

The Northerner

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Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Snapshot:

NEWS

ELECTIONS: Student Government Association Elections will be held in the on Wednesday and Thursday. Voting booths will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday in the University Center lobby and in Norse Commons.

MEDIAEVAL: Find out who is responsible for NKU's concrete architectural design and what kind of campus image the university wants to portray **Page 2.**



FEATURES

SURVEY RESULTS: According to a survey developed to measure drug and alcohol usage among students more 70 percent of students have used alcohol in the past 30 days. Three hundred sixty NKU students participated in the national survey which the statistics will become a part of **Page 6.**

NO CONTEST: Find out what to expect in the movie "Primal Fear" and why reading the book first is a bad idea **Page 6.**

SPORTS

DOUBLE TROUBLE: Splitting a doubleheader Saturday against Indiana/Purdue-Fort Wayne may have dashed the baseball team's playoff hopes. The Norse dropped to fifth in the Great Lakes Valley Conference with an 11-7 record. Find out how the Norse may redeem its playoff hopes **Page 5.**



RELOADING: Replacing lost talent is the main item on the agenda for NKU's basketball team in the off-season. Find out what is being done to find new recruits and who is being recruited **Page 5.**

PULSE

WHO TO BELIEVE: Sorting through what is news and what is gossip is getting harder to do. Gossip and tall tales are everywhere. Sometimes it is easy to point out like tabloid papers or TV talk shows, but sometimes it is in disguise, turning opinion into fact **Page 8.**

Flashback

April 20, 1983

Complaints
The Northerner
Hon, the Student Government office administrator passed. A letter from the governmental affairs chairman stated that Hon neglected his duties and that Hon had not prepared any minutes, typed any letters or mailed any invitations. Several informal complaints were directed towards the nursing department's admissions policy. The department received 421 applications of which 215 were eligible for consideration. Only 115 of the 215 were admitted.

Transfers Students On The Rise At NKU



	1995	1996	Increase
Transfer Students	299	343	14.7%

Source: Office of Institutional Research
Vid Vidosich/The Northerner

NKU Will Have 2 Interim Presidents

By Chris Mayhew
Managing Editor
and Gina Holt
News Editor

Northern Kentucky University's Board of Regents want two people to handle the interim presidency.

Jack Moreland, superintendent of Dayton schools for 18 years, confirmed reports on Tuesday that he will share the job of interim president with Paul Gaston, NKU's vice president of academic affairs and provost.

Alice Sparks, chairwoman of the board, told Moreland to be at the Board of Regents' 9 a.m. meeting on Thursday.

"That was his hint that he was the president," Sparks said.

Moreland said he has worked very closely with Gaston before.

"Most people don't realize Paul Gaston and I go back a long way," he said.

Gaston and Moreland have both served as co-chairs of Partners in Education, a group of higher education and high school educators who met together.

"I feel very comfortable with Paul Gaston," Moreland said.

Gaston will be promoted to executive vice president. According to the April 9 Kentucky Post.

Earlier this semester, President Leon



Jack Moreland

him take a leave of absence from his job as superintendent if he was chosen NKU's interim president.

Gaston, 52, has worked at the university as provost for three years as provost. Gaston was the dean of the college of arts and sci-

ence at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga before coming to NKU.

Regent Barbara Herald said that in the last board meeting on April 4 the board talked about several candidates but did not come to a decision. Herald said she did not know about Paul Gaston being promoted.

"I didn't know the interim had been decided. I thought we were going to meet and decide Thursday morning," Herald said.

Herald said she thinks too much time is being spent on picking an interim president.

"I don't care who is going to be interim, it's only a year," she said. "They need to spend all that energy on the search for a president."

NKU In Court Over Dorms With Builder

Northerner Staff Report

Northern Kentucky University is in the middle of a court-suit concerning the dormitories that were completed in 1992.

RPR & Associates of South Carolina, who built the dorms, are suing NKU because it says NKU still owes it over \$1 million for the dorms, according to a April 6 story in *The Kentucky Post*.

The university says it has paid RPR the amount agreed to in the contract, \$9.8 million and will not pay more.

RPR did not fulfill the contract obligation, Sheila Trice Bell, legal council for NKU said.

They did not finish the sidewalks or landscaping, metal areas were not properly primed, staircases are rusting and the bathroom tile was not properly installed, Bell said.

