens. But there really isn't much they can do. They can't exactly send the person to the principal's office.

But I know they must be annoyed. They just continue to lecture about metaphysics or algebra but they are really thinking: FOR THE LOVE OF GOD TURN YOUR PHONE OFF BEFORE YOU COME TO CLASS.

Remember the good old days when you just had to listen to annoying beepers? What's next? Portable fax machines? "No instructor, I don't have my term paper. Let me have my roommate fax it to me right now!"

I don't know why I get so annoyed by cell phones. I guess it is the same reason why I cringe when I see someone stuffing a hamburger in their mouth or putting on make-up while speeding down the expressway.

The next time someone's phone rings in your class, don't ignore it. Embarrass the owner of the phone. Stare at them for a very long time. Tell them to announce to the class what bonehead is calling and ask them what the big emergency is. Or, ask them to order a pizza.

Tony Casnellie, Senior



Distributed by Collegiate Presswire Features Syndicate

## NKU must address faculty diversity as value

Dear Editor,

There are currently student committees in the process of establishing themselves and their direction, to then work as agents of campus change. The committees are addressing how to undo the racism that is haunting areas of our university such as faculty, curriculum, Board of Regents, funding, co-sponsorship, and student orientation and is keeping them from reaching their fullest potential.

They were born earlier this semester when Students Together Against Racism (S.T.A.R.) hosted a campus dialogue on race, with the intent of creating open lines of communication and interaction between varying factions and populations within our campus community to address racism in our institution. The wide range of campus leadership present that evening pin pointed these areas as not only being amongst the most overtly plagued, but also for having the strongest degree of influence in day to day campus life.

This list is being used as a jumping off point and formula for immediate and direct action to enhance and transform the

functioning of our institution because these students know that they deserve an education and atmosphere that will provide them with more than they are currently receiving. They deserve to be fostered and shaped into more than just "productive citizens" but future world leaders with the tools necessary to thrive in a changing world. These tools are developed in students who attend institutions that recognize the limitations of traditional indoctrination and provide progressive opportunities with a diverse pool of ideas, praise, classes, and people. Currently, we primarily have "technical training" to enter what is a very limited perception of the job market.

None of these are new observations, our institution has also recognized the deficiencies in what it currently provides to students and the community. From this recognition an alleged new vision was born which redefined the mission of the university and refocused it's direction.

This enhanced vision with louder voices and broader values is guided through core values which include being learner centered, committed to excellence, multi-

cultural, creative and innovative, and intellectual and creative freedom. Then from these aspirations the university claimed to strengthen its commitments with the creation of taskforces to aid in implementing this new mission.

The student committees who share in this cause and are willing to work for its success, only naturally thought to turn to the taskforces in curiosity of what was being done. Much to their surprise, when the faculty taskforce was asked about what it was doing around the recruitment of non-white faculty, it responded that this was an issue they would not address. They are interested in increasing benefits and salaries, which is understandably important and vital work. No one denies that our faculty deserve more and that offering a better package will have benefits on multiple levels, but this is not enough to create diversity. They say diversity amongst faculty will be dealt with separately from them and yet there is no taskforce addressing it even though it's stated as a core value that they exist to create.

Under this heading it will never be cre-

ated though. Diversity can not be divorced from what is seen as the most crucial roadblocks to progression. It can not be divorced from any aspect of university life if it is to ever happen. Because when and if it is "dealt with" it will be incomplete if the expectation is on one office or committee. White faculty should no longer be directing people to black faculty or the Affirmative Action office when questioned about this issue. It is a shared responsibility and anyone who is not willing to address it is working against the potential and growth of students. They are limiting our aspirations and possibility. They are deciding for us what and who we should have access to and on what terms it will happen. If the university is not capable of fulfilling these commitments to enhanced learning and excellence through alliances in our present faculty and staff, then the time has come for students to hold them accountable to its implementation.

Elea Mihou

President, Students Together Against Racism (S.T.A.R.)

Got something on your mind?

**The Northerner** is taking letters to the editor and editorials over the winter break

E-mail to [northerner@nku.edu](mailto:northerner@nku.edu)

## NORTH POLL

What are the three most recognized events or people of the this century?

**Amanda Becker**  
Elementary Education  
Burlington

"Oh, there were so many. I would say JFK, the hippies and the depression era."



**Patrick Gibson**  
Management  
Edgewood

"[Henry] Ford's invention of the car, the Beatles playing on 'The Ed Sullivan Show' and the first walk to the moon."



**Anne Cahill**

Biology  
Lakeside Park  
"Elizabeth Cady Stanton, JFK and Martin Luther King, Jr."



**Steve Scott**  
Theater  
Florence

"The development of Rock 'n Roll music, the development of air travel and nuclear warfare."



**Christa Hollingsworth**  
Speech Communications  
Erlanger

"Princess Diana's death, Elvis Presley and the explosion of the Challenger."



**Rob Kress**  
Information Systems  
Fr. Wright

"Franklin Roosevelt, Bill Gates and Martin Luther King, Jr."

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# Game, set, match, season

By Tim Banks  
Sports Editor

The Northern Kentucky University volleyball team's season ended Friday at the hands of a more experienced BYU-Hawaii squad. The Norse were swept in three games by the top ranked Seaside at the NCAA Division II Volleyball Final 15-0, 15-5, 15-5. The loss snapped NKU's 26 game winning streak, leaving the Norse with a 33-2 record for the season.

BYU-Hawaii opened the match strong, blanking the Norse in game one.

"We were never in the first game," said head coach Mary Biermann. "They hit the ball harder and better than any team we faced this year."

Senior outside hitter Jenny Jeremiah, who led NKU with eight kills and 11 digs agreed BYU-Hawaii was the best team the Norse had faced all year.

"It seemed like everything

offensive we would do, they could defend it," she said.

Game two saw the Seaside take a quick 10-2 advantage before the Norse pulled to within five. After a side out by the Norse, BYU-Hawaii scored five straight points to win the game 15-5.

The Norse came out shell-shocked in the third game as BYU-Hawaii hammered down the match. Coach Biermann felt the experience of BYU made winning the match for the Norse that much tougher. "I don't know what we could have done to match them. The Brazilian players had a lot more experience than our players and their setter was very skilled," she said.

Despite the defeat the Norse season wasn't a total loss.

"I'm disappointed in the last match but not the season," said Biermann. "I would've liked to have played better [on Friday] than we did, but they are just a very good and experienced team."

