



Is the new release by My Chemical Romance worth buying?

See page 9

Homes built as part of relief effort



Photograph contributed by Student Life
Students work together on April 1 to build house frames, which were sent to the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast.

By Gabe Cronon

Staff Writer

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Northern Kentucky University students gathered in the parking lot of Eastside Christian Church in Milford, Ohio, April 1 to build enough frames to construct 20 houses bound for the Katrina-damaged Gulf Coast Region. The event, organized by Help Build Hope, a non-profit agency collaborating with Habitat for Humanity, is designed to connect disaster-struck families with communities across the nation.

No experience in construction required for the

volunteer framers; only a 20-minute informational session, a tool belt and the desire to build Theta Phi Alpha president Ashley Scholl said, "Working at Help Build Hope was an experience I will never forget. So many people came together, and it felt wonderful knowing that in some way a few hours of work could change the lives of 20 families forever." Theta Phi Alpha wasn't the only student organization to take part; Norse Leadership Society, Freshman Service Leadership Committee, Alpha Tau Omega, Delta Gamma, Delta Zeta,

Presidential Ambassadors, Student Government and Tau Kappa Epsilon helped contribute more than 200 NKU students.

Throughout the process there were local carpenters and craftsmen to guide the students. Participants assembled small sections of frames separated by colors and numbers. Those small pieces assembled created a wall and those walls were loaded onto trucks for transportation and construction at the future homes site in and surrounding New Orleans. Once the frames arrive at their destinations, volunteers from Habitat for Humanity will erect the

homes. Participants were able to write prayers, wishes and notes of encouragement on the completed frames, which served as giant best wishes cards to the families receiving the home.

The event was originally scheduled to occur in three time periods but the third time period was cancelled because all 20 frames were completed early. Stephanie McGoldrick, NKU student life program coordinator said, "The success of the event speaks in the time in which the frames were completed and the hundreds of students who participated."

Proposed budget gives \$61 million

By Gabe Cronon

Staff Writer

northernner@nku.edu

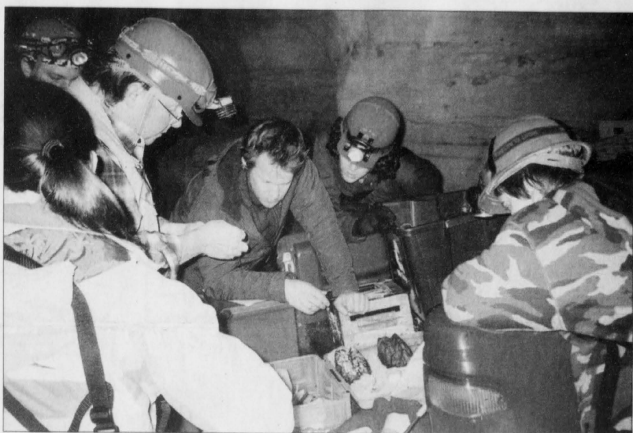
Northern Kentucky University will see a dramatic increase in funding, buildings and bonds if the newest version of the 2007-2008 state budget makes its way through the legislature and is signed into law by Gov. Ernie Fletcher.

Included in the tentative budget is \$35.5 million for building the Center for Informatics, a new residence hall, and an expansion to Norse Commons. The budget issues bonds for the second phase of construction to the Student Union and a new parking garage adjacent to the Bank of Kentucky Center. It also includes road improvement/expansion funds for John's Hill Road and the construction of a connector road from Three Mile

Road to the AA Highway. General university funding increases of \$1.4 million in 2007 and \$5.7 million in 2008 is also included in the over \$61 million allotment for NKU.

"In terms of dollars and new commitments, this is the largest budget for education since 1990. It is a historic measure," said a spokesman for Speaker of the House Jody Richards. Kentucky teachers will also see salary increases if the budget passes. "For the first time, a plan is in place to raise the salary of Kentucky teachers to the level of the 11 surrounding states," Richards' spokesman added. Richards and President of the Senate John Williams lead the conference committee that finalized the version of the budget March 31, Fort Thomas, Ky., Sen.

See BUDGET, page 2.



Photograph contributed by Dr. Kenneth Tankersley
In his goal of 'educating the public about how they can save the planet,' Tankersley has crawled through numerous caves and inched through spaces so tight he could feel the ceiling scraping his back.

Between a rock And a hard place

NKU professor's work airs on the National Geographic channel in Naked Science series

By Whitney Ross

Reporter

northernner@nku.edu

Dr. Kenneth Tankersley's documentary "Big Freeze" aired on the National Geographic channel on March 29 as part of the Naked Science series. This is nothing new for Tankersley, who has been teaching at Northern Kentucky University since fall 2002. In addition to his

National Geographic credits, he has had other films air on the Discovery Channel, BBC, Animal Planet and PBS.

After receiving his Ph.D. in anthropology, Tankersley went on to complete a four-year post-doctorate at the Quaternary Research Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He teaches anthropology classes at NKU with a focus on Native American studies.

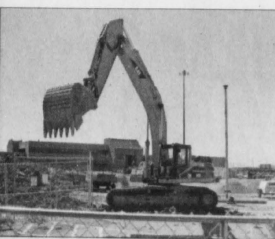
As a legally enrolled

Cherokee, most of his documentaries focus on the indigenous people and their relationship with Mother Nature. "My purpose is to make sure that the viewing public does not have a stereotype of the indigenous people of North America," he said. "I feel a responsibility to educate people about how they can help save the planet."

The creation of his films has less him around the world many times, crawling through

caves and climbing down the rocks of waterfalls. He talks about inching through tight spaces with the ceiling on his back and the walls on his sides. He ventures over deep pits and ledges he calls "slip-and-dies." In one instance, he had to jump from one ledge to another in full climbing gear. He made the jump, but then fell into a crevice, which led to him landing on the

See ROCK, page 2



Nicole Jones/Photo Editor

Construction crews continue to advance on the foundation work of the new Student Union, which is hoped to be completed in Spring 2008.

What's in a name?

Contest kicks off to re-name Lake Inforior

By Amy Bridewell

Reporter

northernner@nku.edu

Recent renovations to Lake Inforior have sparked a contest to re-name the lake, an initiative that disappoints at least one member of Northern Kentucky University's community.

"I believe it's an insult to those graduates of NKU who took serious pride in establishing the name and traditions of the lake," said Pam Taylor, a mathematics professor. According to Taylor, Lake Inforior acquired its name in the 1970s though a contest in The Northernner. The name of the lake resulted

from the student body and named by a majority vote.

Now the Student Government Association (SGA) and the NKU Alumni Association are sponsoring a contest where students, faculty, staff and alumni can submit proposals to rename the lake.

"It is newly renovated and the new renovations deserve a new name," said SGA University Improvements Chairman Katie Brodbeck said. The goal is to connect people and have them feel like they have left a little piece behind when they leave NKU, she said.

Taylor said she's disheartened because more of NKU's history will be

rubbed away when the lake is renamed. Some

of the traditions Taylor remembers are already abandoned, such as the rites of spring activities that included tugs-of-war across the lake.

