THE NORTHERNER

Northern Kentucky University

Volume 31, Number 27

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Blessid Union of Souls

Cincinnati's best-known band comes to campus for a special jam session.
See page 5.

Science building nears completion

Building combines art and science

By Scott Wartman
Editor in Chief

Architects, artists and scientists united to design the new Natural Science Building. The designers of the building noticeably kept Northern Kentucky University's trademark concrete exterior, but to gave it a unique edge - added aluminum to parts of the building. The idea was to remain consistent to the overall design of the campus, while trying to make it as unique as possible, said Omni architect's project manager Eric Zabilka. The campus' geometric concrete design known as "brutalism" was popular for civic projects in the 1960s but went out of vogue thereafter.

Zabilka said the architecture is too distinct on campus for them to completely change the design. "The architecture on campus is so strong, we had to engage it," Zabilka said. "It was a blessing and a challenge."

The concrete helps make a building sturdy, he said but made it harder to make it look modern. One of the goals of the building design was to make it seem less imposing than some of the other block-shaped, concrete buildings on campus like the Old Science Building. To do this, Zabilka said they made the edges more round and substituted aluminum for concrete in some of the areas.

The architects also put in subtle symbols of the scientific world into its structure. In the east stairwell, the windows are situated to represent what were believed in ancient Greece to be three of the four elements of the universe; earth, air and fire. The other element, water, is not represented. One window faces the ground, representing earth, a second faces horizontally looking out at the rising sun, representing fire and a final one faces upward toward the sky, representing air. The builders also installed skylights in the main Atrium to represent a sequence of numbers commonly found in nature. In the Atrium, which houses the elevator and connects the two wings of the building, 19 skylights are arranged in

See **Science design**
page 3

Photos by Stacey Sutton/*The Northerner*

Brand new: (Above) Ample sunlight filters in the elevator shaft of the main atrium of the new science building where both wings of the building meet. (Inset) This laboratory contains individual containment units known as hoods for each student to work at.

New facility to aid student and faculty research, education

By Scott Wartman
Editor in Chief

Physics professor Dr. Wayne Bresser's days of conducting experiments in a cramped space in the old science building with outdated equipment are numbered. Next semester, Northern Kentucky University will open up the $38 million technologically-savvy science building, which will give Bresser and other professors who conduct research the space and equipment needed. Bresser experiments on the properties of glass and said he currently operates in a room that cannot fit all the equipment he needs. For some of his tests, Bresser said he must make a trek up to the University of Cincinnati.

Bresser said the building will put NKU on the map, making it easier for him and other professors doing research to get funding from the National Science Foundation. Bresser said the impending opportunity to try out the new features of the state-of-the-art complex excites him. "This is just like a brand new home," Bresser said. "It is so neat and exciting to explore different areas."

The new building will have two labs that can be used for student and private research. Undergraduates will be able to collaborate with professors on research projects, which director of campus planning Mary Paula Schuh said sets NKU apart from other universities. Most other universities reserve this privilege for graduate students.

"It is the best kept secret that undergraduate students can work elbow to elbow with faculty," Schuh said.

The science building will also feature classrooms that give multiple students access to computers and the Internet. In addition, classrooms and labs will be more closely connected. There are 14 labs and 9 lecture halls in the new building, which means many lectures will be held in the labs as well. The Physics department is taking advantage of this by combining lecture and lab courses together. Biology and Chemistry will do this for some, while still keeping others separate. This will give classes a more flexible structure, allowing the lab to blend with the lecture, said Dr. Charles Hawkins, chair of the physics, astronomy and geology department. The labs themselves will be able to seat more students, increasing the capacity from the 16 students to 24 students. Hawkins said he is also looking forward to working in labs that weren't designed in the 1960s. The labs in the old science building were modeled in an outdated fashion where all the workstations are immobile and rigid, Hawkins said.

An upgrade in the labs on campus was sorely needed to ensure the safety of the students, said Dr. Bill Oliver, chair of the chemistry department. Both Hawkins and Oliver cited among the faults of the old labs a lack of ventilation, humidity control and outdated electrical equipment and inadequate hoods for containing hazardous chemicals.

"Obviously when you walked around the old science building, you could smell some experiments going on and that isn't good," Oliver said.

The new science building will have some labs with individual hoods for each student. The new science building isn't flawless, however. All three departments do not gain classrooms from the move and office space does not increase, a concern all three departments said may pose an obstacle for future expansion. By the time the ribbon is cut for the building, all offices will be occupied by faculty and staff. In addition, the geology department will be losing two lecture rooms, rather than gaining more rooms. The chairs of the science department said they aren't sure how they will tackle the space situation. "It is hard to say since we are talking about facilities we haven't used yet," Hawkins said. "Office space will be pressed. That is a great concern."

Hawkins said the science department repeatedly pointed out the space situation, but Schuh said the funding wasn't there for more office space. They had to cut back four offices that were originally in the design, she said.

"Had money not been an issue, there would have been more offices," Schuh said.

While office space will be tight, Omni architects, the designers of the building, strategically placed the offices throughout the building in relation to the classrooms. The designers placed the chairs of each department right next to each other

See **Science building**
page 3

Professors want to protect environment on campus

By Molly Corfman
Staff writer

Stephen Finke and other Northern Kentucky University faculty members say they want a voice that represents ecological concerns in relation to university lands. They say they would like a group of faculty who are knowledgeable in environmental issues and ecology to be able to consult campus planning.

"We are asking to be included in the decision making process," Finke said. "We want a committee to have representation at the level where the decisions of what to do are made, so we would know of what's coming down before it happens."

This may have helped the biology department, which, until a few weeks ago, used the undergrowth of a campus green space behind the Applied Science and Technology Building to educate students, according to Deborah Pearce, professor of biological sciences. That was before the underbrush was cut, she said.

Pearce said each semester the biology department takes all biology 120 students on a nature hike. "They left all of the taller trees, but they cut down the undergrowth," Pearce said. "What you're going to get is erosion until the plant life comes back...Now, we won't be able to show (students) the stage of succession with the lower canopy."

Elinor Rambo, biology department lecturer, said, "Some lab instructors spent considerable time in the forest showing students the wide variety of small animals that lived there. It is now almost a wasteland."

Dan Drake, director of the physical plant, said physical plant employees cleared the area of underbrush, in particular Honeysuckle, which is an invasive non-native plant.

He said, "Our hope is that by eradicating this plant the existing wooded area will prosper. Also, as a conservation measure, we left any natural fallen timber on the ground floor to allow natural decay."

Finke said the brush was cleared out of a misunderstanding and wants more faculty involvement with the way the physical campus is being used.

To help the university make environmental decisions, there have been environmental advising committees in the past, according to Dr. Miriam Kannan, regents professor, who said she has been involved with them since she arrived at NKU 21 years ago.

"Whenever they started a new building or did things with the pond, campus planning called the committee and they were consulted on things such as how many trees they were cutting," she said.

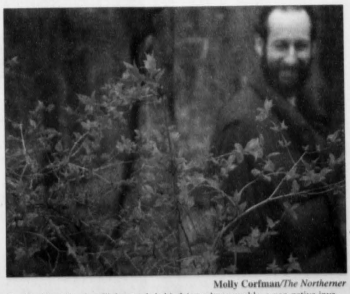
The committee, made up of several faculty members interested in environmental issues, was consulted on what to do about algae blooms in Lake Inferior and whether or not to treat it with large amounts of copper sulfate, Kannan said. They were also consulted about where to put paths and buildings.

"But they started calling us less and less, and things just started happening on campus without the environmental impact committee," Kannan said.

In 1997, when University President Dr. James C. Votruba came to NKU, he started a campus environment and facilities committee of faculty and staff. Until last year they were operational, Kannan said.