Jeremiah agreed saying, "It was disappointing to lose but we had an awesome season. We met all of our goals and are very happy with how we all played. Even had we all played our best game I still don't think we would have won."

Over the last two seasons the Norse have made it to the Elite Eight and the Final Four, next season may be the year they win it all.

"We're looking forward to next season," said Biermann. "We are returning juniors Bobbi Casey and [All-American] Jessica Buroker along with some good sophomores, we should be tough again next year."

The Norse will lose seniors Jeremiah, Jenny Long and Liz Lamping for next year, however the experience gained this season should help the Norse be stronger next year.

"It wasn't fun to go out that way but we had a really great run this year. I'm real proud of this team," said Jeremiah.



Jeff McCarty/The Northerner

ONE GREAT RIDE: The NKU volleyball team may have lost in the Final Four but had a very successful season, going 33-2 and winning the GLVC tournament and the Great Lakes Regional championship.

## Norse Notes

### Men's Basketball:

The NKU men's basketball team need two overtimes to defeat the University of Wisconsin-Parkside 81-76 on Saturday. The team was led by junior center Zach Wieber, who scored 18 while adding eight rebounds and four assists. Junior guards Craig Conley and Brian Lawhorn scored 13 and 12 points respectively. The two guards combined to make four of seven three point attempts. Junior forward Adam Norwell came off the bench to score 14 points and he pulled down three boards. Number six NKU is now 6-0 on the season and plays next at Indianapolis Dec. 7.

### Women's Basketball:

The sixth ranked Norse overcame a three point first half deficit against Wisconsin-Parkside on Saturday to win 83-60. NKU was led by sophomore guard Michelle Cottrell, who scored 21 points and pulled down nine rebounds, and junior guard Michelle Tuchfarber, who contributed 20 points, 5 boards and 5 assists. The Norse shot over 50 percent from behind the three-point arch with transfer guard Heather Livingstone hitting 3 of 5 and freshman guard Bridget Flannigan making three of four three-pointers. NKU is off to a 4-0 start and play again Dec. 7 at Indianapolis before returning home Dec. 11 for three games.

## Norse looks to shine next season

By Bruce Reller  
Assistant Sports Editor

great accomplishment to make it to where they got in the tournament.

"We were really happy about it," Ruark said. "At the beginning of the season we talked about getting to the NCAA Tournament. We worked real hard to get as far as we possibly could."

Freshman Noakes said, "It was a great feeling. It was only our third year. It felt like the big time, because we were in the NCAA Final Four."

However, according to Ruark the team had intentions of winning the NCAA Championship.

"It was really exciting to be one of the four teams left," she said. "Our expectations were that we wanted to do well. We didn't want to go down and say we were just there. We really wanted to win."

After a successful season for the Norse this year, next season should be even better for NKU, said to Noakes. "We hope to accomplish all our goals from this season and hopefully win the NCAA Tournament," she said.

"We will be strong and have good offense in the midfield. We will have great defense, especially with a good goalie."

The Northern Kentucky University women's soccer team accomplished a great deal this season. It finished the season with a 22-3 record, won its second straight Great Lakes Valley Conference title and made it all the way to the NCAA Division II Final Four. NKU also had six soccer players make the All-GLVC team.

Betsy Moore, who was also named GLVC player of the year, Tricia Ruark and Lauren Piening made the first team. Kristen Noakes, Lori Kevill and Amanda Trout made the second team.

"It was really great that some defenders got it," said sophomore Ruark. "It's exciting that a lot of people made it. It is well-deserved to all of the players."

The big achievement for the Norse this season was that they made it to the NCAA Final Four even though they lost to Franklin Pierce 2-0 at the game in Miami Shores, Fla. ■

According to a couple of NKU players, it was a

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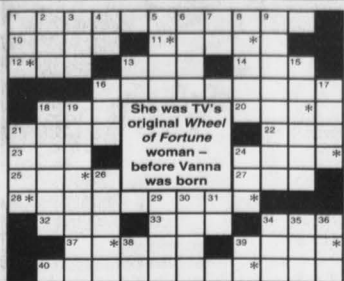
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## TV-CHALLENGE



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.

- ACROSS**
- Everybody Loves Raymond actor (2)
  - Sworn statement
  - 1987-'88 Lewis Van Bergen series
  - Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?
  - Big Rock Candy, for one: abbr.
  - Baywatch's monogram
  - Murder
  - Mayberry (1968-'71)
  - Lively
  - Alan of Gilligan's Island
  - Wynn and O'Neill
  - City in Oklahoma
  - "So \_\_\_\_\_", words of acceptance
  - Roles for Elizabeth Montgomery and Ted Danson
  - Song to Billy Joe
  - Actor on Beverly Hills, 90210
  - Popular name for an NBC weekend show
  - Adam's \_\_\_\_\_: '73 Ken Howard sitcom
  - Like Cosby's boyhood friend Albert
  - Appeared amazed
  - Qualified
  - The Trials of \_\_\_\_\_ (1990-'92)
- DOWN**
- Barker
  - Adress Charlotte
  - Part of the title of Bonnie Franklin's series (2)
  - Initials for the star of Tootsie
  - TV pet
  - "You \_\_\_\_\_": line from Lurch on The Addams Family



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## HOROSCOPE

By C.C. Clark - eTVData Features Syndicate

November 28 - December 4, 1999

- Aries (March 21 - April 20)**  
A new business opportunity is on the way. Working with others in a positive environment will bring about tremendous success.
- Taurus (April 21 - May 20)**  
Your contributions to a project will help all involved. Trust your instincts when trying to solve a difficult problem.
- Gemini (May 21 - June 20)**  
It's nearly too late to learn something that could improve your life. Let go of the past and start working toward your goals.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 20)**  
Improve the quality of your home life with some simple decorations and fragrant candles. Encourage others to use their talents.
- Leo (July 21 - Aug. 21)**  
Take a step back from a situation and try to see it from the other person's perspective. You may not be right after all.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 22)**  
Use compassion and sensitivity when dealing with children or childlike minds. Your giving heart will be rewarded in many ways.
- Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)**  
This isn't the best time to discuss financial concerns. Wait until you are in a better frame of mind, and then write your thoughts on paper.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 22)**  
It's important to be a bit more spontaneous than usual. There's a good chance plans will change quickly.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 23 - Dec. 20)**  
You may need some new type of machinery or equipment to finish an important project. A new romantic entanglement is on the way.
- Capricorn (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19)**  
Use your resources and do whatever it takes to get the job done. A friend has an unusual but innovative idea.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**  
A serious decision has major repercussions. Open the lines of communication. This is no time to hold a grudge.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)**  
A new career opportunity should be explored. Let others know you appreciate their contributions to the big effort.