The renovations of Lake Inforior have increased the lake's size and added walkways, a bridge and waterfalls; everything is set to open later this spring.

"There is now a new look and feel to the lake area, and the SGA and others have wanted to start naming things that represent the uniqueness of NKU," Dean of Students Kent Kelson

See NAME, page 2

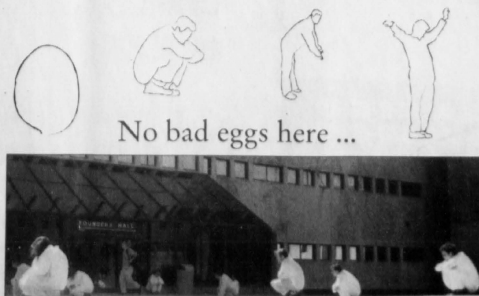


Illustration by Josh Jacob

Amy Ehrenreiter/Photographer

Students participating in Foundations Design II kneel on the pavement outside Founder's Hall April 4, pretending to be eggs, which was one student's artistic vision while directing the class. When she began clapping, the class grew into trees. Professor Marty Meersman teaches the course and says he brings the students outside where they are the artistic material.

Budget *Continued from page one*

and President pro tempore Katie Kratz Stine also served on the committee.

President James Votruba said, "I am very pleased and optimistic with the support of the legislature, the Northern Kentucky caucus and the leaders of both the House and the Senate. This is a good budget, a strong budget."

The final version of the bill formed by conference committee has some instrumental Northern Kentucky support. In the House, Dennis Keane "was a key leader in getting the informatics building into the budget," Votruba said. In the Senate,

Katie Kratz Stine "was instrumental in keeping it [Center for Informatics] in the budget," he also said.

Representative Keane said he was, "Very happy the House was able to restore full funding for the Center for Informatics."

The new version of the budget is the third draft, costing almost \$18 billion, and is a collaborative effort of the leaders in the House and Senate. The budget is still not official and must now be approved through both the House and the Senate. From there, it will go to the governor for final approval.

The budget is not clear of

obstacles yet. Final negotiations for community projects are continuing and some issues still exist over the state's overall credit rating after issuing so many bonds. Keane said, "I am concerned about the state's bond rating. You have to be fiscally responsible." The budget also accesses some of the state's rainy day funds, but an exact number has not been released to the public yet. Votruba remains optimistic, saying, "The funding is in the proposed budget and likely to stay in the final budget." Final word will come in the near future; the legislature is scheduled to vote April 10.

Rock *Continued from page one*

cameraman below. Dr. Charlotte Neely, director of Native American Studies, works with Tankersley and gets to see him exemplify the traditions of his culture.

"Everything about Ken embodies the traditional Native American value system of extreme generosity and putting others before himself," she said. What many people don't realize, she said, is the money used to bring several American Indian speakers and performers to NKU comes from Tankersley personally. "Ken is one of the best professors at NKU," she said. "He cares deeply about his students and is constantly taking up NKU."

Whenever Tankersley appears in a

documentary, his name and "Northern Kentucky University" display on the bottom of the screen.

Lecturer Michael Simonton, who teaches in the anthropology department, has known Tankersley since he started at NKU and is impressed by his dedication to his work, both inside and outside the classroom. "I never have known someone so dedicated to so many different things," he said. "He has done everything, and his experience enhances the learning experience [for the students]."

Tankersley is currently working on his next documentary in which he explores the lives of the indigenous people in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

Name *Continued from page one*

said. He said he hopes the lake ends up with a name that reflects upon NKU as the "Norse." "This is another step, along with the new mascot, where we are beginning to establish some history, pride and traditions around our Norse theme," Kelso said.

Suggested lake names are being accepted through April 14. Brodbeck recommended that an explanation of 100 words or less accompany each

proposal and should explain the significance of the name and how it represents NKU.

After all entries are submitted, the lake-naming committee will vote on the top five names and post them on NKU's Web site. The NKU community can vote on the top five names from April 24 to May 5.

The name receiving the most votes will need to be approved by President James Votruba and the Board of

Regents before becoming the official name of the lake.

The winner of the contest will receive a \$250 gift certificate to the NKU bookstore and the top five names will receive \$20 gift certificates to the bookstore.

The winner of the lake will be announced at the lake dedication which is anticipated to take place next spring.



Nicole Jones/Photo Editor
Junior marketing and Spanish major Tara Rich stops to check out the Enterprise Rent-A-Car booth at the Job Expo April 4.

SGA hopefuls contend image needs to change

By Joseph Sydlowski
Opinion Editor
northerner@nku.edu

Paul Myers announced his candidacy for president of the student body on March 4, laying out his plan to create a new student lobbying organization, a student government that represents students and an altogether better Northern Kentucky University.

"Student representation needs to represent students," Myers, a member of NKU Students First, said, criticizing the Student Government Association for not seriously

examining NKU's academics.

He also fears that many do not give some groups, such as international or black students, the respect they deserve and become marginalized. "Their voice isn't heard as it should be," Myers said.

Joshua Kinney is running alongside him for the office of executive vice president and shares his concerns, including the rising cost of tuition.

"It's inevitable," Kinney said about the increase, but he praised NKU President James Votruba, saying, "I'm glad he got it into the single digits."

Myers agreed that the cost

must go up, saying that inflation forces the university to raise its price. However, he still sees the increase as excessive. "Inflation is only 4 or 5 percent more. But we've had double-digit increases," Myers said, noting that he hopes state funding will replace the tuition hikes. Myers also hopes to replace the image of SGA as the eyes of the student body.

Michael Tobertga has noticed that some students, even some SGA members, feel that SGA "is just a joke."

But Tobertga and Myers hope to change that. They

also hope, with the help of the student lobbyists, to change what they see as unfair tuition hikes and the biased plus-minus grading system.

Kinney said that a lobbying organization could be formed by getting "personal" with students. He intends to put up fliers as well as talk to students individually. "You gain friends that way who'll support you," Kinney said.

Tobertga thinks the students are ready and willing to build such an organization, but haven't yet because they "don't have the leaders."

Liz Osborne, who is cam-

paigning for vice president of public relations, plans to educate NKU about its student government. "Do you know who SGA is? You will after I'm done," Osborne said.

The recent construction and resultant obstruction also concern Osborne, who worries that some students may be cut off from certain parts of campus. She mentioned one friend who could not reach the Albright Health Center after construction blocked all handicapped paths.

"She could have sued NKU," Osborne said.

All candidates expressed

disapproval for the plus-minus grading system.

"It hurts the honors program," Osborne said, adding that it "only helps 'C' and 'D' students."

Kinney understands that the new system will raise the grades of average students. But that doesn't justify it, especially as NKU students "have all these resources to improve their grades."

"I'd like to ask them why they get low grades," Kinney said. The Student Government Association elections will be held on April 12 and April 13.