"I think he later thought their job basically right now is done," she

See **Ecology**
page 2



Molly Corfman/*The Northerner*

Deadly Plant: Stephen Finke stands behind Amur honeysuckle, a non-native invasive species that is currently 95 percent of what is greening up in the Cincinnati area.

NEWS

Northern Kentucky University

Student Government Association Spring 2002 Elections Results

PRESIDENT

Candidate	Votes
Katie Herschede	461
Bryce Rhoades	221

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Candidate	Votes
Amber Hardesty	315
Amber Justice	313

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS

Candidate	Votes
Eric Fegan	540

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS

Candidate	Votes
Burhan Mohamedali	550

VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

Candidate	Votes
Abby Bently	316
Cheri Taylor	205
Jeff Weier	109

SENATE

Candidate	Votes
Katie Walsh	319
Amanda Bentley	310
Noah Meeks	288
John Rasp	265
Lovingson Mtonciwiza	264
Adrienne Phelps	255
Jessica Causey	254
Melissa Engleman	252
Sheria Spain	236
Jennifer Gabbard	235
Shelley Heavrin	235
Theo Marks	226
Joe Myers	223
Casey Salzer	215
Sarah Gavin	197

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Candidate	Votes
Jennifer Perry	523

Ecology: Wildlife in danger

-Continued from the front page

said.

According to Mary Paula Schuh, director of campus planning, there is a much higher focus now on the appearance of the campus than there was 10 years ago. But, she said, it has happened because it needed to happen, rather than because an environmental advising committee had a role in it.

Finke said he would like a new committee to re-establish the old committee.

"One of the reasons why that committee fizzled out was because they felt like they had no power," he said.

A year ago, Finke and other faculty formed a group generally referred to as the land committee. They wanted to identify the ecosystem of highest quality on campus and recommend it be preserved. When established, the committee had three initial goals: to identify university property to be put into a binding conservation easement, to establish guidelines for its use and to create a means of implementation, Finke said.

First, the committee learned what kinds of ecosystems were on campus and the condition they were in. The Environmental Resource Management Center at NKU with a grant from the Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics at NKU compiled a land assessment survey from the summer 2001 to February 2002. From it came three maps that show the various types of ecosystems found in our area and the quality in which they were found.

The survey found most of the land on campus to be of low quality, based on the age of the system and the percentage of invasive species, according to Barry Dalton, director and senior ecologist at NKU's Environmental Resource Management Center.

One reason, Dalton said, is because Amur honeysuckle, an invasive species, is aggressively invading area forests and making up 95 percent of what is currently greening up Cincinnati area. Brought to America around a century ago, it is from the Amur River Valley close to China in eastern Asia. Dalton said there is something not present in the environment here which keeps it in check, whether it is an insect, fungus or virus.

"Above ground, it competes by shading out plants, and below ground, its root systems tie up water and nutrients and space," Dalton said. "So, when Amur honeysuckle comes in and dominates, it pretty much squeezes out all of our native plants and all of our native biodiversity."

Schuh said there is another reason the land is of low quality on campus.

"This was all a big farm, or a couple of different farms," she said. "Pretty much all of it was destroyed at one point or other. So, none of it's very old with just some real small exceptions."

The survey also found there was high quality land found on property adjacent to campus.

Dalton said, "If you look at all the campuses that are in the greater Cincinnati area, NKU is probably pretty unique in having some of these high quality green spaces still close to their campus where their students could walk to and could provide a real opportunity for teaching and outdoor education one day."

Based on the results of the land assessment survey, the land committee changed its agenda and made three new recommendations, which were passed by the faculty Senate on March 18, 2002.

First, they recommended the creation of an Environmental Advisory Committee consisting of individuals whose disciplines and areas of interest make them informed representatives, qualified to speak for environmental interests, who would have representation at the level where decisions concerning university lands are discussed and made.

Mike Baker, vice president for academic affairs, said he will be working with the provost and the president to establish an ad hoc standing committee with faculty representation. They are still reviewing how the committee will be comprised.

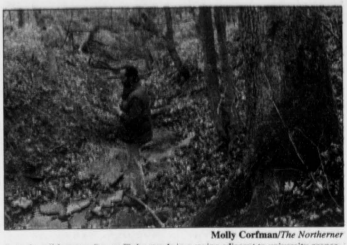
The second recommendation was to establish a committee, with representation from honors program, to consider the creation of an Outdoor Educational Center in the forest behind the Honors House. Baker said the administration would probably set up a task force to look at the area.

He said, "That would be just a task force established with a specific task, for a limited time period, just to review that proposal, work with the Honors House, make sure it works with the master plan to make sure that is something that we could accommodate. That particular committee would have a limited duration."

The third recommendation was the University acquire "very high quality" property with a ravine for the purpose of conservation and education. Baker said they would need to look at the proposal more closely to see how it works with the master plan.

Finke hopes the recommendations will plant roots, branch out and grow.

"If your perception is capable of transcending individual ego, you can sort of see the environment as an extension of yourself," he said. "Perhaps it's important to respect the environment if you want to respect yourself or your species. The linkage between the organism and the environment in which it exists is very close. We can look at a lot of environmental degradation as being symptomatic of our own."



Molly Corfman/*The Northerner*

Into the wilderness: Steven Finke stands in a ravine adjacent to university property. It is a forest of "high quality" with native wildflowers that are becoming rare.

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Campus convenience store provides limited convenience

By Joe Glaser
Northerner Contributor

Residential students need not venture off-campus late at night to get snacks, pop or even soap. A convenience store located in Norse Commons offers food, drinks, toiletries and meal transferability.

The store is open Sunday through Thursday from 8:30 p.m. to midnight and is about a five-minute walk away for most students. During the day, Main Street NKU, Follett Bookstore or the vending machines can fill most residents' needs, with the exception of soap, toothpaste and similar products.

According to Andy Meeks, general manager of Sodhexo's food services at NKU, the convenience store is geared towards late night service for a reason.

"Most of our traffic comes from meal transfers," Meeks said. "It works in conjunction with the cafeteria in Norse Commons."

Students with meal plans who miss dinner can transfer their meal credit to the convenience store under the current system, but the selection offered to students in exchange for their meal credit is limited.

Students get $4.25 to use at the convenience store in exchange for their dinner credit. The store restricts students choices to deli sandwiches, bagels, salads or frozen meals. Beverages are restricted to fountain drinks. Students may not use their meal credit towards candy, beef jerky or similar snacks. Twenty-five cent bags of chips may be put on the meal credit, but no larger sizes.

Many students find the selection offered for meal transfers, as well as the spending limit, insufficient.

"You can pretty much get a Hot Pocket or a dinky little White Castle burger," said Eric Todd, a senior majoring in finance. "It's not even worth my time walking over to get it," he said.

"Compared to the amount of food you can get at dinner in the cafeteria, the convenience store is a rip-off," said Doug Dehner, a senior journalism major. "Dinner costs $5.25 according the cafeteria sign," he said. "Why do we only get $4.25 at the store?"

Meeks said both the value of the transfer and the selection of transferable items are contractually set by Sodhexo and NKU before the year starts . Though nothing is set in stone, Meeks said things would most likely be run differently next year.

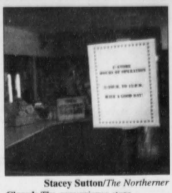
"We're favorable to a different type of programming," he said. "I'm not at liberty to say anything at this point, but we anticipate it very strongly."

In addition to complaints of transferability amount and options, the convenience store has a history of being closed on days it's supposed to be open. Meeks said the convenience store has three main staff members that are scheduled according to their class schedules, but that sometimes conflicts occur.

There is no backup staff available, so from time to time students have found a sign stating the store would be closed for the night "due to circumstances beyond our control." Dehner has had such an experience.

"One night I got back late and was very hungry," he said. "I didn't stop for food because I was planning on grabbing a sandwich from the convenience store, but I arrived to find it closed and had to go back out."