"Things were done as the should have been done," she said.

Because of these problems NKU has had to set money aside to maintain the problems in the dorms and want to be reimbursed by RPR, she said.

NKU is suing for a six figure amount but attorney Jim Wolterman, who is representing the university, would not give the actual amount.

Bell said she could not represent the university in this case because she may be called as a witness.

Along with NKU, RPR is suing the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the Finance Cabinet of Commonwealth.

NKU has filed over 30 claims against several other people and companies including RPR. Some of the other claims are against RPR's insurance company, the architects and the owner of RPR, Phil Roof.

RPR filed the first lawsuit against NKU in 1993. Later, NKU filed a counter-suit.

Bell said she does not know if NKU would file suit against RPR if they would not have first.

The university would have tried to find a way besides suing to get the problems with the dorms fixed, Bell said.

The two parties were in court recently discussing a trial date, according to a court document signed by Judge Roger Crittenden of Franklin Circuit Court. The final pretrial conference date for all the parties is set for the month of November, 1996.

The trial date will be set for December, 1996 or January, 1997.

Budding DAYS



Lisa Washnork/The Northerner

Students were not the only ones taking advantage of the 70-degree weather on Friday. The first warm days of spring gave members of Physical Plant Ron Young, supervisor of horticulture, and Horticulturalist Bill Payne time to plant flowers.

University Dissociates Itself From Art Exhibit Title

Added Disclaimer To "Immaculate Misconceptions" Exhibit Ends Controversy

By Diana Schlake
Business Manager

Northern Kentucky University has taken an official stand on the "Immaculate Misconceptions" title controversy.

The university's position is stated in a prepared statement. "The University wishes to dissociate itself from the title, 'Immaculate Misconceptions,' and states directly that this title does not represent the views of the faculty, staff or the Board of Regents of Northern Kentucky University and does not have the approval of the University or its Board of Regents."

Houghton said disclaimers should be put on every event, every lecture series, play and sporting event because they do not do any of the work.

"They are all administration, they shouldn't

take the rap and they shouldn't take the praise," she said. "A disclaimer is a good idea."

The disclaimer will put an end to the discussion of name changes for the controversial art exhibit. The University has asked that all publications of the title include a disclaimer stating the official position.

Criticism of "Immaculate Misconceptions" arose when a few letters from the community complained about the title. Two Northern Kentucky Legislators Caucus members sent a letter urging President Boothe to change the name.

The letter stated that "Free speech is important to all of us, and art is to be included in that protection. That the government should not infringe on such a right does not mean we should support its tasteless or irresponsible expression with taxpayer dollars."

Reasons cited were that the name could be considered insensitive and disrespectful towards Catholics and it was "unacceptable and inappropriate at a state university."

The National Campaign for Freedom of Expression sent a letter praising the efforts of the Art Department and defending its stand on artistic expression.

"Throughout history it has been the function of art to engage and challenge the viewer by offering new ways of seeing and conceiving reality," stated the memo signed by David Mendoza, Executive director.

"Immaculate Misconceptions" is an exhibition of works pertaining to their personal reflection on Catholicism as it has influenced them creatively and spiritually. A catholic biography and explanation of intent will accompany each piece.

The exhibit opens in October.

Have A Seat



Jason Brown/The Northerner

Mixed Doubles, a play set in a Paris restaurant in the 1920's, attracted an audience onto the outdoor stage of the Fine Arts building last Friday.

Thieves Target Albright Health Center Lockers

By Chris Specht
Staff Writer

A rash of thefts has plagued Northern Kentucky University's Albright Health Center in the past few months.

Thieves took more than \$1,200 in cash, plus a \$12,000 car, in 12 separate incidents since early February, according to Department of Public Safety reports.

Donald McKenzie, assistant director of DPS, said the thieves have mostly gone after wallets in unlocked lockers. They then use the credit cards and bank cards for other crimes, he said.

Dan Bowman thought he got off easy a first when he found his locker had been opened.

"All I had in there was my clothes and car keys," Bowman said.

He reported it to the DPS officers who were there investigating two other thefts that night, he said.

"They said, 'You better go see if the car's still there,'" Bowman said.

That's when Bowman discovered his 1994 Pontiac Bonneville missing from the lot, along with his cellular phone, wallet and credit cards, he said.