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NO ARMY OF ONE

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Student Government Association and the Alumni Association are holding a contest for the naming of the newly renovated lake.

Submit your suggestions at

http://www.libertastechnologies.com/nku_lake_naming/ by April 14.

Top FIVE names will be voted on by NKU Students, Faculty, Staff and Alumni from April 21 - May 5.

Questions? Contact Brodbeck@nku.edu or 513.470.8171

Section Editor
Audrey Kunkel
& Amanda Joering
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Wednesday
April 5, 2006
Edition 37, Issue 11

3

Lost Cause Review 'a practice in debate'

By Amanda Joering
Assistant News Editor
joeringa@nku.edu

Students interested in publicly debating social and political issues will soon have a new venue to do so on Northern Kentucky University's campus. Student publication *The Lost Cause Review* has been in and out of commission since the 1970s, and editors are working to release an issue before the end of this

semester.

"The campus is becoming more civically minded and political," said student co-editor Alex Kindell. "The *Lost Cause's* time really is now."

According to Assistant English professor Dr. Chris Wilkey, the review's faculty advisor, the publication isn't going to be like a student newspaper and will be more like a political and social commentary. The review will "give students practice in how to debate complicated contro-

versal issues in ways that are productive," Wilkey said.

The review is returning to publication due to the demand from many people, according to Kindell. "The campus climate is at such a critical mass with all the social and political issues going on that students need a responsible way to get their voices heard," Kindell said.

This "responsible way" to voice opinions is something that NKU's campus is lacking, according to Kindell.

Co-editor Dan Cheeseman said he also hopes the review will serve the purpose of informing students about these controversial issues happening on campus. "One of the problems on campus is if you are not aware of things going on, you can't comment on them," Cheeseman said.

According to Cheeseman student involvement on campus is critical to its success, so a goal of the review is to "push people's mental capacity and challenge them to get

involved with their community and their campus."

Co-editors Kindell and Cheeseman are both active members in the campus' student organization Students Together Against Racism (STAR). Wilkey, the review's faculty advisor, is also the faculty advisor of STAR.

Though the same people involved in STAR are those who are in charge of the review, Wilkey stressed that it will not be a biased publication. "That's one thing I want-

ed to make clear: this is not a propaganda piece for STAR. It's an opportunity for anyone to debate issues," Wilkey said. "I want good, productive, respectful, ethical discussions over these issues."

The review is currently accepting articles at thelostcause@nku.edu from any student interested in expressing his opinion about any issue. If enough articles are received in time, the review will be published in the last two weeks of this semester.



The following reports were filed with the Northern Kentucky Police Department between the dates of March 29 and April 2.

Wednesday, March 29

9:15 a.m. Matthew Schultz, 18, of Villa Hills, Ky., failed to slow down or stop at a stop sign at Kenton and Carroll drives. Schultz was issued a Kentucky State Citation for disregarding a stop sign and given a verbal warning for speeding.

12:10 p.m. Medical assistance was requested for a subject in the BEP building. Subject was transported to St. Luke

Hospital East for evaluation and treatment.

12:10 p.m. Subject reported lost 2006 NKU Parking Pass.

3:27 p.m. Subject reported lost 2006 NKU Parking Pass.

6:41 p.m. Anna Harrod, 20, of Highland Heights, Ky., was cited and served at 415 Johns Hill Road with a Criminal Misdemeanor issued by the Owen County District Court.

Thursday, March 30

4:13 p.m. Subject reported lost 2006 NKU Parking Pass.

6:59 p.m. Subject reported a window had been broken in

Commonwealth Hall.

Friday, March 31

1:26 a.m. Jason Rowland, 21, of Highland Heights, Ky., ran a traffic light at Nunn and University drives. The strong odor of marijuana was detected from the vehicle and a request to search the vehicle was accepted. One subject was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana. Rowland was issued a Kentucky State Citation and lodged in the Campbell County Jail.

10:36 a.m. Subject reported lost 2006 NKU Parking Pass.

11:33 a.m. Subject reported

stolen iPod from a vehicle parked in the Norse Commons Circle.

7:34 p.m. A smoke alarm was detected from University Suites. The alarm was caused by over-cooked food.

Saturday, April 1

1:05 a.m. Ricky Jones Jr., 20, of Florence, Ky.; David Dickinson, 19, of Brooksville, Ind.; Andrea Smallwood, 19, of Hamilton, Ohio; and Sean Plumm, 19, of Hamilton, Ohio, were found in the possession of alcohol in Norse Hall. All were issued Kentucky State Citations for possession of alcohol by a minor.

2:05 a.m. Sean Cobb, 19, of Fort Thomas, Ky., was issued a Kentucky State Citation for possession of alcohol by a minor.

2:05 a.m. Justin Haubner, 18, of Georgetown, Ky., and Ryan Rowlett, 19, of West Harrison, Ind., were issued a Kentucky State Citations for possession of alcohol by a minor.

Sunday, April 2

1:48 a.m. Brian Good, 33, of Harrison, Ky., was issued a Kentucky State Citation for operating a vehicle on a suspended driver's license.

nkubriefly

Rick Bass visits NKU
Rick Bass, a fiction and nature writer, will attend NKU's Friends of W. Frank Steely Library's Earth Day celebration April 22.

The series will begin with a dinner at 6 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom followed by a reading in the Eva G. Farris Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$35

individually or \$280 for a table of eight. The reading alone costs \$15 per person. For more information, please contact Angie Gabbard at (859) 572-5810.

Hiring techniques training to be held April 5

A training session on the use of hiring techniques for upper-level leadership will

be held April 5 at 10 a.m. in Lucas Administrative Center room 722. Dr. Mark Wasiesko, the Bank of Kentucky endowed chair for the College of Education and Human Services, will be leading the session. R.S.V.P. to allend@nku.edu.

National Alcohol Screen Day to be held April 6

Health Counseling and Prevention Services will be having the National Alcohol Screen Day April 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in University Center room 303.

National Alcohol Screen Day gives students a chance to assess their drinking habits with a counselor in confidence. Students and the campus community receive free

counseling. For more information, contact Karen Bolte at (859) 572-6640 or e-mail at bolteka@nku.edu.

A free alcohol screening is available at www.nku.edu/~hcp/.

Educators for Reproductive Freedom meeting to be held April 7

Educators for Reproductive

Freedom will have a brown-bag meeting April 7 at noon in University Center room 11.

Kristie Marcelle from Planned Parenthood of Southwest Ohio will discuss the state of reproductive rights in Ohio.

R.S.V.P. to Stephanie Baker at (859) 572-1378 or bakers@nku.edu

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viewpoints



Leftists disagree also

The division over immigration crosses party lines

The conventional wisdom that immigration reform splits the Republican Party is correct, but less understood is that the issue does the same thing to the Democratic coalition, too.

In fact, looking below the surface, it's clear that in terms of public opinion, the socioeconomic divide is greater than the partisan one.

Part of the reason for this misconception is that the Republican in-party fight is much more public. President Bush and many of his congressional allies are clearly split on the issue.