## Born this week:

Nov. 28 - Ed Harris  
Nov. 29 - Kim Delaney  
Nov. 30 - Dick Clark  
Dec. 1 - Bette Midler

Dec. 2 - Julie Harris  
Dec. 3 - Brendan Fraser  
Dec. 4 - Tyra Banks,  
Marisa Tomei

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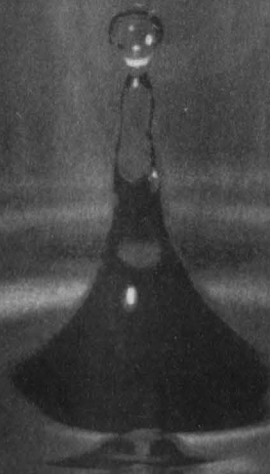
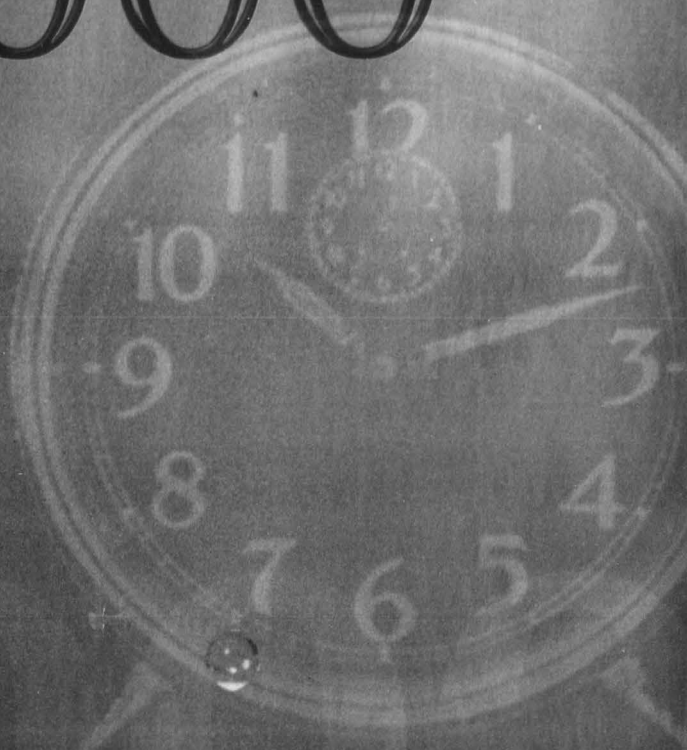
Volume 29, Number 15

A Supplement to THE NORTHERNER

Wednesday, December 8, 1999

# 2000

## 2000



## 2000

# Classic 'Carol' dazzles with special effects

By Tony Casselle  
Staff Reporter

This isn't your grandfather's "A Christmas Carol."

That was one of the things that came to mind after seeing the opening night production of "A Christmas Carol" at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park in Eden Park.

This adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic was filled with eye-popping visual effects. Elaborate props moved back and forth, up and down and every other direction you can think of. Fire sound effects set the tone as the four ghosts lead Ebenezer Scrooge (Jonel Joplin) down his life-changing path. But behind all the technical wonders, the heart and spirit of the story still remained intact: A man is given a second chance after being too self-absorbed and indifferent to notice the spirit of Christmas and the people around him.



Director Michael Haney has been involved in all nine productions of the play. The first two years he was on the stage playing the role of Bob Cratchit. In an article in *The Cincinnati Post*, Haney talked about his experience with the production.

"I've probably watched 'A Christmas Carol' 200 to 300 times. But we start a run through and I'm never bored, just watching these magic moments happen one after the other," Haney said.

The audience didn't seem to get bored by this year's production. The story was filled with humorous and chilling moments alike. When the ghost of Jacob Marley (Gregory Proccacino) first presented himself to Scrooge, the whole audience flinched. The scene would have been frightening enough to scare the Dickens out of, well, Dickens! Joplin did a magnificent job of portraying Scrooge. As he passed through the different

phases of the night, Joplin powerfully conveyed the character's emotional changes and realizations.

Bruce Cromer should also be mentioned for giving a lively portrayal of the character, Bob Cratchit. The animated Cratchit romped through the play with an unbreakable spirit despite working for his penny-pinching boss.

The almost hallucinogenic strobe lights and tone-setting music also played a major role in conveying the spiritual time travel of Scrooge. Throughout the play, various Christmas songs echoed throughout the theater. The amplified voices of the ghosts created a chilling effect.

In the *Post*, Haney stated that he wanted to make sure that the production focused on Scrooge.

"In the Fezziwig party, we trimmed the dance down, and we also found a way to incorporate Scrooge into the dance. The choreographer, Shawn Womack, re-did the dance with the understanding of getting Scrooge involved in it," Haney said.

Haney was successful in keeping the production faithful to the original story. The high-tech special effects only enhanced the interpretation and spirit of the story.

The show will run through Dec. 30.



Photo Contributed

The doomed ghost of Jacob Marley (Gregory Proccacino) scared the Dickens out of Ebenezer Scrooge as well as the audience at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

## Country music changes style

By Rick Amburgey  
News Editor

Within the last decade, there have been many changes in the country music industry. This fall, virtually every artist has released a new album that will hopefully help to catapult their career into the new millennium.

Garth Brooks and Alan Jackson, two of the heavy hitters in the last ten years, have chosen to take different directions. Brooks has temporarily departed from country music with his last album, "In The Life of Chris Gaines."

The pop album is a pre-soundtrack for the upcoming film "The Lamb." Jackson chose to do an entire album of cover songs. Even though these songs are not original, Jackson's distinct voice and style breathe new life into these classics. One of the highlights of the album is a duet of "Margaritaville" with the original Parrothead, Jimmy Buffett.

Another album of cover songs that suffers from a lack of emotion in the songs is Leann Rimes' new self-titled CD. The only original song on the disk is her current single, "Big Deal." Other selections

include three Patsy Cline songs that do not measure up to the originals.

Toby Keith is one artist who is kicking off the new millennium with a new album on a new label. Keith's latest album, "How Do You Like Me Now?" features the same mixture of love, loss and down-right lighthearted songs. The album is a great culmination of Keith's talents as both a singer and songwriter.