Bowman said he had a keyless entry on his key chain which unlocks the car doors and turns the dome light on, making the car easy to find.

It may be too late for Bowman, but signs posted throughout the men's locker room in the health center warn people not to keep personal items in unlocked lockers.

Facility coordinator Dave DeAngelo said some people can be careless.

See **THEEVES**, Page 2

NKU Career Development Center Offers Assistance In Job Search

By Niska Shinn
Staff Writer

Anxiety, excitement, fear and hopefulness are all possible thoughts of senior.

With graduation approaching, many students may be wondering if they will find a job in their field or a job at all. Some may be wondering if they are ready.

According to an article from *Planning Job Choices: 1996*, graduating students need to assess their skills and interests, match them with career possibilities and find out if those possibilities will require an advanced degree.

They must also decide on which fields they want to pursue and try to

formulate a strategic plan. Setting up a timetable and following up on everything are also important when looking for a job.

According to a *Job Choices* article, a university's career center is one resource for students to find help with career possibilities. This should include education programs, equipment recruiting, networking, data bases, job listings, third-party agencies, post-graduate internships and direct mailings.

NKU's Career Development Center assists students in translating their choices of academic majors and minors, career goals and employee targets into job offers, according to a Career Development Center pamphlet.

The center offers assistance in defining a career objective, writing a resume, organizing a job search, researching companies and preparing for an interview, according to the pamphlet.

Martha Malloy, director of the Career Development Center, said it is not too late for Spring 1996 graduates to come to the center for assistance.

Students need to have tools ready before they can begin searching for a job. Certain tools such as a resume, cover letter and job search correspondence are essential, Malloy said.

"We encourage students to come to the center," Malloy said. "There is no need for students to do it on

their own. Finding a job is a time-consuming process, and we can facilitate that process."

In order for students to take part in the program they need to attend a senior orientation seminar, a resume workshop and an interviewing class, which are offered at the beginning of each semester, Malloy said. If a student misses the classes, they may view videos instead.

Graduating seniors can register for assistance through a computerized resume data base system. Once the student's resume is in the data base, the center will refer the student's resume to employers with specific job openings, matching the student's qualifications, according

"Finding a job is a time consuming process, and we can facilitate that process."

-Martha Malloy

to a Career Development Center pamphlet.

Approximately one-third of the graduating seniors have come through and registered.

"We would like for that number to be higher," Malloy said.

Approximately 40,000 resumes are sent from NKU's Career Development Center during one

year, Malloy said. Most student's or alumni's resumes are sent out about 40 times each year.

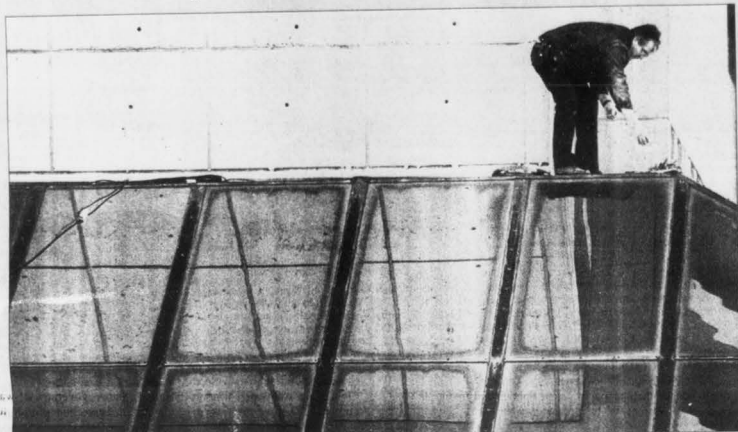
About 45 percent of the students who used the services gained employment directly through the program.

"If a student registers, their chances are pretty good," Malloy said.

Any job a student gets probably will not be the first and last job, according to a *Reader's Digest* article. Students will approximately go through nine to 10 jobs during their career.

Once students graduate, they may still use NKU's Career Development Center's resources though, Malloy said.

Watch Your Step



Terry Renaker/The Northerner
A physical Plant employee stands on top of the glass enclosure of the Natural Science building last week as he performed maintenance on the building. The building was completed in 1974 and was the largest college academic building at the time.

NKU's Concrete Structure Designed To Resemble Mega Medieval Town

By Stacy J. Ridgway
Staff Writer

Gray concrete is all that students, faculty and staff see on Northern Kentucky university's campus.