To its credit, the store does have a large variety of general items a dorm or apartment resident may suddenly need. These include a wide selection of candy, chips and beverages, and also soap, shampoo and laundry detergent.



Stacey Sutton/*The Northerner*
Closed: The convenience store

Professor concerned after show cancellation

By Cheryl Ritchie
Northerner Contributor

Concerns have been raised over who decides what shows will be produced for the local cable channel by the media services at Northern Kentucky University.

The issue was brought before the Professional Concerns Committee at a meeting held on March 28, after Michael Washington, director of African American Studies, wrote a memo questioning the cancellation of his show "Afro Centricity," a show that has been aired for the past 16 years. Washington said he wrote the memo after being told by Mike Mimms, media production manager, the show would be taken off the air because it was not diverse enough. Later, he said, he was told the reason was lack of staff, not diversity. Washington said he explained the show was diverse in that it was the only show dealing with issues of the African American community. "We have not had the resources this semester to provide these services to all the faculty that has requested it," said Craig Agneberg, associate director of learning systems. "I don't know if it was ever determined it (the show) would be canceled."

Ray McNeil, chair of the PCC, said that the committee discussed the general situation, not the specific incident. Washington also said that Agneberg and Mimms admitted at the meeting they had violated faculty members' academic freedom by an arbitrary decision to deny the faculty access to NKU cable. Then they presented a proposal to the committee to create a fair selection process for faculty. According to Agneberg, information technology is currently working on the specifics of an open application process. McNeil said the application process will state specific criteria for faculty members to conduct a show. Then the PCC will look over the application and criteria. The committee will make suggestions and list concerns about the process if there are any. "I will remain concerned if technocrats will still be involved in making those kinds of decisions about faculty service to the community through cable television, " Washington said. "I will remain concerned if faculty were not a part of reading those proposals and making those decisions."

Agneberg said it is still unclear who will make the final decisions.

According to Agneberg, the Learning Advisory Committee, which consists of faculty members, will be part of the decision making process. "We are looking for that group to have a more active interest determining the guidelines and ultimately the application process will go through that committee," Agneberg said.

Design: New building abounds with science-themed art

Continued from the front page

accordance with the Fibonacci sequence of one, two, three, five and eight.

"One of our design goals was to imbed the concepts of science into the building," Zablika said. "We looked at the underlying meaning of science."

The scientifically-based artwork of NKU art professor Ana England will also be displayed throughout the building.

England's 14 pieces made of black and clear glass are all centered around an aspect of science. One piece shows water molecules evaporating, while another compromises two floors that takes the viewer from the center of the earth to the stratosphere. This art piece can only be fully viewed by taking the elevator from the second to the third floor.

England said she was thrilled to create art for a science building because scientific themes always inspired her. Her dad was a physicist at the Los Alamos government research facility in New Mexico. Because of her interest in both the world of science and art, she said she is glad to see the new building incorporating both.

"It is making a connection between art and science," England said. "Sometimes both art and science feel isolated from one another."

England spent a year and a half making the art for the building. She said she spent a majority of the time researching scientific information to accurately portray her pieces. Many of NKU's faculty helped her in the process.

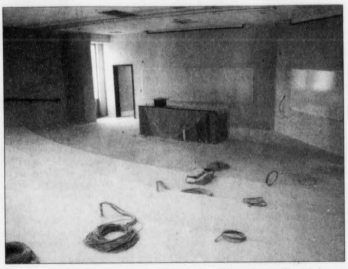
Since England's pieces consist of transparent glass, good lighting will be required for the building.

The building design allows for much more natural light to fill in, said Mary Paula Schuh, director of campus planning. The lights used in the building also were creatively designed to avoid a standard florescent light appearance, Schuh said. There is also more of a use of drywall to break up the monotony of concrete walls on the inside.

"They spent more time to make it more inviting," Schuh said. "More creative energy was put into the design of the building."

Schuh said this is a departure from the old science building.

"The Old Science Building is pretty dark," she said.



Stacey Sutton/*The Northerner*
Hi-tech: This is a typical lecture hall in the new building. Computer ports with wiring for students to hook up computers can be seen running down the side.

Science building: Design unites science departments

Continued from the front page

on the second floor. The university hopes this will encourage the departments to collaborate in future projects, Schuh said, and work more closely with each other.

"They need synergy," Schuh said. "It will foster communication. The sciences tend to be cloistered. This will provide more of an environment for doing cooperative research."

The classes and the rest of the building's 55 offices will be situated according to function, said Omni project manager Eric Zabilka, AIA. The offices of teachers will be next to the classes they teach rather than grouped departmentally like they are now. Designing a large building to house updated technology wasn't easy, Zabilka said. The design of the building began in 1998, and he said computers have changed considerably since then.

"Expectations on technology keep changing," Zabilka said. "We had to keep playing catch-up."

The idea of designing a state-of-the-art building with a design focused on co-operative working was challenging, Zabilka said.

"We were incredibly excited," Zabilka said. "NKU has set up something ahead of the curve."

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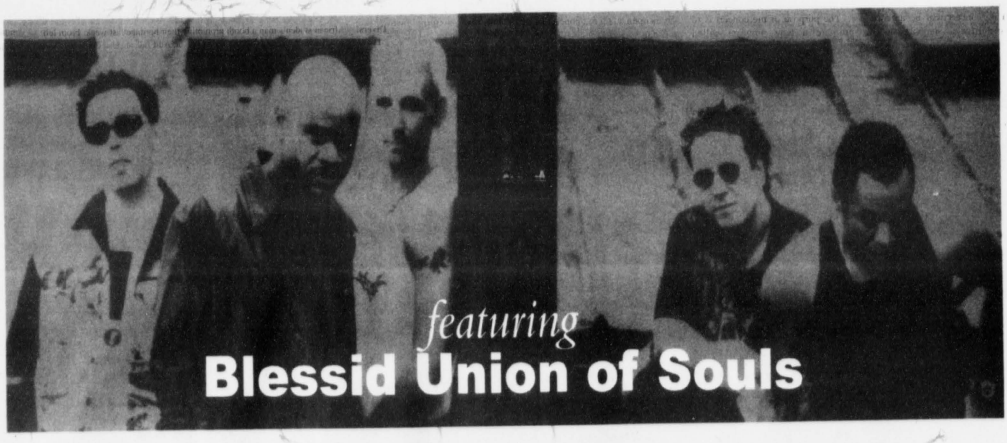

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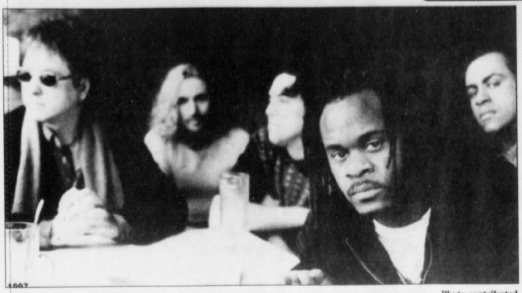

Photo contributed

Jammin: Local band Blessid Union of Souls scored a #1 hit in 1995 with "I Believe". They will come to Regents Hall on Friday.

Blessid Union of Souls to perform live on campus

By Barbara Brow
Northerner Contributor

Ever hear of the saying, being in the right place at the right time? Well that is exactly what happened to Dustin Lewis. After attending a Blessid Union of Souls concert, Lewis was so impressed by the band's performance he suggested to the Activities Programming Board to have them on campus.

While attending a convention in Indianapolis Lewis had the pleasure of meeting some band members. He suggested a concert at the Northern Kentucky University campus. The band agreed and a date was set.

"This concert will be an awesome event for all students, faculty and staff as well as the community. They have high energy, and amazing sounds," Lewis said.

Blessid Union of Souls is best known for their songs, "I Believe" and "Hey Leonardo (She Likes Me for Me)." Between 1997 and 2002 the band has hit the Top 10 several times as well as the Top 40.