Mindy McCready is taking her career to a new level with her latest release, "I'm Not So Tough." McCready displays her vocal variety and takes a much more soulful approach to the songs than she has in past albums. Perhaps one of the reasons for this is her recently turbulent love life. McCready ended an engagement to actor Dean Cain.

Tracy Lawrence is ending this millennium with his first full studio album in almost two years. Lawrence sounds refreshed and contains the same combination of elements that made him a star. The album called "Lessons Learned" is his first album since his former wife, ex-Dallas Cowboys cheerleader Stacy Drew,

filed accusations that Lawrence abused her.

Trace Adkins has recently released his third album "More Trace Adkins." The album includes the current single "Don't Lie" and other songs. "She's Still Here," a song Adkins previewed at Fan Fair in June, is also on the album. Aside from Adkins' ballads, he also has some up-tempo tunes that will inevitably be accompanied by his signature butt-wiggle. One of these songs is titled "I Can Dig It."

Another star that is taking advantage of his sex appeal is Ty Herndon. His current hit and title track of the album, "Steamin'," is one example. Another selection on the album is called "Leave The Hat On." There is a notation on the CD that the song was included at the fan's request. The sexy song is a definite winner among female fans at concerts.

Other new artists, such as Keith Urban and Brad Paisley, are launching their careers at the end of this millennium and are destined to become household names very soon.



## Party like it's 2000 with 'Willennium'

By Rick Amburgey  
News Editor

Will Smith's latest release, "Willennium," is one of the hippest and "freshest" records the Fresh Prince has released.

The album, which is already in stores, contains the hit song "Wild Wild West" from the movie of the same name.

In addition to that song, the album makes several references to the turn of the millennium as the title indicates.

One such song, "I'm Coming," contains biblical references, which some people may find offensive. Another song which capitalizes on the "Willennium" is "Will 2 K." This song pokes fun at the impending Y2K problem.

Smith's unique brand of rap is what sets him apart from many other rap artists. Smith's sense of humor helped

him gain popularity as the Fresh Prince and Tommy Lee Jones' unlikely partner in "Men In Black." Smith conveys that same humor into his music.

Just because Smith is funny, doesn't mean he can't be serious. In addition to Smith's lighthearted take on the new millennium, he also has songs on the album that will cater to every one who listens. There are songs, such as "Can You Feel Me and 'Afro Angel," about relationships and real life.

Smith also sings about the rap music industry. A line of one song says, "All you rappers yellin' about who you put in a hearse/Do me a favor/ Write me just one verse without a curse."

Contrary to the general stereotype of rap music, "Willennium" does not contain excessive profanity. Also, Smith's humor provides a welcome variation from the typical serious nature of rap.

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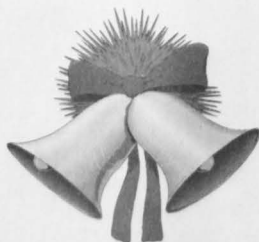
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Season's Greetings



# Local celebrations

By Anna Weaver  
Editor in Chief

Chances are most of us won't be ringing in the new millennium watching the ball drop at New York City's Times Square.

But that doesn't mean there isn't an opportunity to welcome the new year in style.

In fact, there are a slew of places in the Greater Cincinnati area to celebrate that range from \$5 a person to \$140 and include ideas for road trips or overnight stays.

Here are some local ways to obey the command to "party like it's 1999."

## BALLS AND FORMALS

**What:** Millennium Masked Ball  
**Where:** Shuller's Wigwam, 6210 Hamilton Ave., College Hill

**When:** 7:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

**Why:** Murder mystery dinner dance, prime rib buffet, champagne toast.

**How much?:** \$85, \$165 per couple  
**Contact:** 513-541-7825

**What:** Soiree Two-K: The Masquerade Event of the Century

**Where:** Contemporary Arts Center, 115 E. Fifth St., Downtown

**When:** 8 p.m.

**Why:** Two drink tickets and champagne toast, come in costume.

**How much?:** \$140  
**Contact:** 513-345-8400

## CELEBRATIONS

**What:** Bourbon Street Party

**Where:** Forest Fair Mall

**When:** n/a

**Why:** Sponsored by WEBN, includes champagne toast and party favors

**How much?:** \$18 in advance, \$25 at the door

**Contact:** 513-562-4949

**What:** Hyatt Regency

**Where:** 115 W. 5th St., downtown

**When:** 9 p.m. to 2 p.m.

**Why:** Peace Bell replica, party favors, music by Soul Pocket, hors d'ouvers, three drinks and champagne

**How much?:** \$100

**Contact:** 513-579-1234

## CONCERTS & THEATER

**What:** Music of a Millennium, Cincinnati symphony Orchestra

**Where:** Music Hall, 1241 Elm St., Over-the-Rhine

**When:** 7:30 p.m.

**Why:** Ode to Joy New Year's Eve Ball follows in Music Hall ballroom with dinner, dancing and music by Jerry Conrad Orchestra

**How much?:** \$15-\$49 concert only, \$140-\$174 concert and ball

**Contact:** 513-381-3300

**What:** Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival presents "The Misanthrope."

**Where:** 719 Race St., Downtown

**When:** 8 p.m.

**Why:** champagne toast will follow curtain call

**How much?:** \$15, \$10 students and seniors

**Contact:** 513-381-2273

**What:** Cincinnati Marriott at Rivercenter

**Where:** 10 W. Rivercenter Blvd., Covington, Ky.

**When:** n/a

**Why:** Two-night ballroom packages available. Party includes four course meal, champagne toast.

## DINNER EVENTS

**What:** Cincinnati Marriott at Rivercenter

**Where:** 10 W. Rivercenter Blvd., Covington, Ky.

**When:** n/a

**Why:** Two-night ballroom packages available. Party includes four course meal, champagne toast.

**Contact:** 513-381-6700

open bar and entertainment by The Savvy Swing Band.

**How much?:** \$450 per night

**Contact:** 606-261-8500

**What:** Dave & Busters Millennium Party of the Century

**Where:** 1175 Commons Dr., TriCounty

**When:** n/a

**Why:** Dinner and late night buffet, live entertainment, full bar services, The Million Dollar Midway, champagne toasts, video games galore.