Rumors circulate and comparisons occur. It's said to be futuristic, a prison, a castle and even a concrete jungle. People have applied all of these names to the campus' appearance.

The buildings at NKU do have a theme. Director of Campus Planning, Mary Paula Schuh said.

"The central campus core area was designed to resemble a medieval town or megastructure," she said.

In a Sept. 6, 1993 article in *The*

Cincinnati Enquirer former vice-president for administration John DeMarcus takes responsibility for the look.

"I wanted it uniform," DeMarcus said of the colleges master plan. "I'm responsible for the concrete."

Frank Steely, history teacher and NKU's first president said the concrete was not his choice.

"I'm from Virginia, and I was thinking red brick with columns and domes," he said.

In Steely's book "Northern: Birth of a University," he chronicles the beginning of NKU's campus construction and growth through his presidency.

Nunn Hall was the first building completed at NKU's Highland



Mary Paula Schuh

Frank Steely Library, Landrum Academic Center and the University Center in 1975.

"These buildings, the roof lines, angles and urban appearance meld together to create a pedestrian-oriented, community atmosphere," Schuh said.

Amy C. Luckett, a senior construction major, said she admires the uniformity of NKU's campus

heights campus in 1972.

It was followed by Regents Hall and Natural Science Center in 1973, the Frank Steely Library, Landrum Academic Center and the University Center in 1975.

The architecture has won awards from the Cincinnati chapter of the American Institute of Architecture. In the Sept. 6, 1993 *Cincinnati Enquirer*, NKU President Leon Boothe called the campus "an art form."

Steely calls it a "fiercely modern textured concrete" in his book. Now he says "It is beautiful."

but adds "I don't always think it's beautiful... attractive yes, but not beautiful."

The firm of Frisk, Rinehart, Hall, McAlister and Stockwell were the original architects of the campus. Later, Beiting and Associates completed the design and construction supervision at the master plan.

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THIEVES: Health Center Rents Locks Out To Prevent Thefts

From Page 1

The center does what it can for the guests of the center, offering locker rentals for \$6 per semester and locks for 25 cents a visit, DeAngelo said.

Thefts at the center have been sporadic in the past, McKenzie said. Even so, the center has installed a series of security devices in the past year,

including a video identification scanner and video cameras, he said.

The cameras unfortunately cannot record the crime from outside the locker room.

"We have a bit of a problem there," McKenzie said, "but how far can we go with security measures in a locker room?"

DeAngelo said a student employee goes through the locker room occasionally, but realizes there is only so much that can be done.

"We just want people to lock their stuff up," he said. Fortunately for investigators, the thieves have left a trail of credit fraud throughout the Greater Cincinnati

area, McKenzie said.

"The actual thefts are minor offenses compared to the misuse of the victims' credit cards," McKenzie said.

Authorities in Campbell, Kenton and Hamilton counties are working together to track the thieves, he said, which should help to wrap up the case in a couple of weeks.

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Tuesday, April 16 & 23 - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17 & 24 - 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 18 & 25 - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
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Much More At Stake Than Name Of Exhibit Administration, Representatives Provide Unwarranted Pressure

"The two aims of the Party are to conquer the whole surface of the Earth and to extinguish once and for all the possibility of independent thought." George Orwell, 1984.

NKU students, faculty and staff should watch what they say and do on campus... Big Brother is watching them. In what will go down as one of the all-time biggest embarrassments that this university will ever be a part of, members of the university and the representatives of the Northern Kentucky Legislative Caucus have overreacted once again, this time in regards to the art exhibit "Immaculate Misconceptions."

At first the show was scheduled to run at NKU from Feb. 8 to March 8, but it was rescheduled for showing in October 1996. In the exhibit, Catholics are to discuss their faith and how it has affected their lives. Each piece of art will be accompanied by a biography on the Catholic's upbringing and an explanation of the artist's intent. The exhibit will also focus on the view of recovering and re-emerging Catholics.

On Feb. 28, Richard L. Roeding and Royce Adams of the Northern Kentucky Legislative Caucus sent a letter to NKU President Leon Boothe. The letter stated the exhibit was unacceptable since residents of northern Kentucky were offended by the title.

In early March, Peter Hollister, Rogers Redding and Paul Gaston met with Barbara Houghton to discuss the changing of the exhibit's name.