Fizzgig will be opening for Blessid Union. They are a local rock band with members from Northern Kentucky University. Band member Garry Zink, guitar, is a recent NKU graduate; Dan Swartz, bassist, and Evan Brass, are current students. Mike Paolucci, drummer, is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University.

The purpose of the concert is to promote a new program called Music for the Masses. It is a program intended to introduce different genres of music to NKU students, faculty and staff.

"This year the genre is pop-rock.; next year's act will be R&B or Hip-Hop group. We are already discussing plans for next year. We invite everyone to join us in this first-annual celebration of the Music for the Masses," Lewis said.

The concert will be held in Regents Hall on Saturday, April 27. Tickets can be purchased in the Office of Student Life,UC suite 10, or at the door at 6:30 p.m. until the concert begins. Tickets are $5 for students and $7 for non-students. Doors open at 7 p.m.; concert begins at 8 p.m.

African Awareness Week offers glimpse of culture

By Susan Bartels
Business Manager

With any luck, the students of Northern Kentucky University will be dancing to the beat of African music on the plaza outside the University Center on Friday.

That's how Lovingson Mtongwiza envisions the finale of the first African Awareness Week at NKU.

Students from the African Student Union have three days of activities planned to teach people about the cultural wealth of the African continent and generally encourage the spirit of multiculturalism.

Friday will feature a repeat of Monday's activities that will include African drumming, exhibition tables with African artifacts and clothing and a fact sheet to help people better understand the African culture.

"We feel there are a lot of misconceptions that people have about Africa," said Mtongwiza. "We came up with a fact sheet to say some of the things we think people need to be aware of."

Mtongwiza said one of the things people believe about Africans is that they live with animals. "There are urban and rural settings just like the U.S.," Mtongwiza explained. "Animals live in their area and people live in their area."

The sheet will also detail some of the "natural riches" of the continent, such as Victoria Falls, the worlds largest water fall and the seventh natural wonder of the world.

On Wednesday the group will sponsor a campus cleanup and will show African music videos from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Otto Budig Theater in the University Center. It is hoped these videos will inspire people to show up Friday for dancing on the plaza.

"We want to see how much interest that will generate," said Mtongwiza. "If that generates enough interest we'll push WNTV next semester to show African movies."

Along with the African music and drumming there will also be Caribbean music. Mtongwiza explained, "The Caribbean students share the same roots with us. They do identify with us."

Food and snacks will be provided free on Monday and Friday but unfortunately they will not be authentic African food. Mtongwiza said there was just not enough time to provide this.

What they do hope to provide is a Friday afternoon of fun and relaxation as the students start their weekend.

Overall, Mtongwiza hopes the activities will educate, entertain and promote diversity in the school.

"It's going to be something big," grinned Mtongwiza.

Susan Bartels/*The Northerner*

Diversity: African students man a booth promoting their heritage last week. From left: Mvumina Mawampanga, Lovingson Mtongwiza, Joy Amekpor, Adil Inusah, Elsie Opoku and Gyasie Anna-Adjei.

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Our heartfelt thanks to volunteers and students who participated in the 2001-02 Alumni phonathons:

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
Baptist Student Union
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Delta Zeta Sorority
Honors Student Union
Human Services Club
Marketing Club
Phi Beta Lambda
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity
International Student Union
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For information about NKU Phonathons, contact Marina Harper at (859)572-6503, or email harperma@nku.edu

NKU students,

we have heard your suggestions and we have responded with:

- More key courses during the day
- More courses during the evening
- More courses on Saturdays
  (34 this fall compared to 8 in 1999)

Don't delay in selecting from these additional courses!

Planned growth to serve student needs...

The University has scheduled an additional 95 course sections for an additional 4,298 seats in courses to support a planned increase of 500 undergraduate students in fall 2002. The additional seats will accommodate the growth in enrollment as well as provide additional course selection opportunities for continuing students and students who are returning to the University after sitting out for a period of time.

As of April 11, 2002, 749 (13.7%) more undergraduates have been registered as compared to the same time last year. A total of 3,346 students currently enrolled have not yet registered for the fall 2002 semester.

Total number of currently enrolled students who have not yet registered for the fall 2002 semester:	
1,669	freshmen
747	sophomores
554	juniors
376	seniors

Register now!

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Cancer patient eager to get back to school

By Susan Bartels
Business Manager

Going to Northern Kentucky University was a family affair for the Brooks family. At one point Mike Brooks, his wife Linda, and their oldest son Mike Jr. were all full time students at NKU.

Then an education of a different kind settled over their home, and forced Mike and Linda to concentrate their studies in a new but familiar area—that of fighting cancer.

On Oct. 1, 2001, Mike was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer called renal cell carcinoma, otherwise known as kidney cancer.

It wasn't the first time this NKU couple had to battle cancer. Their youngest son Kevin had been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 1992. Fortunately, he was treated and has been in remission since.

Kidney cancer, however, is different. According to Mike, only 30,000 people a year are diagnosed with this type of cancer, and by the time it has been found, it has spread. Most, like Mike, aren't given much hope of survival.

Mike started at NKU in January of 1996 after he had retired from his job as a bus driver at Queen City Metro due to a neck and shoulder injury from an accident. His wife, Linda, joined him the following semester. Mike Jr. came after graduating from high school.

Sometimes they took classes together. Always they were supportive of each other. Mike recalled passing Mike Jr. and a his friend in a hallway of the Natural Science building one day, and turning to tell his son "I love you."

"I did that," said Mike, "because then he'll always have one time that he'll remember that I told him I love him. It was kind of embarrassing for him, but what the hell."

In April of 2001, Mike began having chest pain. After a series of tests he was diagnosed with coronary artery disease and underwent bypass surgery.

"Finding the blockage in my heart was accidental," he said. "They didn't know what was causing the pain in my chest. They thought it was from my neck and shoulder."

He returned to school in the fall. Then in late September, after walking three miles on a treadmill, he noticed a pain in his right leg. X-rays showed nothing.

A bone scan was done the following Monday. On Tuesday he returned to the hospital because the pain was unbearable. Results of the scan showed growths in both legs and arms and in his spine.

A CAT scan a few days later revealed the kidney cancer. He has not been able to return to school since then due to surgery, treatments with Interlukin II and chemotherapy.

Because the cancer is so rare, Mike has to travel to Milwaukee for treatments. He's been given a 3 to 5 percent chance that the treatments will work. So far, they haven't.

His next option is a bone marrow and stem cell transplant.The procedure itself only has a 70 percent survival rate.

"You have to weigh, should you wait until you get really sick and then do it? And then maybe you won't make it because you were really sick to begin with ...," Mike's voice trailed off.

Mike Brooks

"They don't know enough about it to be able to tell you what the best thing is," Linda filled in.

Linda travels with her husband and stays home to help care for him. She should have graduated in May. Now, she's not sure when she will graduate.

"The teachers have been very supportive," said Linda. They now consider her classes on an independent study basis.

Mike Jr. graduated last summer. Mike and Linda both feel bad because he didn't walk with his class and didn't have a party due the family circumstances. "He should have been celebrated," said Linda.

The financial costs have been staggering. Friends and family have held a benefit and set up benefit accounts at Firstar and Fifth Third Banks. Donations can be made at any branch.

But what Mike and Linda both ask for is prayers. They do a lot of praying and ask everyone they know to pray. "We even get atheists involved," laughed Linda.

Mike recalled a line from the book "Lessons From the School of Suffering" by a priest who has the same type of cancer. "I don't know what my future holds," Mike quoted, "but I know who holds my future."

They both wanted to say how great the instructors at NKU have been and how grateful they are for all the support.

For now, Mike's plans are to get well, finish school and teach computer programs to high school kids. "That's what I'd like to do," Mike said, then he lowered his voice. "But we don't know the future."