**How much?:** \$150

**Contact:** 513-671-5501

## FAMILY EVENTS

**What:** Happy Zoo Year

**Where:** Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, 3400 Vine St., Avondale

**When:** 5:30 p.m.

**Why:** Wagon and train rides, ice skating, fireworks, light show

**How much?:** \$10, \$7 seniors, \$4.75 children ages 2-12

**Contact:** 513-281-4700

**What:** World Peace Bell Celebration

**Where:** Newport, Ky.

**When:** various times

**Why:** 6 a.m., World Peace Bell will ring every hour to mark New Year's in various time zones around the world. Noon, Children's festival begins. 2:30 p.m., multicultural peace celebration. 5:00-11:00 p.m., regional entertainment on multiple stages. midnight, fireworks and a laser show will ring in the new year, along with the first "free swing" of World Peace Bell

**How much?:** \$5

**Contact:** 513-381-6700



## OVERNIGHT STAYS

**What:** The Millennium... Time in Motion

**Where:** 668 W. 5th St., Clarion Hotel Riverview, Covington, Ky.

**When:** 4 p.m.

**Why:** Weekend package includes tropical poolside party, dinner and dancing, New Year's Day breakfast buffet, music by Latin X-Poser, Pats Meyers Big Band, Jerry Conrad's Big Band, beach blanket party

**How much?:** \$1,300 per couple

**Contact:** 606-491-1200

**What:** New Year's Eve 2000

**Where:** Hilton, Great Cincinnati Airport

**When:** 7:30 p.m.

**Why:** Package includes room, bottle of champagne, seafood bar, dinner buffet, party favors, entertainment, New Year's Day brunch

**How much?:** \$1,300 per couple

**Contact:** 606-491-1200

**How much?:** \$499 per couple

**Contact:** 606-371-4400, ext. 144

## ROAD TRIPS

**What:** The Oak Room in the Seelbach Hilton

**Where:** Louisville, Ky.

**When:** 8:30 p.m.

**Why:** "Meal of the Century is a ten course meal featuring a dish from each decade, live entertainment, champagne toast

**How much?:** \$495 per couple

**Contact:** 502-585-3200

**What:** Emmis New Year's Rockin' Eve

**Where:** Indianapolis Monumental Circle, Downtown

**When:** 8 p.m.

**Why:** local bands, ball drop, confetti canons, fireworks

**How much?:** free

**Contact:** 317-266-0100

Source: Cincinnati.com

Around the globe and the nation, party-goers are celebrating in all kinds of styles.

The British are kicking off the new year with a 3,000 foot Millennium Dome that will light up at night.

Our own White House will host a "White House Millennium Evening" that will feature lectures, performances and Mrs. Clinton herself is preparing a "Millennium Fund to Save America's Treasures." The goal is to preserve historic artifacts.

South Africa has the world in mind as it will organize "Parliament of World Religions" to prepare millennium gifts.

And nothing can top Australia's celebration, as they will be hosting the 2000 Summer Olympics that will bring in a record 10,000 athletes from 171 countries.

# The bars have it

By Tara Ewing  
Staff Reporter

Looking for something to do on New Year's Eve? The downtown Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area have lots to offer for those 21 and up to bring in the new year!

Downtown Cincinnati's dance club Electra is \$25 per person for admission. They will have a "Y2K" show at midnight along with a champagne toast and breakfast buffet.

Have A Nice Day Café, a dance club downtown, is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door per person admission.

They also will have a champagne toast at midnight, party favors and food.

Jefferson Hall is \$20 per person. They will have a band called,

"Chester the Pup" play. They will have party favors, food and champagne at midnight.

The Covington area has a variety of parties happening. Jillian's admission is \$75 per person, which includes admittance into the gameroom and the tower.

The admission is for all day long.

Also, there will be a champagne toast at midnight.

The Strauss Haus Restaurant and Pub located at MainStrausse Village of Covington will have a southern blues band formally called "Trio" play.

When contacted they weren't sure if there was an admittance charge.

There will be food and a champagne toast at midnight.

Pachinko Bar also located in Main Strausse of Covington is not charging any admittance fee.



When contacted they weren't sure of details about their party, but said there would definitely be one!

Mulligan's Pub located in Main Strausse is having a formal party. No reservations are necessary and there is no admittance fee.

The will have food and champagne at midnight.

So, nobody can say there isn't something to do this New Year's Eve.

Bring in the millennium safe and take advantage of all the fun this area offers!

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# Beat the basement

## Chicago trips ideal for students

By Laura Hill  
Staff Reporter

While some of us are choosing to hide in our basements on the eve of the new millennium, others are going to be brave, get on planes and ring in the New Year in different states and cities.

Many Northern Kentucky University students are heading off to big cities to celebrate New Year's Eve.

Jennifer Potter, a sophomore at NKU, is driving to Chicago for New Year's.

"We didn't want to go somewhere too big, but we wanted to go somewhere," Potter said. "I think there's going to be a terrorist bombing in New York: It is already crazy in a major city like that and if something would happen there would be no way out."

Sophomore Shelli French agrees. She thinks because of the

hype over the new millennium, every off-the-wall person will have an excuse to cause havoc.

"My friends wanted me to go to New York, but I'm not going anywhere near there on New Year's Eve," French said.

Instead she's leaving for Boston on New Year's Eve and coming back on New Year's Day.

Mike Brown, a junior at NKU, is going to Cleveland on Dec. 31 and says there is nothing to fear.

"I'm going to catch a Poison concert and the only thing I'm afraid of is the band breaking up, other than that it's just another day."

If you were planning on sticking around here and watching the ball drop from a safe distance, there is still time to find a flight to another city on New Year's Eve.

Delta Air Lines still has flights available leaving on New Year's Eve.

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# What's in store for Cincinnati sports

By Tim Banks  
Sports Editor

Ever since the advent of modern sports, the city of Cincinnati has been a national hotspot, from the first professional baseball team to the current worst football team in the history of the NFL.

Cincinnati has seen feats such as Pete Rose's record-setting base hit and suffered heartaches like the Bengals losing the only two Super Bowls fate has allowed them to play in.

Cincinnati had the NBA in the fifties and sixties, along with one of the most celebrated players in basketball history, Oscar Robertson. As we prepare to celebrate the end of the century and welcome the dawn of the next, let us ponder the future of sports in Cincinnati.

Scheduled to open during the first summer of the new millennium, Paul Brown Stadium will be a state of the art sports entertainment complex. The new home of the Bengals is being built with money Hamilton County tax payers have spent, so the county decided to make the structure a universal gathering spot.

Not only will the people of Cincinnati be afforded the luxury of watching football in world-class style, they will be able to stick around after the game and enjoy numerous establishments that will be inside the stadium.