According to a memo pertaining to the meeting sent by Houghton to Boothe March 6, "I am not sure you know that we could not have left the room without promising that the two words would not be in the title. We were also told that we were, in part, the cause of the science building not being funded. Pressure was applied by Peter Hollister; reason was applied by Paul Gaston. When Paul (Gaston) and Rogers (Redding) asked, we were willing to accommodate. When Peter demanded, we felt boundaries were over stepped and we had no choice in the matter. So, you see, the change was, in fact, dictated by higher administration in response to community and political pressure."

So Big Brother Peter Hollister rears his ugly head again. Again Hollister shows himself to be a double talking bully.

Also, in a position statement released Aug. 22, 1995, Hollister made no mention of displeasure on his part. To be fair to Hollister, a position statement is often ordered by other university officials. But he did not mention that anyone else at NKU was displeased either. In fact, the statement said, "Although the title of the show may point to a prominent dogma in the Catholic Church, the careful choice of the common noun 'misconceptions' is intended to shift the emphasis to critical theory instead."

According to Houghton's memo, in the March meeting Hollister told Houghton to change the title, because they were ridiculing the Catholic church.

In another position statement released April 10, the university denied strong arming Houghton and says her "action represents a lack of sensitivity to values articulated by members within the community served by the department and the university."

These dichotomous comments by Hollister and administrators make the change of heart in March and April quite striking.

It is upsetting that an institution of higher learning would sell out one of its own departments, like NKU did to the art department. This is a perfect example of why the founders of the United States wanted a separation of church and state. When politicians and bureaucrats have a say and comment on matters of religion, they will stomp out dissent and play off fear every time.

And besides it's art, folks. Sometimes art tells us beautiful things about ourselves. Other times it shows us the mean or uncomplimentary side of ourselves. Its not intended to always be admired like a flower.

It is ridiculous to say that the art department played any part in the woes NKU has faced over a new science building. The art department is one of the most respected departments on campus. In July the art department received a \$1 million grant from The Corbett Foundation to help the advancement of art and theater at NKU. The Corbett foundation probably did not expect the art department to be attacked by the Northern Kentucky Thought Police.

Karen McKim, the executive director of The Corbett Foundation said she has thought about whether or not the university would have received the \$1 million grant if the controversy arose one year ago. She also said this incident could affect future grants from The Corbett Foundation.

"It does not reflect well on any institution," McKim said. "It's a serious question. ... I think the administration may have caused them selves some unnecessary problems."

McKim also voiced concern over faculty freedoms.

"I feel that the departments should be respected," she said. "I feel that the faculty are hired to do a job and the administration should let them do it."

NKU's tenured faculty must step up. They should speak out for Barbara Houghton and their other colleagues in the art department, because the next time the university publicly denounces a work, it could be a professor's doctoral thesis, sabbatical or course materials.

And don't listen to NKU's administration. If the art department changes the name, there won't be an immaculate conception of a new science building.

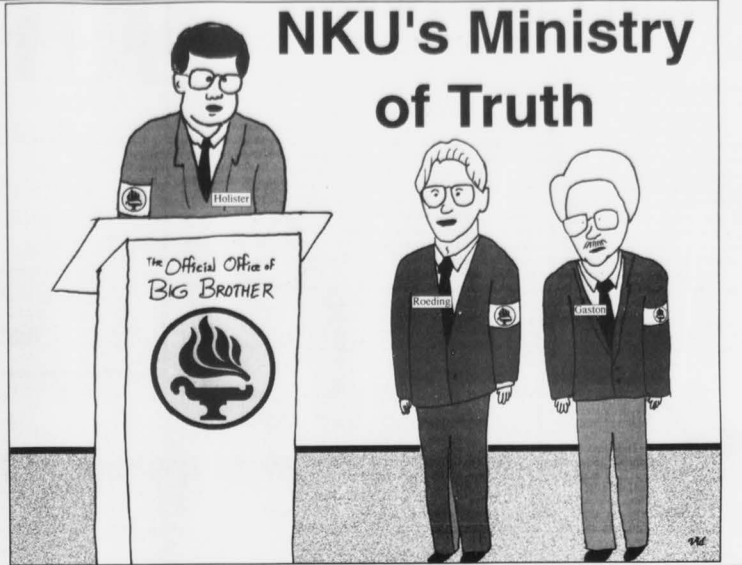
Guidelines For Writing Letters To The Editor

The Northerner encourages students, faculty and staff to submit Letters to the Editor and Guest Editorials for publication in the newspaper.