Get help to pass classes

By Amy Cline
Northerner Contributor

Students may no longer need to withdraw or retake classes. The Supplemental Instruction program, the Structured Language Assistance program, Writing Center and Math Center are the keys to a student's success in tough classes.

Students have three attempts to pass a remedial class and if not successful they may be granted a fourth attempt by the Appeals Committee. A new policy will go into effect in the fall according to David Emery, Academic Advising Director, stating students who have finished 45 semester hours must be done with 090 classes.

This new rule may lead to more students taking advantage of the learning assistance programs.

Northern Kentucky University president James Votruba encouraged people to take advantage of these programs. "Get help early. Little problems become big very quickly," he said.

SI is an alternate tutoring system free of charge. On average, SI students score 10% higher than the rest of the class with the help of SI leaders, who are the basis of the program. These leaders retake the class and run three out-of-class study groups. The focus is on active learning and discussions.

The classes chosen for SI and SLA are those with a 30% or higher withdrawal rate. "These types of services help stop students from withdrawing from tough classes," said Karen Jenkins Smith, coordinator of SI and academic tutoring.

Robin Hampton, an SI leader, has found great success in the program.

"I absolutely love this program," Hampton said. "All my students scored above a "C" on the first exam! This is the first time for this to occur."

Students who anticipate a difficult course in the fall may take advantage SLA, another free system available on campus. All students who enroll are required to attend SLA workshops until their first exam. If a student maintains a "C" average the sessions are not mandatory but are encouraged.

Academic tutoring in BP 230 is a support for students who need to comprehend or better understand their current courses including accounting, biology, chemistry, information systems, psychology or history.

The Math Center, in ST 343, assists students below or above 100-level courses and will help students with any questions, problems or assignments.

Academic Tutoring and the Math Assistance Center are free of charge to NKU students.

Assistance with essays, reports, or research papers is available in the Writing Center located in BP 230. Tutors include faculty and students who are skilled readers and writers that will work with you one-on-one. A sample paper may even be reviewed with a tutor from the course you are taking.

Classes available in the fall for SI are BIO 208, MAH 099, CHE 100, and SOC 100. Classes available for SLA are BIO 120, MAH 099, and MAT 119. Students interested in any of these programs should contact Paul Ellis at 572-5611.

Tomb Raider is 'one of a kind experience'

By Dustin Brown
Northerner Contributor

Review

Many of you have played the games and have enjoyed the many adventures of Lara Croft. But none of you are prepared for what Paramounts Kings Island is calling "a one of a kind experience". Kings Island is starting off the 2002 season with one of the most anticipated rides in its history. Tomb Raider: The Ride is Kings Island's single most expensive investment in its amusement history.

Tomb Raider: The Ride is a heavily themed attraction that stands 8 stories high. It sits to the right of The Beast and is located in the Rivertown area in the park. The actual ride is enclosed in the 8 story building and enclosed with it are a few of the props used in the actual movie. The massive six-armed Brahma statue as the warrior Goddess Durga and the evil stone monkeys are all props that are used in the ride experience. Kings Island wants to bring authenticity along with excitement to make guests feel like real tomb raiders.

This ride is an excellent addition to the park. After installing the fastest, tallest, and only looping wooden roller coaster in the world, Kings Island is continuing their stride of making some of the most innovative rides found in any amusement park. Along with Tomb Raider: The Ride, Kings Island has added another pay ride that has taken the place of the King Cobra. As you all know the King Cobra was the first stand-up looping coaster in North America. The new pay ride is a slingshot ride that catapults riders 2 at a time straight up. The ride costs $25 and is another excellent addition.

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Chi Alpha
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AMIGOS

Shopping for a new car can be a challenge

By Michael Kendrick
Northerner Contributor

Whether you are looking at a May graduation or you just don't think the '88 Jetta will make it through the summer, many NKU students will be facing the complicated task of buying a car in the near future.

New regulations set forth by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) have made the process even more difficult. These new laws are important factors that need to be considered when going through the car buying experience.

These new changes can affect the price of the vehicle, the finance charge, the interest rate and the number and amount of payments that you will be required to make. These rules and regulations are discussed in detail on the FTC Web site, which can be found at http://www.ftc.gov.

Deciding to buy a car is not as easy as going to a car lot and picking out the car you want. Decisions like whether to buy new or used, whether to lease or buy the vehicle and whether or not to use a co-signer all must be considered.

Chris Randle, a consultant with MSX Services, a company who provides sales and management training to auto dealerships says these factors affect such things as how much your monthly payment is going to be, what interest rate you get and how much you will have to pay to insure your vehicle.

"Young people need to especially careful when they purchase that first car," says Randle. "The last thing you want to do is buy a car that you cannot afford. Not being able to make your monthly payment or pay your insurance are things that can wreak havoc on your credit rating."

A poor credit rating can affect buying your next car, buying your first house and even your chances of working for certain companies.

Another factor that should be considered when buying a car is what interest rate you receive on your loan. Depending on the amount financed, the interest rate can affect your monthly payment by as much as $100 or more.

Interest rates can be as low as zero percent for those with established credit and as high as 22 percent to 24 percent for those with poor credit.

"Interest rates vary widely when buying a car," says Randle. "An average college student should expect to pay around 6.9 percent on a new car purchase."

Randle says that students should expect to pay slightly higher interest rates on used vehicle purchases. He says interest rates are usually 10 percent to 12 percent for students with average to good credit.

Stacey Sutton/*The Northerner*

On or off road?: A student needs many question when shopping for a car. Where to buy a car, how old should it be, and whether a not to lease a car should be considered in the decision process.

Some auto manufacturers offer special deals and interest rates that are available only to new college graduates. Companies like GMAC Financing often have special programs with rebates as high as $2000 and interest rates as low as 2.9 percent to entice new graduates as potential buyers.

Randle suggests two options for purchasing your first vehicle. The first is to purchase a new vehicle after graduating from a lender who offers a new grad rebate or special interest rate. GMAC Financing and Ford Motor Credit often solicit students as their graduation date grows near. "Lenders often send letters to recent college graduates or college seniors. They are usually very generous in their savings because they are attempting to gain new customers who will remain loyal to their product line," says Randle.

Randle says the next best option is to purchase a used car that is only two or three years old. He says even though the interest rate might be slightly higher on the used vehicle, it can still be financed over five years. This can lower your monthly payment. Used cars that are older than three years old cannot be financed over five years. These loans are only available for 36 or 48 months, depending on how old the vehicle is. This can make the monthly payment as much or more than a new car, which makes this kind of purchase less appealing. Randle does not suggest leasing a vehicle to young buyers. "Young people often go over on the allowed mileage or turn vehicles in with minor damage to the body, paint or interior," he says.

This can result in large fines from the lender when you turn the leased vehicle in at the end of the lease. Some lenders charge as much as 25 cents for each mile over the allowed amount, which can rack up hefty penalties and a large out-of-pocket expense when the lease turns the vehicle over. Some students disagree with the notion that leasing is not a good option for young people. Many see it as a way of driving a car that they could not afford if they had to purchase the vehicle. Others say that they plan on having a car payment for a very long time, so why not drive something nice?

Lease payments are usually less than the payment would be if you chose to buy the vehicle. This is because after the lease is over, you no longer own the car. Most lenders do however, offer to sell the vehicle to you for a fair price after your lease. "My payment would have been over $100 a month more if I would have bought my truck," says Nathan Mattox, a sophomore criminal justice major. "There is no way I could have afforded it."

Other students have found alternative ways to save money when purchasing their vehicles. Some of these include year-end closeouts and tent sales. Tent sales offer a large selection of new and used vehicles from several dealerships at the same location. Even NKU holds one of these yearly tent sales.

"I got a great deal on a '97 Mazda 626 at tent sale here at NKU last year. It was practically new and my payments are only $160," says Molly Frost, a senior accounting major. Other students have less positive thoughts about ever being able to afford buying a new car. "I can barely put gas in my car," says Paul Wahoff, an undeclared freshman. "I don't think I will ever be able to buy a new car."