Since Democrats hold neither the White House nor Congress they are less in the media spotlight. And these days, with Bush's lousy poll numbers, the Democratic game plan is to keep quiet and let their political enemies hang themselves.

But a survey of voter attitudes toward various immigration proposals shows that self-identified Democratic voters have similar divisions on the issue to their GOP brethren. And the opposition of the AFL-CIO to "guest worker" legislation advocated by many Democratic leaders shows this schism.

Simply put, the split in American politics over immigration, much as it is on questions about international trade, is sharpest along socioeconomic lines.

The more educated and affluent people are, regardless of whether they are a Democrat, Republican or independent, the less they are inclined to see the need for immigration reform solely to toughen laws and beef up security.

That's the message from a Quinnipiac University poll of almost 2,000 U.S. voters released in March. The size of the sample — almost double the typical 1,000 person national sample — allows analysis of differences along socioeconomic and political lines.

On virtually every immigration question, Democrats are less likely than Republicans or independents to back "get-tough" measures. But on most questions, the difference along party lines is smaller than they are within members of the same party.

When asked if legal immigration should be kept steady, increased or decreased, 32 percent of Republicans and independents and 35 percent of Democrats favor the status quo.

But analyzing the numbers by party and education shows a different story. Among Republicans with a high school degree or less, 30 percent want to keep immigration at its present level, as do 34 percent of similarly educated Democrats.

Overall, 21 percent of Republicans and 26 percent of Democrats want an increase in immigration. But that 5 point split is less than half the 13-point gap between Democrats with high school educations (18 percent) and those with college degrees (31 percent). The Republican in-party split is 5 points — 17 percent among the least educated and 12 percent among the most educated.

Asked whether Congress should change the law to make it easier for illegal immigrants to become legal workers, the same pattern appears.

There is a 7-point difference in support between Democrats and Republicans — 44 percent to 37 percent. But among Republicans the gap in support between those with a high school diploma or less and a college degree is only 12 points — 30 percent to 42

percent. Among Democrats, the difference is 22 points — 36 percent among those with high school education compared to 58 percent among those with college degrees.

Presumably, the politicians understand these differences more than the journalists who have created the incomplete conventional wisdom. But the implications of the numbers should not be lost on anyone thinking about running for political office.

The works orchestrated by groups opposing legislation that would beef up border enforcement and make it more difficult for those without documents to work or stay in the United States illegally, obscure the widespread public support for such steps.

That is obviously one of the reasons why the prospects for any real change in U.S. immigration policy becoming law this year are slim. But another is that the schism the issue creates in American politics is on both sides of the political aisle.

Peter A. Brown
KRT
northerner@nku.edu

npr

norse poll responses

Compiled by
Nicole Jones

Do you think professors overload students with work and tests in the last month?



Bryan Graham Junior, Philosophy

"Not individually... but if all your classes do the same thing then collectively yes."



Marie Teed Senior, Accounting

"Yes, I think they want to meet the requirements."



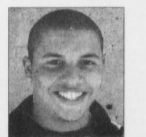
Carmela Corbin Junior, Criminal Justice

"They do overload us with tests. All tests seem to be on the same day."



Bobbie Tickner Junior, Criminal Justice

"No, most of the instructors go light on the students in general."



Michael Carver Freshman, Communications

"Not really. I feel they give me the same amount of work."



Thom Snowden Senior, English

"No, because they were students at one time so they understand."

Keep your friends close

Bush doesn't reward loyalty among his assistants

The price of loyalty in the Bush II White House is astronomical. Smart, dedicated people, some who had served presidents and held other government posts, inevitably become playthings for a president with the world as his sandbox.

For President Bush it was fun. For the staff it was exasperation. And for the one who got the most informed and entertained.

A weight seemed to lift off Andy Card's shoulders when the president announced Card's resignation and Josh Bolton as his "replacement."

Card did what most of them did in that sandbox. When the dullard son of a powerful daddy told them to jump, they asked, "How high?"

The price of loyalty in the Bush II White House is one dignity and reputation. With friends like Bush-Cheney, who needs enemies? Just ask Richard and Clark, or Paul O'Neill or Christie Todd Whitman or Colin Powell, etc.

This administration's voracious appetite for endlessly cannibalizing its friends is astounding. Many of the loyalists so disposed have been Republicans faithful to the president, if not his beliefs. Now there's Andy Card.

There are horse whisperers and dog whisperers. Andy

Card was a president whisperer. On Sept. 11, 2001, Card whispered into the president's ear to interrupt a meeting with schoolchildren.

Card says that he told Bush that a second plane had struck the World Trade Center. Bush didn't react for seven minutes, and the Secret Service didn't immediately whisk him to safety.

Card said Bush didn't react quicker because he "didn't want to introduce fear into any of these young children or through the national media to the American people." It's a wonderful fairy tale.

Card is the go-to guy. He's the one you go to when you want to get to the president. He was also Karl Rove's boss, although Rove's influence exceeded Card's.

Ironically, Bush's chief of staff was an outsider, a moderate Republican from Massachusetts who was pro-choice and the husband of a minister. But he was handpicked by the first Bush for the job, because Card says he served at the pleasure of the president, he really means the father, not the son.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan's bruises are evident. He rightly gets roughed up at press briefings. But Card's scars are hidden.

The press is kind to him, but the White House hasn't always been. He referred sparingly to Karen Hughes, who sought to promote a kinder-gentler president, and Rove, who wanted a raw-meat kind of guy.

Card is leaving just as Patrick Fitzgerald's Plamegate probe is going into hyper drive in scandal and disarray. Both the president and vice president lost their chiefs of staff in the second term.

At least Card left under better circumstances than Scooter Libby, caught in Fitzgerald's grand jury probe.

But just because he will soon be out of the White House doesn't necessarily mean Card is out of hot water.

We already know that Antonio Gonzalez, then-White House counsel, contended that he told Card about the pending Justice Department probe of Plamegate. There was at least a 12-hour delay before White House staffers were told they should "preserve all materials" pertinent to the investigation. If Enron or WorldCom had this kind of advance notice, the shredders would have worked overtime.

Card doesn't seem the type to write a tell-all book, like Clarke, or tell some book like

Whitman. He's less likely to have someone write for him, as O'Neill did through journalist Ron Suskind. It was Suskind whom Card said had misinterpreted him in an infamous 2002 Esquire article on Hughes' departure from the White House.

Suskind wrote that Card thought Bush looked on as if a year-old's needing his father's protection. As chief of staff, Card was nanny to our Daddy Dearest.

"The president has to have time to eat, sleep and be merry, or he'll make angry, grumpy decisions," Card said in a radio interview. "So I have to make sure he has time to eat, sleep and be merry. But I also have to make sure he has the right time to do the right thing for the country and that he gets the right information in time, rather than too late."

Information about terror strikes like Hurricane Katrina and Dubai port deals come to mind.

The price of a good chessboard is \$3. The value of Card's loyalty and insight: priceless.