Letters must be typed or neatly printed. Letters should be no more than 350 words. The Editorials should not exceed 550 words.

The Northerner reserves the right to edit items for grammar, spelling and libelous errors. The Northerner may also refuse to publish material on legal, moral or ethical grounds. Letters to the editor and guest editorials may be sent to The Northerner, UC 209, Highland Heights, Ky. 41099.

NKU's Ministry of Truth



Norsuasion

Citizens Need To Get Into Political Picture

By Gary Fields

It is April and Easter Break for Congress. Picture Congress members as a herd of jackals headed for the den, leaving behind piles of rancid, bloated, and decaying social programs like so much garbage. Picture the bloated social programs as friendly giants that unwittingly squash their taxpayer friends as they attempt to help them. And picture the taxpayer swimming in a sea of red ink, crying for help with no help on the horizon.

These are not pretty pictures, but not that difficult to imagine. They are symbolic of the disgusting state of the American political system. The United States is no longer a country by the people, for the people, of the people. But it can be. However, each citizen must get into the political picture. It is time for each and every one of us to become more involved in our political systems, on both the local and national level.

Say you're already involved in government. If all you're doing is voting, it is time to do more. Say you're too busy and not interested in government. Well, the government is busy too. But they are still interested in you. Day after day, decisions are made with or without your input. Without your involvement the government is unaware of your opinion and free to do whatever it wants.

If you decide to become more involved there are many ways to do it. Some of them require very little time and effort. However, each of them gives you an opportunity to get into the political picture and change it. Some of them are:

- *Register to vote—the first step in political activism.
- *Keep an open mind. Neither Republicans, nor Democrats, liberals or conservatives have all the right answers.
- *Inform yourself. Make sure you have enough knowledge to make wise decisions.
- *Write letters, use E-mail. Let

your elected officials know how you feel. If they made a campaign promise and didn't keep it, tell them about it. Get their names and addresses and keep them on file. Letters work. President Clinton's reference to a letter from a little boy during his visit to Cincinnati is an excellent example of their impact.

*Join grassroots organization. A group of people have more clout. If you can't find a group, form one. The UAW, NRA, and MADD all started as small groups trying to make a difference.

*Join a political party. Work for a political campaign. Knowing the right people can greatly increase your influence. Just ask Hillary Clinton.

*Consider running for office. Even on the local level this would require a tremendous amount of time and energy. But what better way to change the system than from the inside.

These are only a few of the choices and not all of them are for

everyone. Yes, I do realize this would take time and energy. I vote, read to inform myself, write letters, and support a couple of grassroots organizations. However, I do not expend all that much time and energy. I need to do more and possibly you do too. Our political system needs for all of us to be in the picture. The United States government was founded to serve and protect its citizens. The people are supposed to tell the government how to best serve them. Our lack of participation has allowed the roles to reverse. But with more political involvement from each and every one of us, we can change this. We can return to a picture of government our founding fathers envisioned, a picture all of us would like to see.

Norsuasion essays are written by individual students taking English 391, Persuasive Writing. The opinions expressed are those of the individual writer.

Loyal Opposition

By
Vid Vidovich

While walking through the professional arts building, Joe McGilly stumbles onto the real reason for NKU's big land buy.



Stealing Has Multiple Effects

Editor,

I am writing in reference to an incident that occurred to me on campus last Tuesday, April 2. I was on campus to visit a friend that works for the university and to show him my new motorcycle I had been saving up for, to take him for a ride on it. I parked my bike, a Honda Magna, in the motorcycle parking space in lot A and was in the University Center for no more than a half an hour.

This is when I learned first-hand about the extreme theft problem on campus I've been hearing about. An individual decided to relieve me of my spare helmet. The helmet was lent to me by my father-in-law and he has had the plain white helmet since 1965. It was securely strapped to my saddle bag, but unfortunately not locked. It is to that individual and anyone else who has stolen something, I am addressing this letter.