Blimpie's employee goes the extra mile

by Joe Glaser

Eating lunch at Main Street NKU students cross paths with many people. Fellow students stand in line to make their purchases and fill the tables in the cafeteria. But students also deal with a variety of Sodhexo employees as they make their selections and sit down to eat. For some it's just a job, but for one employee at Blimpie's it means more.

Melinda White has worked at Blimpie's as an employee of Sodhexo since August of 2001. Over the course of this time she has affected students in a positive way.

"I love the kids," White said. "I'm on a first name basis with a lot of them."

White said she enjoys her job most of the time, although everyone has bad days. On these days she tries not to let her mood reflect in her work.

"Kids have tests and things. They don't need to see me down in the dumps," White said. "I try to make it a little fun for them."

Observing White, this is quite obvious. She usually has a smile on her face and often jokes around with students as she prepares their sandwich. White also has her regulars, whose orders she has memorized.

"I like the fact that she doesn't act like it's a big deal to help you," said senior journalism major Betsy Sutton. "Not only that, but she actually seems to care about how your day's been going."

Sutton's not the only one who thinks White stands out among the crowd. Campus fraternity TKE awarded White with the Faculty of the Month Award for the month of November.

"They gave me a certificate in a nice frame and published it in the Northerner," she said.

As for White's interests beyond her job at Blimpie's, she claims to be a very family oriented person. She has three brothers, one in California, Chicago and Cincinnati, and two sisters that live in Cincinnati. She is the second oldest. White also has nieces and nephews and said she is "the fun aunt."

"They're my favorite people in the world," White said.

Her brother Eugene Norman attends NKU and lives three blocks away from her. White said she is closest to Norman.

"He brought me a flower the other day because he thought I was in a bad mood," White said. "He loves unconditionally."

In addition to spending time with family, White has some musical interests. "I've always loved trying to sing," she said.

White said she loves karaoke and goes to the Cottage Bar in Southgate every Thursday. Some of the student body drop by occasionally to hang out and listen to her sing. She can also play the tenor saxophone, which Norman taught her how to do.

White is a Cincinnati native but lived in Sacramento for 12 years, following her divorce. However, in 1998 her mother became very ill. She moved back to Cincinnati so she could be there to support her.

Prior to working at Blimpie's, White worked as a manager at Subway for two years. She said this gave her excellent experience for Blimpie's. After quitting Subway, White worked in the catering business. When catering got slow in August she decided to look for another job. Blimpie's happened to be hiring and she had the needed experience.

As for the future, White said she is very excited to be marrying Ronald Moore this September. Other than that she said she's just happy to get up every morning.

And as for her favorite sandwich at Blimpie's, "roast beef and swiss, heated up," she said.

Scott Wartman/*The Northerner*

Service with a smile: Melinda White makes a delicious turkey sandwich. She is known by students for her good humor.

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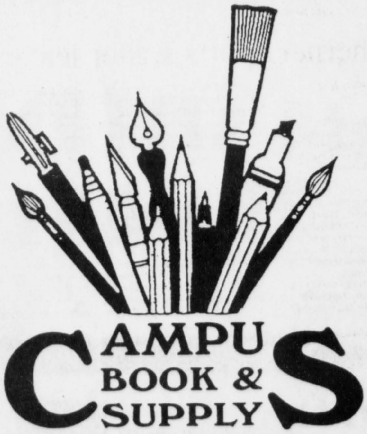
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VIEWPOINTS

Northern Kentucky University

Letters to the Editor

Respect is gone

Josh Sullivan's article about snitches is a subject that is too often ignored by our generation. Gone are the days when people respected one another, especially each other's business. Today, unfortunately, most people are quick to point the finger, regardless of the circumstances or who is at fault. Indeed, those who unjustly hurt the innocent should be punished. However, there is a definitive line between making a morally just decision and benefiting from someone else's mistakes. People who choose the latter lack as much integrity and are just as maleficent as any criminal might be.

Benjamin E. Adams

Criticism is good

Are you guys running out of stuff to print or what that you have to find the most absurd things to print from the newspapers of other colleges? I'm referring to the article titled "Snitches, tattle-tales, and narcs need to learn a lesson" by Josh Sullivan (UK) published in the April 17, 2002 edition.

Now, I understand that it can be an unpleasant experience to receive a little criticism, but this guy is getting way out of hand about it. It's one thing to snitch on someone for something they have done that no one was supposed to know about. Those of us who have siblings know what that is all about. However, when you're talking about constructive criticism in an academic environment, it's totally different! It's not snitching, it's giving you constructive criticism so that you know what to do better next time. Mr. Sullivan seems to be very confused about the difference between the two.

If you're in college, I should hope that, although it's not pleasant to receive criticism, you'd want to know what you need to do to better yourself and your work. It's better to hear it now, than to find out from your boss that you lost a deal because you didn't know how to present yourself or the information you needed to give to the people you were trying to win over. Give me a freakin' break!

Some people apparently have a lot of growing up to do. Not to mention, I think it's ridiculous how Mr. Sullivan's solutions are violent ones. Is that what the Northerner wants it's readers to see?

It's a bunch of blubbering nonsense from someone who has a lot of maturing to do. Next time, the Northerner should try to publish a more constructive article not something that makes me think that those working in the office have nothing better to do.

Adriana Hernandez
International Studies/Biology major

Job expo was 'disappointing'

By Aimee Shandy
Junior, Manufacturing Engineering Technology

There are many adjectives that can be used to describe the 2002 Job Expo, unfortunately I need only one-disappointing. It was a waste of time, university and corporate resources, not to mention a wasted wear of those dry clean only garments that we all dug out of our closets for the occasion. I only spent about thirty minutes at the expo, talking mainly to those who might be recruiting students with degrees from the Department of Technology. I left after being insulted by the bubble gum chewing, ponytail swinging charlatans that were at the first table representing P&G. They were obviously there for PR reasons only.

Before P&G inspired me to leave, I spent some time traveling from table to table talking to so-called-recruiters. I was very disturbed to hear the things they had to say. A "recruiter" from Builders First Source blatantly said that they were only there seeking laborers not graduates. The representatives from L'Oreal and Castellini said they were there to find production workers. One lady recruiting for a local home builder, The Drees Company, was unaware that NKU has an associate degree program in Construction Technology. I cannot help but wonder if these companies would have sent the same representatives and presented themselves in the same manner at a Job Expo at Xavier, Miami, Thomas More, Cincinnati State or UC - probably not. I am sure many of them will cite current economic conditions as their reason for not recruiting graduates. If that is so, they could have declined to attend. Mazak Corporation nobly declined because they felt it was inappropriate to accept resumes knowing that they had no positions available. One company who attended that I would like to praise is The Fischer Group, another local home builder. They acted very professionally and genuinely interested in finding qualified students for their company.

The recruiters are not totally to blame for my disappointment. The Career Development Center (CDC) deserves most of it. It may have been beneficial for some, but likely the majority of students,especially those graduating this semester,received the same treatment I did. Someone in that office surely knew that many of those companies were there to recruit for jobs requiring minimal education and skills.

Of 24 Fortune 1000 companies headquartered within a 50-mile radius around the Cincinnati area, only six were present. It is discouraging that CDC is not out there promoting the fact that NKU students are equally as qualified to fill corporate level positions as students from other institutions in the area. Did I waste the last 3 years of my life and several thousand dollars on a degree that will get me a minimum wage job as a production worker? Hopefully when I graduate next year CDC will hold a Job Expo that will convince me I did not!

Wanted: politically minded students

By Noah Meeks and Eric Fegan
Campus Political Leaders

With election season in full swing, student political leaders are looking for more involvement from the student body. Two campus organizations, College Democrats and College Republicans, are hard at work campaigning for their respective candidates. We're looking for politically minded students to become more active in their government.