The city of Cincinnati is banking on expansion of the riverfront to speed the city into the new century, and Paul Brown Stadium will be the first jewel in the Queen City's new crown.

Paul Brown Stadium will feature over 1,200 ultra-convenient restroom facilities, two end zone scoreboards with high-resolution video screens, a state of the art sound system and a natural grass playing field.

The stadium amenities include an on-site Bengals museum and NFL retail store, 56 fixed concession areas and eight fixed novelty stands. To say the least, the team will be playing in the lap of luxury. The question still stands whether or not they deserve it.

As the close of the millennium draws near, fans of the Cincinnati Bengals continue to wonder what it feels like to have a winning team. They are the worst team of the decade, but do we dare hope for a revolution?

The new millennium looks promising for the team. They have their quarterback of the future in place, with last year's first round draft pick Equal Smith. The offense is loaded with talented players like Corey Dillon, Carl Pickens and Darnay Scott. The Bengals' defense is headed by linebackers Takeo Spikes and Brian Simmons. Assured of another high draft pick this year, the team could pick up another key cog this season.

Owner Mike Brown promised the city that if they gave him a new stadium, he would give them a competitive team.

The Cincinnati Reds are the other major league team that makes its home by the river. For over a 100 years the Reds have done their best to make sure Cincinnati has remained a baseball town.

After playing the last 30 years in the cookie-cutter stadium formerly known as Riverfront Stadium, the Reds will be moving into a new ballpark in the Spring of 2003. Construction will be on the riverfront, and along with Paul Brown Stadium, will be the centerpiece of riverfront expansion.

In preparation of the stadium, the Reds have decided to build from the ground up. The team has a young nucleus of top-notch talent, including 1999 Rookie of the Year Scott Williamson.

Also on board is first baseman Sean Casey and second baseman Pokey Reese, a 1999 Gold Glove winner. The Reds were able to trade for Colorado Rockies Dante Bichette to fill the void Greg Vaughn and his 45 home runs leaves.

Recently, rumors have flown that the Reds are seriously looking at trading for local boy-done-very-well Ken Griffey, Jr. The Seattle Mariners superstar is considered one of the best players in baseball.

Adding the talent of Griffey to a team that missed the postseason by one win last season could be a world championship for the Reds in the coming millennium. Or the price for Griffey may be too steep. Whatever the Reds decide, the fans will have a reason to cheer in the new millennium.

When the ball drops, and the year 2000 ushers in a new time, let us throw the records out. Give our teams a fresh start. Cincinnati could be the epicenter of sports for Y2K and we should all be there to see it happen.

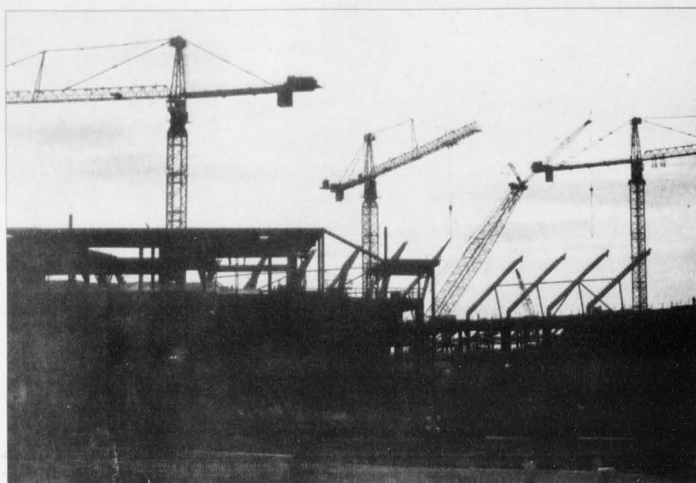


Melissa Riggs/The Northerner

ABOVE: Cinergy Field, formerly known as Riverfront Stadium.

BELOW: Construction is underway for a new sports arena.

The new area will feature state of the art technology and will hopefully give fans a reason to attend home games



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## Y2K catastrophe unlikely

By Kelly Sudzina  
Executive Editor

Y2K is almost upon us, but no one will know whether or not there is merit to people's doomsday proclamations until midnight on New Year's Eve.

The fact remains that companies and businesses have known about this and have been preparing for years.

For example, I work at Firststar Bank, one of the ten largest banks in the country. They've been aware of this problem for several years and they say that they are completely ready for Y2K.

Being on the inside of their operation, I know the steps they have taken to ensure this and I believe they will be. When I tell worried customers to leave their money in the bank, I say it with all sincerity. In the bank, it's FDIC insured and cus-

tomers will be able to access it after the date change. And they always have backup systems in place. With your money at home, anything can happen. Cash is subject to loss or theft and is not FDIC insured like it would be in a bank.

I know that Firststar is not the only bank that is ready. Firststar's year 2000 project leader, Robert W. Elberfeld, said that the banking industry as a whole is recognized as No. 1 in Y2K readiness. Part of this is because they must answer to federal banking authorities who conduct tests to ensure readiness.

Banks aren't the only companies that are ready either. Northern Kentucky University officials have been making all their systems complaint for the past year, and they expect to be ready by the date change. And if you watch TV at all, you are bound to see some commercial or another using Y2K readiness

as their company's new ad campaign.

Company preparations are only part of solving the Y2K problem though. In order for the date change to be as smooth a transition as possible, everyone has to remain calm and be able to take a little bit of trouble without panicking. Certainly there will be minor system glitches here and there that maybe a test didn't catch. But so many tests have been run overall, that it probably will not be that bad.

A small glitch won't cause near the same catastrophe as a mass panic. The reaction of the people is what makes all the difference in this situation.

So be reasonably prepared, be calm and don't worry about it. What will be will be. And in the end, it will be fine.

## Millennium means money

By Jason Crisler  
Staff Reporter

Americans are suckers for over-hype. When the clock strikes midnight on Jan. 1, 2000, signaling the beginning of the "new" millennium, nothing will be different. Well, some might not be able to walk as easily as they did three hours earlier.

The seas will not dry up and the earth will not disappear in a rapture of fire and brimstone. Everyone's bank accounts will not disappear (mine's already empty anyway).

There will not be a global blackout. At worst, a few ancient PCs will cease to exist and some of us will pass out on the floors of wherever we've been partying since six o'clock in the morning.

Why all the noise then? Because businesses know that we will fall for any over-hyped event and jump at the chance to spend our money.