Rhonda Chris Lokeman
Kansas City Star
KRT
northerner@nku.edu



campuscalendar

Wednesday

- Howorth Blood Drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the U.C. Ballroom.
- Phi Sigma Sigma's Rock-A-Thon at 10 a.m. in the U.C. April 5 & 6. Proceeds benefit National Kidney Foundation from 11:30 to 1 p.m. on the second floor of the U.C.
- Texas-Hold 'Em from 6 to 9 p.m. in the University Suites Lobby. Buy-in is \$6.
- Zeta Phi Beta Seminar: "Let's Be Blunt" at 7 p.m. in the Budget Theatre.

Thursday

- Rape Aggression Defense Class from 6 to 9 p.m. in U.C. 403.
- Elise Shwaller Music Faculty Concert at 8 p.m. in Graves Hall. Event Charge \$5 General Admission \$3 NKU Students, Faculty, Staff and Seniors.
- Delta Gamma Anchor Splash from 8 to 11 p.m. in the Albright Health Center.

Friday

- W.E. Body Image Fair from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the U.C.

To include the event you're planning in the calendar, contact Reagan Coomer at coomer@nku.edu, or call The Northerner at 572-3859.

Classifieds

Career

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ARIES (March 21-April 20)

Quick hunches will now reveal unexpected career doubts. Long term business plans and relations with new authority figures may be a continuing theme over the next six days. Revised workplace roles, although unconventional, will eventually offer meaningful results: stay focused and, if possible, avoid public debate.

TAURUS (April 21-May 20)

Building standards, last minute cancellations and time sensitive documents will now require willful determination. Finalize all agreements before Thursday, and expect loved ones to ask for special permissions concerning home improvements, financial changes or large purchases. Carefully study all paperwork: minor errors or omissions may trigger disputes. GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Budgets, spending habits and family expectations will now inspire public debate. After Tuesday, expect family members or close roommates to openly question the needs or restrictions of others. Avoid bold statements or sudden reversals: predictable attitudes and trusted habits will bring the desired results. CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Passionate romantic overtures and potential love affairs are highlighted over the next eight days. Some Cancerians may now contemplate a dramatic lifestyle change or a sudden reversal of commitments. After Wednesday, close friends and relatives will express deeply

felt opinions; remain confident and expect ongoing family support. Later this week, a controversial financial promise may rearprpear.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Lovers and friends may now feel unusually drained by workplace politics or financial concerns. Over the next five days, cancelled social plans and revised job deadlines may require added patience. If possible, find time to explore cozy activities in the home: familiar comforts and quiet discussions will help restore confidence.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

A new attraction may now complicate a long-term relationship: over the next few days, expect lovers and close friends to no longer silently wait for your attention or approval. After Wednesday, romantic tensions are again on the rise: watch for passionate disagreements, fast proposals and a rekindled awareness of sensuality.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Financial discussions will now bring clarity to family disagreements. Before mid-week, someone close may wish to explore added expenses, controversial spending habits or continuing home renovations. Compare notes, dates and facts in the coming weeks; loved ones will easily agree to revised budgets, large purchases and new payment schedules.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Respond honestly to the comments or suggestions of loved ones this week. At present, friends or romantic

partners may be unusually sensitive to feelings of abandonment or isolation. Offer support but avoid nostalgic or lengthy discussions: this is not the right time to reflect on broken promises or painful memories.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Moody relatives or family friends may this week temporarily disrupt daily social plans. Business disappointment, workplace criticism or cancelled financial permissions may be an underlying influence. Remain patient and provide a cheerful response in the coming weeks, a clear discussion of priorities will help improve trust in key relationships.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

Group approval is now vital to the success of new relationships. Long-term friends or lovers may this week challenge the romantic invitations or social aspirations of others. Over the next three days, minor facts and comments will be accepted

as truth: remain quietly detached and, if possible, avoid revised plans or controversial suggestions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

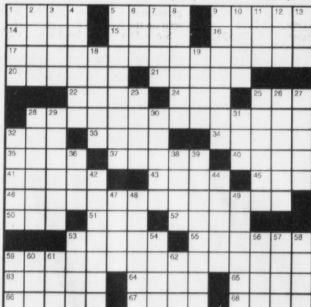
Business records and financial paperwork may now cause unexpected delays. Check legal documents for written errors. Some Aquarians, especially those born between January 26th and February 8th, will also encounter a cancelled application or the quick reversal of workplace assignments. Remain attentive to small details: your integrity will soon be proven.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Loaves and long-term friends may this week require added support concerning relations with older colleagues, workplace disagreements and rare financial mistakes. Provide detailed advice: Your past business experience and social wisdom will prove extremely helpful. After mid-week, a new era of romantic intimacy begins.

Crossword

"The Daily Crossword" Edited by Wayne Robert Williams (KRT)



Across

- Explorer Tasman
- State backdrops
- January in Oaxaca
- Arias for one
- Criminal, to a cop
- Sub tender
- Banks
- King of the Visigoths
- Tourney type
- Old wives
- Smugly
- Appropriate
- Banks
- Roman household god
- Munro in print
- Colone's insignia
- Herakle border
- Wanted in Nevada
- North Carolina school
- Long, thin ridge
- Felipe or Moises of
- UFO personnel
- Banks
- Observe
- Inmate, briefly
- Blue dye
- Select few
- Sons of Daedalus
- Banks
- Apocryphic weights
- Pugilist's garb
- Give off
- Concave
- Bro's bro
- Impertinence

Down

- Movie pooch
- Heat to vaporization
- Names of old films
- Metric units
- Keyboard feature
- Hollow ending?
- Golf hazard
- Staircase type
- One on the lam
- Par for the course
- Due in "Bambi"
- Brit. Ryboys
- Table scrap
- Boxcars in Vegas
- Patriot Betsy
- For Pete's...
- Fisherman
- Cockpit anchors
- Time between 12 & 20
- "Peter Pan" author
- Actress Dahl
- Purple hue
- "Norma..."
- Burns around
- Airport info
- Ends of small intestines
- Cooperates by tacit consent
- Fence in
- City on the Mohawk
- Hairsto
- Goes in
- Makes joyous
- Sallinger title
- "The Time Machine" people
- Capital of Italy
- "Battin Cry" writer
- Fast jets for short
- Vintenn letters
- OAS word
- Simple card game
- Decline time

Sudoku

© Puzzles by Pappocorn

No math skills required. Neurons a plus!

Here's a puzzle with numbers. Nothing has to add up to anything, eh. Yippie! Instead, you solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Where do you start solving a Sudoku puzzle? You can begin in any square, but one mistake early in the game and you'll be in a mess later. In each row, fill in the numbers one through nine (1-9) in any order without repeating any number. In each column do the same. Using the given numbers, fill in each three-by-three box with the correct answer. No number should be repeated in any row, column, or three-by-three box.

There is only one solution, and it can be reached

using logic. Guessing is not necessary!