The College Republicans have been active in local politics since they were re-activated last fall under the leadership of Andrew Lauer. In January, Noah Meeks took over as President, and we've become even more active. Since January, we have worked at a Congressional District Fund-raiser, worked at two Geoff Davis for Congress fund-raisers, and supported a host of local candidates. Mitch McConnell, Congressional candidate Geoff Davis, and local candidate Lloyd Rogers have been at our meetings, and we work very closely with elected officials to promote the Republican agenda from the grassroots level. Next fall, we hope to host a debate between Geoff Davis and Ken Lucas, and we hope to invite at least one nationally known speaker.

This year is going to be a Grand Ole Party. The future of the College Republicans at NKU is very, very bright. We passionately support individual liberty, limited government, national security, and the right to life. Our nation now realizes the consequences of neglecting these issues, and College Republicans believe in America. If you believe in these Republican values, I encourage you to get involved. Just give Noah Meeks a call at 572-7821, email him at meeksn@nku.edu, or stop by the Student Life Office. Remember the words of President Reagan, "No weapon in the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women." Have the will and courage to become politically active—have the courage to be free.

'Parking stalkers' wreak havoc on campus

By Jeff Martin
Concerned student

Class had finally ended and she was walking through the parking lot. She could hear the purr of a car engine behind her. Out of the corner of her eye she noticed that the car was inching slowly along, keeping pace with her. She walked more quickly. Still the car matched her speed.

Sound like a scene from a horror movie? Well, it isn't. It's real life and it's really annoying. I'm talking about all the parking stalkers we have here on this campus. How many times have you been walking to your car after class with someone following you in their car so they can grab your parking space? It's creepy. They won't look at you or talk to you; they prefer instead to simply ride along slowly behind you. Sometimes they will ask if you're leaving, but then resume stalking after you reply.

What's up with that? Why can't you just look for a space and, if there isn't one where you are, go find one elsewhere? The closest parking lots always have people sitting in their cars in the right-of-way, blocking the way for those of us who just drive through looking for a place to store our vehicles until we need them again. Do these people get here hours early and just park and wait until the spot they want is available? Are they really so lazy that they won't even consider walking from a more remote parking lot? Given that the Greater Cincinnati area was voted one of the fattest places in the country not so long ago it probably wouldn't hurt if we all walked a little more every day.

It would be nice if we all had so much extra time that we could waste a significant amount of it just sitting in our cars in parking lots, waiting…waiting. Then when our favored space is vacated we could pull right in and walk to class, happy that we got what we wanted. Well, we don't all have that much time. So get out of my way when I need to get to class. And stop following me!

Northerner sports writer leaves legacy, encourages others to write too

By Bruce A. Reller, Jr.
Accomplished Writer

As I get ready to graduate from Northern Kentucky University, I want to leave my legacy with The Northerner. I want to be known as a man or a journalist who never stopped writing, mainly when it came to sports writing. I started out with this newspaper four years ago as only a staff writer. The sports editor at the time (Chad Aulick) gave me an opportunity to help out with the sports section. My first story was a preview on the NKU women's soccer team.

From there, I began writing stories about the Norse basketball teams, the softball and volleyball teams and many other teams in the NKU athletic program. Actually, when I started writing about the sports teams, I got really acquainted with the coaches and players. And because I gave these teams a lot of coverage, I was respected by all of them.

Once I became the assistant sports editor and eventually the main sports editor at The Northerner, my writing and my stories improved greatly. I wrote more in-depth stories and my coverage of the various teams expanded and increased at a rapid pace. During my four years as a staff member at The Northerner, I have witnessed and covered such sporting events as the NKU women's basketball team winning the program's first ever NCAA Division II National Championship two seasons ago. I watched the women's soccer program advance to the NCAA Final Four in only their third year of existence and just miss winning the National Championship in 2000.

Also, the volleyball team made it to the Final Four a few years ago. Basically, over the years, I have seen many of our other NKU athletic teams perform competitively against some of the top Division II contenders.

I encourage sports writers who want to write for The Northerner in the future to give complete coverage of the NKU teams who work their hardest day in and day out to prove that they are among the best in Division II. I feel all of these teams will continue to perform at an above average pace, and they deserve the best coverage that they can get.

I am about to move on with my career as a sports writer, and I hope to move on to bigger and better things. Maybe one of these days, people from around the world will see my stories in Sports Illustrated. For now, I will continue to do what I have been doing since my junior year of high school: write the best pieces I possible can for some newspaper. Then it will only be a matter of time before I become well known in my profession. I want to thank some of the professors at NKU who have helped me grow as a writer and got me to believe that I can make it as a professional journalist. Thank you Pat Moynahon, you have been a great teacher and friend. Thank you Mary Cupito for helping me improve my writing in more ways than one. I also have to give credit to Gayle Brown, Dr. Michael Turney, Dr. Brad Scharlott and George Rorrer for helping guide me in my journalism career.

And I can't forget about some of the editors I have worked under too. Elden May, Kelly Sudzina, Anna Weaver and the great one, Scott Wartman, have all been good friends to me and I thank them for all their support and encouragement.

To conclude, I want to say that The Northerner is a great publication to write for at NKU. If you are in some kind of journalism or writing field, I hope you consider giving the college newspaper a chance. The advisor and the editors will work with you, and hopefully, you will accomplish many great as I did and you will be proud of your achievements. I am glad I wrote for The Northerner while I was in college, because I would never have known where my career would have gone without the writing experience. I only have two final words to say: Go NORSE!!!

How do you prepare for finals?

North Poll

Lisa Turnbow
Freshman, Business Management

"I start studying throughout the semester."

Lisa Schuhwerk
Junior, Radiological Technology

"I cram a lot the night before. If I don't, it never stays"

Charles Gowdy
Freshman, Pharmacology

"I find a quiet space, particularly my room, and constantly go over my material. I don't try to over do it and get a good night's sleep."

Greg Barth
Freshman, Biology

"I get home after work, pull out all my stuff and study until I fall asleep. I then wake up and study some more."

Joel Pena
Junior, Graphic Design

"I am an art student. I don't have to study. I go down to my studio with a six pack, get drunk and let the creative juices flow."

Phil Hepfinger
Junior, Theater

"I stare and just walk in and get an A. I test incredibly well."

SPORTS

Northern Kentucky University

Sports of a fun sort

By Jenny Dombrowski
Northerner Contributor

The air is getting warmer, which can only mean the spring sports season is underway. Leading the "just for the fun of it" sports is the intramural softball league, consisting of both men's and co-ed leagues.

Intramural softball is the perfect alternative for the student who has always wanted to play a school sport, yet fears the competition and commitment. The responsibility in these leagues is slim: just show up on game day, play your heart out and have a good time doing it.

Students create their own teams; the only requirement is being a current NKU student. The co-ed league consists of five teams, while the men's is made up of six. The teams seem to be mainly focused on having a good time, making intramural softball perfect for the student dying to get off the couch and onto the field this spring.

Junior nursing major, Joe Newell plays centerfield for the Northern Rangers, one of the co-ed teams. Newell says he likes to play intramural sports because he doesn't have to worry about practicing, or messing up during the game. Another ranger player agrees with his teammate. Junior political science major, Scott Griffith feels there is a real advantage to playing intramural sports. "You get to have fun with your fellow students without having to worry about serious commitments, like organized athletics, said the Rangers second baseman.

Coached by Bruce Rellar, the Rangers are facing some tough competition from their fellow students. Griffith feels this is because "our team isn't that experienced when it comes to softball, so we'll struggle against any team we face." But that is the beauty of intramural sports. There is no anxiety about what the team's record is when everyone is out there to have fun. Newell feels this is how "sports are supposed to be."