I believe the world will end ... someday. The earth is gradually drifting away from the sun, pollution is killing the planet and there are enough nukes in the United States alone to have us all glowing until the next new millennium.

But why is a date on the Roman calendar so important. The calendar we follow wasn't given to us by God, aliens or Bigfoot.

Those crazy Romans sitting around planning world domination in public bath houses came up with a pretty neat system for keeping track of the days. Except for that whole leap year thing. But that's it.

Why is this date so dang important? Why not the year 666 or 1666? Come to think of it, if the world would have ended in the 80s who would have cared?

Why is 2000 so important? It sounds neat and it looks neat. School jacks from the graduating class of '00 are pretty cool. It's marketable.

Actually, 2001 is the beginning of the new millennium. Really, we've

been played for fools.

The year 2000 is the last year of the millennium, not the start of the new one! Think about it. Count to 1000. OK, we're college students, count to 10. Ten is the last number you count. Ten is a part of the first 10, not the beginning of the next 10. Tough, huh? Just like 100 is the last number to 100 and 2000 is the last number to 2000!

Everyone is using this whole event to make money.

Will Smith, MTV, ESPN and anyone else hyping the greatest people, places and things of the past 1000 years have jumped aboard this money making steamroller.

I can't say I blame them. 2000 is a neat year. It sounds neat and looks neat. It rolls off my tongue. Say it three times fast.

So as the last beer is chugged and the last sloppy kiss from the first drunk person you can grab as the ball drops is planted, remember: We will all be together here at NKU for the spring semester.

OK, maybe the world will end.

# Millennium Wall spots benefit charity

By Rick Amburgey  
News Editor

The QVC cable shopping channel is jumping on the millennium bandwagon and helping children's charities at the same time.

QVC shoppers are able to purchase spots on the Millennium Wall. The wall will be erected along the coast of Gisborne, New Zealand. Gisborne will be the first city to receive the light of the new millennium.

The spots on the Millennium Wall will be sold at prices ranging from \$20 to \$30 each. QVC is planning on donating \$1 of each spot they sell to children's charities.

Seventy-five percent of the money they donate will be given to Save The Children charity.

The Millennium Wall is only part of QVC's Millennium Celebration. QVC is planning to broadcast a performance by Grammy award nominee musician/composer John Tesh from Gisborne on New Year's Eve.

QVC is also selling an exclusive 2-CD set by Tesh called "Heart of the Sunrise: The Millennium Collection."

Tesh has made appearances on QVC to promote the Millennium Celebration and he is very excited to be a part of it.

"Everybody's looking for something cute to do on millennium eve. Performing at the Millennium Wall pretty much does it for me," Tesh said.

The official artist of QVC's Millennium Celebration is Peter Max, who was the official artist for five Super Bowls, five Grammy awards shows, World Cup USA '94 and Woodstock '99. Max is designing the album cover of Tesh's exclusive CD set and creating the design for the multi-story and multi-colored backdrop of Tesh's performance.

The new light which will dawn is max's inspiration. Capturing the essence of

the first sun of the new millennium and conveying the peace and love which shines from its rays are the brightest messages we can offer tomorrow's children," Max said.

Bob Marty, one of the co-creators of the Millennium Wall, said that he did it with friends Chuck Gayton and David Wolinsky. Marty said that each of the three had an area of specialty and teamwork helped make the dream a reality.

"The granite tiles that the names are laser engraved on are just lovely," Marty said.

He said they were in contact with the largest architectural firm in New Zealand. The architects came up with the idea to make the wall in a wave-shaped design to look like the waves that constantly crash on the beach close to where the wall was erected.

"We approved the design because we thought it was so perfect," Marty said.

Marty believes one of the best parts of the millennium wall is that it leaves a legacy behind after the party is over.

"A party ends most of the time with a hangover. There's nothing wrong with that, but these names will be here for hundreds of years. It's a kind of immortality," Marty said.

Marty is happy that money from the sales is going to be donated to children's charities. This is not the first time his work has affected children. Marty was the creator of Sesame Street characters for five years. He created six Big Birds, as well as other characters such as Oscar the Grouch.

Marty said he is very excited about the Millennium Celebration.

"The setting we're doing the concert in is just beautiful," Marty said.

Marty said that the concert is going to be wonderful and something people will not



Photo Contributed

QVC cable channel shoppers can purchase \$20 to \$30 spots on a Millennium Wall that has been erected along the coast of Gisborne, New Zealand. One dollar from each purchase goes to a children's charity.

want to miss.

"Each song [Tesh] is going to play is going to be dedicated to a different theme," Marty said.

Dan Wheeler, a QVC talk show host, is going to be in New Zealand for the millennium concert which will be broadcast live on QVC.

"The purpose is to light the way for the new millennium," Wheeler said.

He said that QVC has a philosophy to simply make the presentation of the items they feature and let the viewers make their own decisions, instead of being a promo-

tional vehicle.

"I try to look at it as not selling, but presenting," Wheeler said.

Wheeler said that he was originally told he was one of six hosts that would be chosen to be in New Zealand for the event.

"One of the reasons I was chosen is because I have a degree in religious studies," Wheeler said.

Wheeler said he isn't exactly sure what will happen on Jan. 1. He said that he read there could be a problem with international flights.

"I think there might be a few hiccups - a

few problems. I am little worried about travel," Wheeler said.

However, Wheeler does not believe that there will be any major problems.

"It's probably not a bad idea to have a few extra cans of food. I don't think it's going to be a major catastrophe," Wheeler said.

Wheeler said that he hasn't bought a tile on the Millennium Wall yet, but he says he is planning on it.

"I am planning on doing one for my children, Kirsten and Kelsey. I am planning on doing that," Wheeler said.

# Not all cultures see 2000 as significant

By Bill Zubaty  
Staff Reporter

The most amazing thing about the level of interest and preparation associated with this new year is the fact that it is, barring some computer problems, just another year.

Amazingly enough the next millennium does not begin with the dawn of the year 2000 neither does it end the last millennium. Contrary to popular opinion not until Jan. 1, 2001 does the next millennium start. We in the West are especially susceptible to attaching significance to this date and many others for a variety of reason.