It's not so much the helmet I'm upset about, but the fact that you took something that you had absolutely no right to take. What if that was my only helmet and could not ride my

bike home due to the Kentucky Helmet Law? What about the cost of about \$100 to replace? A \$100 to a young couple, even with good jobs, is a fair amount of money. Besides the helmet, you also stole one of the following: a nice evening or weekend of outings for my wife and I, a month of my bike payment, a month of utility bills, our grocery bill for nearly a month, and possibly money I had allocated for a donation to Northern Kentucky University, my Alma Mater.

To the thief and potential thieves, think about what you are really taking when you steal something. I do not mean to sound too much like a parent, but imagine how you would feel if it happened to you. I am very proud to be an alum of NKU, as a student and alum it has opened innumerable opportunities for me, but for the first time ever, I am a little disappointed in it.

M. Shawn Cox
Director of Governmental Affairs
Home Builders Association of Northern Kentucky

The Northerner

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Knee-jerk Reaction To Art Exhibit Unwarranted

Editor,

In regard to the brouhaha over the title "Immaculate Mischance" assigned to an art display and showing, I am wondering how many people, including Catholics are aware of the true meaning of the Immaculate Conception, a feast day and holy day of obligation.

When attending mass on this feast day, priests will oftentimes attempt to explain to their parishioners that the Immaculate Conception does not celebrate the fact that the angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary to tell her she

would become the Mother of Jesus. Rather, it celebrates the fact that Mary herself was conceived without original sin.

To add to the confusion, however, the gospel reading on that day recounts the story of Gabriel and Mary — gospel readings come from the New Testament.

We who have always attended mass on this day are quite aware of the confusion and misconceptions surrounding it. Is it not possible, then, to understand why the art show would be given such a title, considering its content?

Knowing this information, one

can't help but feel that everyone reacted too quickly to this situation in a knee-jerk fashion. There is no reason for anyone to be offended by such a title.

Under no circumstances can this exhibit be compared to Mapelthorpe, and should not even be mentioned in the same breath.

A little common sense, education and research should have prevailed. Will the university succumb to pressure every time a powerful or moneyed individual wants their own way?

Maureen Grady Gerrein



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Have We Gone Overboard On GOSSIP?

Dorothy Johnston Pulse Editor



There was a time when conventional wisdom told us to believe none of what we heard and only half of what we saw.

The theory was men were prone to telling "tall tales" and women were expected to "gossip."

But we were also taught that news was not gossip. News was not tall tales.

News was news.

Now we don't know what news is, or who, if anyone, is telling the truth.

Even if we see it with our own eyes.

"Connie Chung got kicked off the air for making something up," senior Brian Easterling said. "They took it out on her, but news shows do that kind of thing all the time."

It seemed credible enough at the time.

Easterling, an RTF major and WRFN disc jockey, thinks most of the news today is 50 percent entertainment. Believable entertainment, but entertainment nevertheless.

"Primetime Live is made by the entertainment department, not the news department," Easterling said. "News wouldn't be here without advertisers."

And advertisers know programs have to be entertaining to make money."

Easterling doesn't recommend believing the news media.

"People complain about shock news, but it's more popular now than ever."

The more shocking the better.

Liz Smith, a respected gossip columnist, wrote an article for *Forbes* magazine in 1995 titled "Five gossip items I'd like to write: and the way things are going I probably will." Who knows, the way things are going, maybe she already has.

In the article, Smith expressed her desire to write the following: Lisa Marie Presley is giving birth to quintuplets; Rosanne and Mike Tyson are being wed; Sharon Stone is playing the role of Mother Teresa; Mel Gibson and Dick Army announce their love; and Liz Taylor states Madonna and Princess Diana are her twins.

When the Jackson-Princess wedding was leaked through the press, did we believe it?

Do we believe it now?

So why not Rosanne and Tyson?

"I try to talk about fun-loving things on the air," Easterling said. "College students want to be entertained. They want to hear fantasy and fiction."

Surveys show that most of the 60 million people a week who read major

tabloids do it for diversion and entertainment. People enjoy viewing tragedy, some type of redemption and the merely bizarre.

"They're already too stressed out. News is too spooky. Too real," Easterling said.

"But talk shows are just gossip. They say they discuss issues, but they really just tear people down."

He believes

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"College students want to be entertained. They want to hear fantasy and fiction."

-Brian Easterling

Gossip has become news in the 90s. The problem is weeding out the unreal and the irrelevant from the truly important.