Players who aren't out there to have fun are posed with the threat of being thrown out of the game. According to the sportsmanship procedures, players may be ejected for a number of unruly conducts. These include the use of profanity, argumentation with an official, or use of derogatory remarks toward an opponent or official. These rules keep the game running smoothly and ensure the players are there to have a good time.

If you'd like to support the intramural softball leagues in their quest for victory, head to the intramural softball fields located behind the residential village. The co-ed teams play their games every Monday, while the men's teams have their games every Thursday. (Times and detailed schedules can be found on the campus recreation Web site, www.nku.edu/~camprec/intramurals). Intramural sports need encouragement too, so come out and show your support this spring.

Athletes of the year

By Elias Hajjar/Sports Editor

Michelle Cottrell

- NCAA Division II Bulletin Player of the Year
- GLVC Player of the Year
- Most Outstanding Player of the Great Lakes Regional
- NKU All-Time Scoring Leader

Craig Sanders

- NKU All-Time Scoring Leader
- NKU All-Time Three-Point Record Holder
- Record Holder for Most Consecutive Games Scoring in Double Figures with 47

Recruits to aid Norse

By Bruce A. Reller, Jr.
Assistant Sports Writer

The Northern Kentucky University basketball teams recently acquired some new recruits to help with their programs next season.

The NKU women's basketball program announced the signing of 5'11" forward Sharell Snardon, who is a senior at Louisville Male High School. Snardon averaged 16.5 points and 10 rebounds per game for Louisville Male this past season and played on the Kentucky All-Star Team.

"Sharell is very athletic. She runs the floor very well. She is a big addition to our program," NKU head coach Nancy Winstel said. "She's a post player; she'll take people to the basket."

Winstel went on to say that they are very fortunate to sign Snardon, because she was recruited by a number of schools. "We recruited her hard all year. In the long run, it paid off for us. She wants to play for a winning program."

The Norse will have two starting post positions open next season with the departure of Michelle Cottrell and Dana Schubeler. Snardon might be able to fill the void with one of the positions.

"She will contribute early in the post. We'll also be getting Connie (Myers) back, and they will compete for those positions," Winstel said.

The NKU women's basketball program will probably sign at least one more recruit during the off-season, and hopefully they will be able to continue their string of winning seasons next year.

The NKU men's basketball program also recently signed an outstanding recruit in 6'4" forward Kevin Reinhardt, a senior at Campbell County High School. Reinhardt averaged 23 points and 10 rebounds per game this past season and finished his career with over 1,800 points.

NKU men's head coach Ken Shields said that the basketball program is always trying to bring in some of the best Northern Kentucky players to their team and the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Reinhardt was no exception, because he is a very solid player. He even competed in the Kentucky-Ohio All-Star game a few weeks ago.

"Reinhardt is a very hard worker. He plays more on a perimeter and plays with his face to the basket. He can shoot the three and he plays deep and is strong," Shields said.

Shields said that Reinhardt will probably play at the four position next season because of his height and overall strength. "He is predominantly a three, but he will stack up. He is a nice addition and he has had a fine career."

The Norse also have a commitment from 6'6" forward Brian Lewin, a senior from Covington Catholic High School. Lewin recently played on the 9th All-Region Team. "He is a very good player. We're excited about that. He is strong, and he had an illustrious career. They are both fine prospects," Shields said.

Kevin Schappell was the first recruit signed by the men's program back in the fall. He averaged 20 points a game this past year at Loveland High School and is another solid basketball player.

Both NKU basketball teams have had success in recruiting in the past and it looks like it will stay that way for years to come. The Norse play in one of the top conferences in Division II, and their players help them compete among the best teams around.

Want to join the Northerner? Stop up at UC 209.

Poole makes fast recovery

Elias Hajjar
Sports Editor

Not only is junior soccer player Mike Poole quick left-midfielder; he's a quick healer.

Four months after crushing his diaphragm in a near-fatal car accident, Poole is back and ready to play soccer for the Norse again. He wasn't supposed to be ready until the fall season.

"I went to two doctors and they both said I was clear to play this spring," said Poole. "My surgeon said all I needed was a little physical therapy and I would be as good as new."

The same surgeon who on Jan. 12, repaired the four-inch gash in Poole's diaphragm and moved it back in place.

Poole spent the last month going to physical therapy twice a week for almost two hours. Therapists had him doing shoulder exercises, and stomach stretches to strengthen his scar tissue and stomach muscles.

"Before physical therapy my stomach was really sore and tight. Whenever I tried to sprint or take a shot, I could feel my stomach tearing," Poole said. "Now I feel back to normal, but out of shape."

Poole's return to the team this spring couldn't have come at a better time. The team was playing one man short because only 13 players were eligible for the spring, but with Poole's return, things are looking better.

"I think the team was glad to see me back and doing ok," Poole said. "Almost all the guys visited me at the hospital and they were afraid it would take me a long time to get back on the field."

"We were very glad to see Mike practicing this spring," said Bobby Pifer, a forward on the men's team. "When he was in the accident, we were all worried that he wouldn't get back to normal and he wouldn't be able to play soccer anymore. Now it is just a great feeling to see him back so soon.

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OTHER NEWS

Northern Kentucky University

Professor teaches American culture in Japan

By Cheryl Ritchie
Notherner Contributor

A prestigious award was sent to a Northern Kentucky University professor to teach in Japan. Dr. Michael Washington, director of Afro-American studies, applied for and won a Fulbright Fellowship Award.

Applicants could choose one of three places they wanted to go and provide their services. Washington's first choice was to go to Japan and lecture at two Universities. He replied that he had accepted the award and went to lecture in Japan the fall semester of 2001-02.

After winning the award Washington said, "I was elated."

Washington taught at Tokyo Woman Christ University, also know as Tokyo Joshi Daiagaku. He lectured under the British and United States Department. He taught two classes; African American History and African American Culture. He taught all of his classes in the English language.

Washington also taught at Kyoritsu Woman University, also know as Kyoritsu Joshi Daiagaku. He lectured in the International division of the college. Here he taught in an African American Culture class. Washington's son, Junior, sent the class some contemporary rap music to listen to.

Washington was the first African American to teach at both universities. He said that his students were fascinated by the experience and they really enjoyed the class.

"I learned a lot about the Japanese University system," Washington said. "It is very difficult to get into college in Japan."

Washington said that once you are in college it is not considered to be as difficult as college in the United States. Japanese students are only in class one day a week. Classes last 90 minutes and one student may take up to 15 classes. The average student usually takes 10 classes, Washington said. Students have to take these classes all year.

Washington was only with the class one semester but the class will continue all year. The universities receive four Albright professors during the year.

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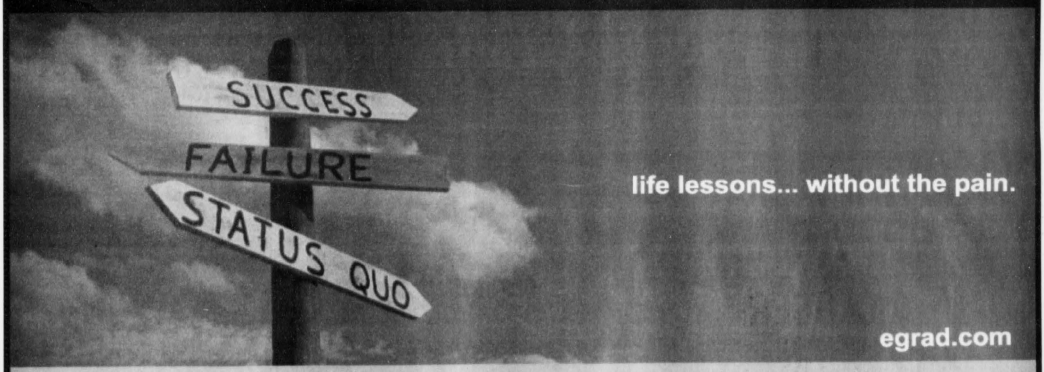

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