Most of us in the west are exposed to a Christian belief system and are therefore given to waiting for an end time event of some kind. The West is dominated by a logic which decides that there is a beginning to everything and for most of us we assume there

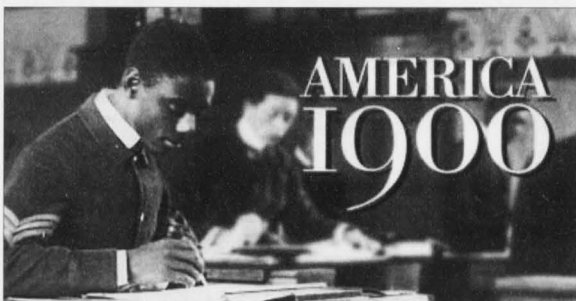


Photo Contributed

The film "America 1900" explores changing attitudes and technology around the last turn of the century. For more information, check out [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org).

must be an end to it all.

Most of the world will not be celebrating Dec. 31 this year, not because it is more aware of the lack of significance of this date, but because most calendars in the

world do not place this as the year 2000. The Islamic calendar will be on the year 1420. It dates the beginning of the current epoch from when the Prophet Muhammad made his Hijri from

Mecca to Medina. The Chinese now use the Western calendar for dating official records and events, but the traditional Chinese calendar uses a 20 year cycle that repeats. Chinese traditional philos-

ophy does not demand an end time and therefore the Chinese people do not traditionally look for one.

Every day several hundred people drive past the sign in Newport giving the number of days until the beginning of the new millennium.

Every day the sign is wrong, we are living in the first century when the cult of popular opinion has ignored the official ruling as to the end and beginning of a century. The basis of this problem is that when the calendar was reformed in the sixth century by the monk Dionysius Exiguus, or Dennis the Short, he called the year of Christ's birth the year 1. The problem is that the year before that was not the year 0 it was 1 B.C. The effect, if repeated today would be to follow the pattern 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002. Thus centuries, decades and (yes, Virginia) millennia, end on 0, 00 and 000 respectively and begin with one.

What we should be looking for is the fact that, as important as

computers and their problems are for our society, there is an undercurrent in our society that is thinking entirely uncritically about the significance of a number.

Anxiety like this is nothing new, many religions in America and elsewhere had their roots in apocalyptic prophecies which, to date, have all failed to come to fruition. We have a cultural bias which makes us susceptible to these beliefs. Just look at the advertisements one can find in mainstream and not so mainstream media outlets for non-perishable foodstuffs and survival supplies.

Whatever your opinions on the end of this year may be the fact is that it is going to be, one heck of a party. With any luck we will realize sometime in the next year that we were wrong to place such significance on 2000 and have an even larger celebration on Dec. 31, 2000.

## NORTHERN LIGHTS

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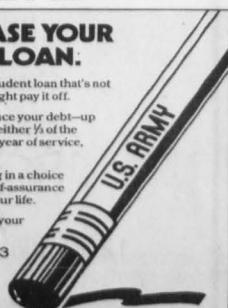
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# Votruba sees retention as key to future

By Rick Amburgey  
News Editor

Northern Kentucky University President James C. Votruba said he is very excited about the future of NKU. Votruba sat down with *The Northerner's* news editor Rick Amburgey for a Q&A session where Votruba discussed his hopes and dreams for NKU as it moves into the new millennium.

**RA: One of your primary focuses has been on retention. What are your plans about the future, regarding retention?**

**JV:** We have retention targets. We are doing very well in recruitment. We must do better in retention.

**RA: Invest In Success has been successful regarding freshman retention. What other things would you like to benefit from Invest For Success?**

**JV:** I would like to see Invest In Success broadened by strengthening and enhancing advising in the upper division level. I'd like to see better support for non-traditional students.

**RA: What new buildings are being planned?**

**JV:** If I were to look out a few years, I would anticipate a new University Center and a new special events center. I would expect to see expansion of our residence halls.

**RA: Why do we need a new University Center?**

**JV:** This one is too small and dated. It was built for 5,000 students and we now have 12,000. It's one of the top priorities for the campus.

**RA: Are there any plans to enhance the beauty of the campus?**

**JV:** We are currently engaged in updating the master plan. We intend to develop the area around the lake, and more seating where students can congregate.



Phillip Solomon/The Northerner

President James C. Votruba looks out the window at the construction of the new parking garage, which is tentatively scheduled for January completion. Votruba also anticipates a new University Center and a new special events center coming soon.

and add more trees and shrubbery.

**RA: What changes do you think would help student organizations become a more integral part of the total college experience?**

**JV:** I'd like to see more student organizations and more students engaged in the student organizations. I'd like for all organizations to commit to the success of their members.

**RA: Greek organizations often provide a close-knit family type atmosphere that can lead to success. Do you**

**believe that we should build fraternity and sorority houses on campus?**

**JV:** Not at this point. I have had no recommendation of that.

**RA: What changes in the faculty would you like to see come about?**

**JV:** We will see continued expansion of the faculty. Our projection is the campus will continue to grow. We will hire full-time faculty. We hope to convert some of our part-time faculty to full-time status.

**RA: Do you think part-time faculty are beneficial?**

**JV:** They are very beneficial to campus. They bring the real world experience. We are currently too dependent on part-time faculty, particularly in general studies. I believe we should always have part-time faculty to complement full-time faculty.

**RA: Would you like to see an increase in African American faculty?**

**JV:** As we look to the future, our goal is to be a more diverse campus.

**RA: How do you plan to achieve the goal of diversity?**

**JV:** We will offer a larger number of scholarships and enhance recruiting activity in Cincinnati, Louisville, and Lexington. The more we can cross race and gender and cultural lines on campus, the better it will be for everyone.

**RA: Are there going to be any restaurants and stores added to help improve the quality of life on campus?**

**JV:** I am looking for students and staff to make recommendations. I don't know what the answer to that question is, but I know that it is a question that has to be answered.

**RA: What is being done to increase NKU's recognition?**

**JV:** A great deal is being done to increase visibility regionally.

**RA: Where do you see the NKU athletic program in the next millennium?**

**JV:** My hope is every one of our teams will be competitive in GLVC, and on a regular basis be nationally competitive.

**RA: Do you think the new millennium could hold a placement for NKU in Division I?**

**JV:** There could be a time when we might go Division I, but we are not there yet.

**RA: With NKU's successful athletic programs, is there a plan for a new sports stadium on campus any time in the near future?**

**JV:** One of our top priorities is a special events center. We were told by our consultant that the community would support it. We're moving rapidly on that.

**RA: Will there be more community colleges and branch campuses becoming part of the NKU family?**

**JV:** I believe it will be a more distributed campus. In the future we will do more of taking the campus to the students as well as expecting the students to come to the campus.



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