An EASY puzzle (Neural Numbing May Occur) might take you half an hour the first time, but practice should lower your time. MEDIUM difficulty (Migraines Likely) will probably give you a headache.

On the other hand, if you were on death row scheduled for execution in the morning, and the guard told you if you solved a HARD puzzle (Risk of Brain Aneurism) your life would be spared - you'd probably die.

Solutions, tips, and computer program at www.sudoku.com. You can visit this Web site to practice, learn strategies, and improve your time.

Neural Numbing May Occur

2	5	3	6					
9	1	7	8	1	5			
3	4	6						
5				8	2	1	4	
	6	2						
8			4	3	2			
	3	8	1	5				

Answers to this week's crossword puzzle will be posted on The Northerner Web site at www.thenortherner.com.

Answers to this week's crossword puzzle will be posted on The Northerner Web site at www.thenortherner.com.

Norse softball splits weekend series

NKU women travel to Missouri and to and win two games against conference opponents

By Jami Patton

Contributor
northerner@nku.edu

Northern Kentucky University traveled to Rockhurst University April 1 where they split with the Great Lakes Valley Conference newcomers.

In the opener, the Norse rallied in the seventh inning, but couldn't get the win.

Within the first two innings, Lacey Johnson and Kourtney Burnett rounded up five runs for the Hawks.

In the top of the third, Ricki Rothbauer had an RBI-single to bring the score to 5-1. NKU finally decided to make some noise when it came to the seventh inning.

Pitcher Amanda Smith led off the rally with a single, then Katy-Beth Coode doubled to right field and scored the runner from first base. After Kara Lorenz doubled, Heather Cotner hit a two-run single.

The Norse managed to load the bases, but couldn't get the extra run to tie the game. Rockhurst took the win 5-4.

In the nightcap, the Norse took the lead in the third inning, but Burnett came back with a three-run homer, allowing the Hawks to lead 3-1.

In the fifth, NKU tied the game 3-3 with RBI hits from Smith and Lorenz. Shatona Campbell then had an RBI hit in the sixth to take the lead. Rockhurst

attempted to come back, but NKU held on to the lead winning 4-3.

Smith threw a four-hit shutout against the University of Missouri-Rolla in the opener April 2. A throwing error on a steal allowed the Norse to take the lead in the first inning.

NKU scored another run in the fifth, then sealed the win in the sixth. Sarah King and Cotner both had two RBIs to help take the win 6-0.

In the nightcap, the Norse struggled as UMR came out swinging away. Kandi Wieberg started the Miners' hitting parade with a solo homerun.

In the top of the second, Lorenz hit an RBI-single to bring the score to 2-1. NKU was down one run, but when the Miners came back up to bat, they continued to score and held NKU 2 runs.

In the second inning, UMR scored four times and in the bottom of the fourth, The Miners scored four more times including a two-run homer.

The Norse was losing 10-2. After a one hour and 47 minute rain delay, UMR scored three more runs and took the victory 13-2 over NKU in five innings.

The Norse is now 21-11 and 5-5 in the GLVC. NKU will take on Southern Illinois University Edwardsville at home, April 8 at noon.



Tim Downer/Photographer

The Norse are playing well following their historic season.

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

2006 SPRING ELECTIONS

Wednesday, April 12 & Thursday, April 13

NKU students will have the opportunity to **VOTE** for the following positions during the upcoming 2006 Student Government Association Spring Elections:

- ☒ President
- ☒ Executive Vice President
- ☒ Vice President of Public Relations
- ☒ Vice President of Student Involvement
- ☒ Vice President of Administration
- ☒ Senator (15 positions)
- ☒ Judicial Council (3 positions)

VOTE on-line from any computer on campus or from remote access on Wednesday, April 12 and Thursday, April 13 from 7:30am to 10:00pm. Computer stations located in the University Center lobby or Norse Commons lobby from 10am to 10pm on the election dates.



SGA ELECTION URL SITE: <http://elections.nku.edu/sga>

If you have any difficulty in **VOTING**, please contact the **Dean of Students Office, 346 University Center**, or by calling **859-572-5147**.

If you have any questions regarding the Student Government Association elections, please stop by the SGA office, UC 208, or call 859-572-5149.

NKU baseball team enjoying success

Team has won 14 of last 16 games to earn first place in the Great Lakes Valley Conference



A Norse baseball player makes a throw. *Stock photo.

Tim Downer/Photographer

Tuesday March 28

Saturday April 1

Kory Loneran collected four hits and four runs batted in Tuesday afternoon as the Northern Kentucky University baseball team swept a doubleheader at Southern Indiana.

Loneran went 2-for-4 and scored twice as NKU won the opener, 8-4. The Norse completed the sweep by posting a 5-1 victory in the nightcap as Loneran was 2-for-5 with three RBI.

Matt Wagers and Conor McGeehan each drove in two runs in the opener for NKU, which improved to 18-9-1 overall. The Norse are 16-5-1 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

NKU also gained sole possession of first place in the GLVC when Quincy was swept at Southern Illinois at Edwardsville. Southern Indiana dropped to 11-13 overall, 8-12 in the GLVC.

Chris Nann collected three hits, including a home run, in the first game. Jim Volpe added two hits and scored two runs for NKU in the opener, while Josh Bruns notched the win by going six innings and scattering eight hits.

In the nightcap, Matt Winterhalter struck out six batters in seven innings as NKU coasted to the sweep. The Norse struck for three runs in the third inning and added two insurance scores in the ninth.

Brian DeCarlo was 2-for-4 with two runs scored, while Jon Back scored twice. Kenny Wilson picked up two stolen bases for the Norse and has swiped a team-leading 17 bases this season.

Matt Marksby picked up a complete-game victory in the opener as Northern Kentucky University defeated Rockhurst, 4-2, on Sunday.

Marksby, a junior right-hander, scattered nine hits and did not walk a batter to improve to 3-1 this season. He allowed just one earned run and finished with three strikeouts.

Jim Volpe was 3-for-3 for the Norse, and Chris Nann added two hits. NKU built a 3-0 lead and overcame three errors to post the win.

In the nightcap, Rockhurst rallied from a 4-1 deficit to knock off NKU, 8-5. Jon Back led the Norse with three hits, while Chris Wilson knocked in a pair of runs.

NKU ranked 30th nationally in Collegiate Baseball Newspaper's NCAA Division II poll, is 21-10-1 overall. The Norse won three of four games during the weekend series at Rockhurst and lead the Great Lakes Valley Conference with a 19-6-1 record.

Rockhurst is 17-13 overall, 13-9 in the GLVC.

NKU will play host to Southern Indiana at noon Wednesday at Champion Window Field in Florence, Ky.

The NKU baseball program enters that doubleheader with 998 all-time victories in 35 seasons of competition, and the Norse can reach the 1,000-win plateau with a sweep.

*Story provided by NKU's sports information department.