Gossip, unfortunately, can sometimes magically turn opinion into fact. And gossip is getting dirtier, according to Smith. Writers are forced to get nastier to hold on to their audience.

Sometimes gossip comes in disguise. We all know Phil and Jerry Springer specialize in, shall we say, exaggeration. We would be disappointed if they didn't. As Smith says, without some minor truth-stretching, their audience shares would suffer.

But what about respectable magazines like *People*? How much of what we read should we believe?

People has been credited with the invention of "personality journalism." But it has also been accused of putting gossip, plain and simple, on the news stands every week.

They were Johnny-on-the-spot with the Connie Chung story. All the gory details included.

On the bright side, maybe we are becoming numb to the mindless yammering by manicured talk show hosts and TV news anchors. We hear the same old story on every show.

Mother kills daughter. Daughter kills mother.

It used to be, way back in the dark ages, when dog bit a man it wasn't news. But when man bit a dog, it was.

How many shows do you suppose that would be good for today?

One, maybe. Two at most.

We've been shock-proofed. It's more amazing to hear about a celebrity who lives a so-called normal life than one who has an underwater wedding in Antarctica.

So when we hear that so-and-so said this or that about us, who really cares? Who really believes it?

Gossip is just an excuse to make up stories. Usually pointless, rather boring stories.

The worrisome part comes when people actually take them for the Gospel. That's when they mystically and magically become transformed into reality.

So, the 90s adage should be; ENGAGE BRAIN before you believe any of what you think you heard, or what you think you saw.



In Their Opinion

FAMOUS QUOTES

"The only thing worse than being talked about is not being talked about."

-Oscar Wilde

"No good deed goes unpunished."

-Clare Booth Luce

"If you can't say anything good about someone, do it right here by me."

-Alice Roosevelt Longworth

"The good die young because they see it's no use living if you've got to be good."

-John Barrymore

"Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example."

-Mark Twain

"The trouble with our times is that the future is not what it used to be."

-Paul Valery



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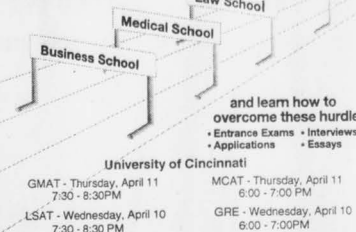
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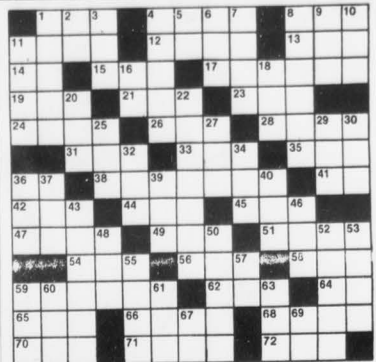
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1. Insane
4. Ready a passport
8. Mischievous child
11. Sing alone
12. Small
13. SE Asian languages
14. Elevated railway
15. Drag behind
17. Congressional group
19. Sleets
21. Month (abbr.)
23. Sun
24. Restraint
26. Fate in life
28. Liver secretion
31. Fall off to sleep
33. Fish egg
35. Canvas bed
36. Him
38. Merit
41. College degree (abbr.)
42. A Gerbil
44. Fish
45. Building wing
47. Wise men
49. Vander (poetic)
51. Alibi
54. Exonerate
56. Scrub the floor

DOWN

2. 2,000 pounds
39. Canal
42. Baseball implement
43. Nickel symbol
45. Fort —
46. Glim
48. Biting
50. Green vegetable
71. Hereditary unit
72. Moccasin
1. Tooth
2. American League (abbr.)
3. Speck
4. Speech sound
5. NW state (abbr.)
6. Emergency signal
7. War god
8. Stained letter
9. Cushion
10. Lenses (cliff)
11. Send (past tense)
16. Preparation
18. Door handle
20. Skillet
22. Daffers
25. Seed vessel
27. High rock
29. Bad bird high arc
30. 7th Greek letter
32. Month (abbr.)
34. Night before
36. He
37. Age
39. Bean
40. Tree
43. Program
46. Allow
48. — fit (predicament, two words)
50. Exalted character
51. Restoring medicine
53. Okla. town
55. California fog
57. Mid-Atlantic state (abbr.)
59. snap
60. Verb
61. Corolla
63. His lightly
67. Article
69. W. state (abbr.)

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