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Activism class organizes variety benefit concert

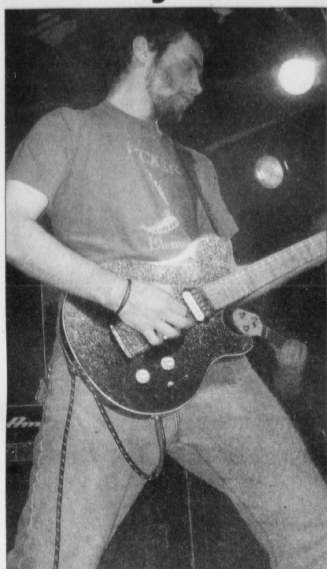


Photo contributed by Adam Rosing
Ben Beneric rocks with his band KABAKICK, which is set to play this weekend at the Mad Hatter.

By Rich Shivenner
Assistant Features Editor
shivenner@nku.edu

Six bands and one comedian play the Mad Hatter, a rock 'n' roll bar in Covington, April 7. Their styles may differ – from bluegrass to garage rock to sardonic comedy – but all have at least one characteristic in common: They're rocking a benefit concert – and a Northern Kentucky University class is responsible for the event.

Professor Mari York required the students of her Women's Studies 494 Activism class to create activist projects this semester. York also required the class to organize the benefit concert separately from their said group projects.

"My activism students did all the work," York said. "They found the guest bands, they booked the venue, they made the flyers, they chose the non-profit (organization), they did everything. I'm really impressed with them."

Students Kelly Cornetti and Katie Klocker took the lead in organizing the benefit, York said, "because they're very into the local music scene and what's going on with the clubs."

According to York, the proceeds of the concert benefit four non-profit organizations: Women's Crisis Center, The Native American Roving Museum, Books for Prisoner, and Carocole, which is an AIDS hospice.

When asked to hold the concert, owner of the Mad Hatter Frank Hulefeld readily agreed.

"When we ever we get a chance to do a benefit, you get a chance to help people out. It's still cool to see people get excited," he said.

Even though the participating artists of the benefit differ in sound, the class intended for that assorted lineup to play.

"That was part of the purpose ... to have something for everybody, because the causes are kind of all over the map; too, they represent a variety of social issues," York said.

All the bands were willing to participate. York added, and "ISWHAT? and Langus were really interested, because they really felt like the causes were more important (than money)."

Besides Langus and ISWHAT?, the Blue Rock Boys, KABAKICK, Le TechnoPUS13S, the Pernicious Kniffs and comedian Mike Cody perform.

The benefit concert begins at 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$7, or \$5 if you donate two paperback books.

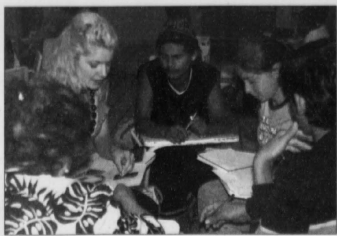


Photo contributed by Cynthia Pinchback-Hines

Kelli Schultz works with community members in Mexico.

Students spend break educating

Five Northern Kentucky University students, Ashley Long, Jennifer Lamb, Liz Osborne, Kelli Schultz, and Maria Sieder along with faculty Leo Calderon, director of Latino Student Affairs, and Cynthia Pinchback-Hines, associate dean of African-American Student Affairs and Ethnic Services, traveled to Mexico during spring break. While there, they helped to teach residents of Mexico computer skills as well as to assist in teaching English as Second Language classes.

"I hope and pray I never go back the same: I see a day when this will all be changed," sang songwriter, philanthropist and graduate student from North Texas University Michael Romero to students of NKU.

While Romero was strumming his guitar on the rooftop of a small schoolhouse in Mazamitla, Jalisco, Mexico, the five volunteers from NKU knew little about what was about to be in store for them.

"It was such a moving experience to travel to a poverty-stricken area where the graduation rate at the local high school was only 3 percent. It is such a stark contrast to what we are used to here in the United States," said junior political science major Maria Sieder.

Along with teaching classes, the students and faculty made a combined effort in building trust with the students and brainstorming solutions on ways the community members can better themselves.

The group visited impoverished populations in communities such as Flor Del Campo and San Martin. As the students encompassed a new territory, they began to see a new perspective on poverty.

"I always had believed that

poverty was something that was a chosen path or was something that was your fault," said Jennifer Lamb, junior math major. "After seeing the kids from San Martin, I realized that those suffering from poverty are not always the source, but instead the victim."

The group of NKU students, in partnership with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, traveled to Mexico and was hosted by Professor Sil Flores and four graduate students, all from the University of North Texas. With their help, the small group from NKU set up 20 computers for a technology center in Mazamitla.

The students said the Jalisco secretary of education attended the opening ceremony.

"I had no idea that what we were doing for this little community was such a big deal," said junior Spanish major Liz Osborne. "While sitting through the ceremony with the secretary of education, I thought, 'Wow! We really are making a difference here.'"

After experiencing the poverty, the strong family bonds, and the hospitality found in Mazamitla, Mexico, the students said they returned to NKU with a new perspective on life and a desire to return to Mexico.

Junior marketing major Kelli Schultz said she already misses the excitement of helping the community.

"I would say that our trip to Mazamitla was a once in a lifetime experience, but the motivation we all encountered after experiencing the culture and meeting the people drives us to return," she said.

Jennifer Lamb, Liz Osborne, Kelli Schultz, and Maria Sieder contributed to this article.

Professor teaches life lessons

Former students recognize most influential faculty member

By Whitney Tidwell
Staff Writer
tidwellw1@nku.edu

As a history professor, Dr. Michael Washington teaches students where they came from. To him, history is more than a lesson. History is a part of a person's life.

A person cannot know where he is going until he knows where he came from. Washington is fond of saying, which is his students.

Since beginning work at Northern Kentucky University in 1978,

Washington has taught many students and watched them begin careers throughout the world. The students he taught and inspired named him the "Most Influential Professor" at NKU during the annual Alumni Awards banquet in January.

To nominate someone for this award, alumni choose a professor whom they consider deserves the award and write a letter as to why the professor should receive the recognition.

Dr. Bontshete Mazile, a professor at the University of Botswana in South Africa,

was one of the NKU alumni who wrote a letter to support Washington for this award.

"Dr. Washington helped me develop my analytical and critical thinking skills so as to assess and understand situations. His patience as a professor, a friend and community leader gave me hope in dreams I had about changing the world," Mazile wrote.

Washington said he teaches all his students this mentality. He tells them they are not in college to just get jobs later in life, but to succeed in careers while transforming themselves and society, to

become more equitable. He said in his classes, he wants his students to be able to understand what's going on in the world and not to be blind to social injustice.

He said he wants his students to realize their own potential and strive to make a difference in the communities from which they come.

"Anyone can be a teacher or professor, but not everyone can influence you to strive for excellence and make a difference in the world around you," said freshman Curtis White, one of Washington's students.

Take Back the Night

An international rally/march to unify women, men, and children in awareness of violence against women, children, and families. The event is a collaboration of community, campus, and other interested persons who are ready to take a stand against violence and make the night safe for everyone.

★ We Need You!

The Freshman Service Leadership Committee will be collecting the following items for the Women's Crisis Center of Northern Kentucky:

- Women's and children's night clothes
- Twin sheets, blankets and pillows
- Women's underwear, bras, and socks
- Children's craft supplies
- Daily TANK bus tokens
- Cleaning supplies
- Hairbrushes
- Umbrellas
- Towels

★ Voices of Courage:

At age 19, Adrienne Veltch of Toledo, OH attended a party with friends. The last thing she remembered was dancing and having fun with her friends. Adrienne had been drugged and raped by three men. To help with her recovery, Adrienne is now an activist for victims of sexual assault. She recently wrote a book titled "Voice of Courage: Inspiration from Survivors of Sexual Assault" and will sign copies of her book after the event. For more information about the book, please visit www.voicesofcourage.com.

★ For more information please contact the Office of Student Life at 859.572.6514 or Tiffany Mayse at maysset@nku.edu

This program is sponsored by: Women's Studies Department, Office of Student Life, First Year Programs, University Police, Health Counseling and Prevention Services, Freshman Service Leadership Committee, Residential Housing Association, and the NKU Panhellenic Association.

★ Timeline of events:

Monday, April 10

Budig Theater

5 pm: Personal Care Collection and Opening Remarks

6 pm: Rape Survivor: Adrienne Veltch*

7 pm: Question and Answer Session

University Center Plaza

7:30 pm: Take Back the Night March

Section Editors
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CDreview

arts&entertainment

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Quintet's live release chemically imbalanced

By Melissa Elrod

Staff Writer
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It's a classic tale: band gets together, band gets a gimmick, band makes it big and band does anything to stay big.

Such is the story of My Chemical Romance, and this New Jersey quintet is using its latest release "Life on the Murder Scene" as said fame maintainer. This live compact disc and two DVD set may seem like the greatest thing since sliced throats to the gothic My Chemical Romance fanatic, but the rest of us know it is nothing more than a marketing ploy to keep the band in the limelight while it takes its time making a follow up to its major label debut.

The main mistake Gerard Way (vocals) and friends make with "Murder Scene" is releasing a live CD in the first place. Permanently recording flawed guitar parts and off-key vocals, then distributing such noise internationally, is not the best way to impress listeners.

Their second mistake is content. If a band does decide to break the "If you don't play well live, don't release a live album" rule, the CD should at least include two or more previously unreleased tracks



My Chemical Romance

so the terrible album in question isn't simply a bad live recreation of the band's other songs.

While the two DVDs are a huge step up from the live CD, they are still mediocre by definition. The first of the two DVDs is a video diary, chronicling the whole, entire story of My Chem; that is, for two hours, the band talks about life, sometimes telling the same story multiple

times, discussing how it saves lives and has great fashion sense. The second DVD is a two-hour compilation of live performances many of which are the same ones used for the CD, TV appearances and music videos.

Needless to say, My Chem knows how to slam a point home again and again, and yet again. Only the most obsessed My Chem fan could possibly have the patience and desire

Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Records

to sift through the amount of footage provided, and enjoy the time it takes to do so. That is basically the point, though, as My Chem writes in the liner notes that this release is for the fans. For everyone else, however, My Chem needs to forget about costumes and cyclining for a second and focus on making music. The band may know how to rock performance art, but it needs to learn how to rock.

The FIX

Regan Coomer Satisfying Your Celebrity-Gossip Craving One Paragraph at a Time.



"Desperate Housewives" star Teri Hatcher and Ryan Seacrest of "American Idol" were spotted canoodling on a Malibu beach last weekend, *Us Weekly* reports. "They were immersed," an onlooker said. "Every now and then, they'd embrace." Another eyewitness said, "Teri frequently laughed loudly at Ryan's jokes. They were very animated with each other." Hatcher was even spotted rubbing Seacrest's neck, and the couple was kissing during their lunch of seafood at the local eatery. The pair was first seen together about two weeks ago, and despite the beach-induced PDA, "it's not super serious," another insider told *Us*. "They're not on the road to marriage or anything." That's good. Seacrest's so metro-sexual he might wear the dress.

Former "Friends" star Matt LeBlanc and his wife Melissa McNight announced they're getting a divorce, *People Magazine* reports. "Melissa and Matt LeBlanc have decided to end their

marriage of three years," the actor's representative, Joe Libonati, said in a statement. "The dissolution is amicable. They remain devoted parents and friends. For the sake of their family, they ask that their privacy be respected at this time." LeBlanc filed the infamous "irreconcilable differences" as the reason for the breakup, and he requested joint legal custody of their 2-year-old daughter Marina.

Speaking of breakups, co-founder of Def Jam Records Russell Simmons and his wife Kimora Lee, founder of Baby Phat Clothing, are splitting after seven years of marriage, *People Magazine* reports. In a statement issued, Simmons said, "Kimora and I will remain committed parents and caring friends with great love and admiration for each other. We will also continue to work side by side on a daily basis as partners in all of our businesses." Simmons also says that the couple has been separated "for some time," but has continued to live under the same roof.

WE massages against media

By Katie Walker
 Assistant Features Editor
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Women's Empowerment will use chair massages, health food tables, movies and informational booths to combat media perceptions of women when it hosts the second annual Body Image Fair, from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. April 7 in the University Center.

This year's theme, "The Beauty Within," will promote the idea that media images of women are unrealistic and unfair, said senior physical education major and WE member James Ernest.

Last year, the fair focused on women's self-perceptions with a "WE are All Beautiful"

theme and while this year's focus has redirected to media perceptions, the goal remains the same: "To reach out to women here on campus and help women build up their confidence and self-esteem," WE president Kristen Johnson, sophomore, Criminal Justice major, said.

"We want to send out the message that women don't have to conform to what the media says (is beautiful)," Johnson added.

WE faculty advisor Mari York, who predicts the chair massages will be the most popular attraction of the day, noted the need for good body images.

"Eating disorders are highest in college-age women and even higher on college cam-

puses themselves," York said.

Eating disorders on campuses are a problem across the country. According to the National Eating Disorders Association, 22 percent of women on college campuses diet "often" or "always" and the mortality rate of women from 15 to 24 years old suffering from anorexia nervosa is 12 times higher than the mortality rate by any other cause of death.

Ernest said he's noticed body image issues on Northern Kentucky University's campus.

"A lot of the time, women will be walking on campus wearing next to nothing and at first it seems like these women must have a great deal of confidence," he said, "but some-

times it's really a reflection of negative self-esteem. The media has told them they have to look a certain way to be beautiful."

The fair is designed to challenge some media definitions of beauty, but it will also show movies such as "Waiting to Exhale," "Real Women Have Curves" and "Better than Chocolate" throughout the day in Otto Budig Theatre to illustrate beauty at different ages and from diverse backgrounds.

But whether the fair empowers or educates through movies, information or massages, the purpose of the fair is simple, according to Johnson.

"We want to send out the message that women are beautiful no matter what," she said.

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