

# THE NORTHERNER

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## Snapshot:

### NEWS

#### NKU ROCKS 'N' ROLLS:

A program to help retain minority students pairs them with student and faculty mentors. In addition to being a mentor, students of the NKU ROCKS program serve as a counselors, tutors and friends. Greg Walker said he does all this and even gives his mentees a much missed home-cooked meal. **Page 3**

### FEATURES



#### JAIL HOUSE ROCK:

Rock 'n' roll band The Mr. T Experience punched out a plug for its first release in almost two years, "Alcatraz." The concert was mixed with original songs, covers and beer-infused philosophies on life. **Page 4**

### SPORTS

#### NATIONAL PASTIME:

NKU's baseball team has a revamped offense and high hopes for the upcoming season. **Coach Aker** is gunning for his 800th win and Lenny Bays pitched a no-hitter for NKU. **Page 6**

### VIEWPOINTS

#### DRIVING 101:

Fed up with suburbs and "wholly unnecessary SUVs," one student gives useful tips on how drivers can make the roads less frustrating. In "Pete's Tips for Safer and Smarter Driving," he reminds us that in road rage battles waged against semi drivers, we will lose. **Page 9**

### WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

#### DUKE 2000

#### POLITICS WITH PUNCH:

Tired of the current crop of presidential candidates? There is an alternative at [www.duke2000.com](http://www.duke2000.com), where Doonesbury's Uncle Duke has thrown his hat into the ring. Read about his controversial agenda and his diplomatic career in Iran, America, Samoa, China, Panama and Kuwait.

#### TODAY'S

High 63  
Low 40  
Partly  
Cloudy



### INDEX

DPS Reports ..... 2  
Classifieds ..... 10  
North Poll ..... 9  
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## Long search ends with new library leader

By Peter W. Zubaty  
Copy Editor

The search is over, the battle won! After an extended search to fill the vacated Steely Library Director's position, the search committee hired Donald G. Frank last week.

Frank comes to Northern Kentucky University from Georgia Tech, where he is currently serving as Assistant Director for Information Services. He takes over for Sandy Easton, who filled the position in the

interim until Jan. 1, 2000. Easton took over the position following the June 30, 1999 retirement of Miriam Winner.

Frank brings a wealth of experience to the position. He served in library administration positions for Harvard University, University of Arizona and Texas Tech, in addition to his current duties at Georgia Tech.

J. Patrick Moynahan, chair of the library search committee, said, "From my perspective, we had a really good pool of candi-

dates. Frank's experience in the field was impressive."

When asked about the transition to NKU, Frank said, "What attracts me to a smaller institution such as NKU is the emphasis on teaching, learning and student retention."

He said he also hopes to work actively with the faculty. "Libraries that ignore that relation are less relevant."

In a question and answer session with students and faculty prior to his hire, Frank was asked about his suggestions for an

under-funded library such as NKU's. He said, "The person hired has to be able to ask for money, but they must have credibility. And it must be a campus effort."

In his first three to six months on the job, Frank said he plans to do a lot of listening, to get an idea of what the NKU environment is like.

Frank has been a member of the American Library Association since 1973 and has served in various leadership positions within the association.

## NKU to sweat it out in GLVC tournament



The Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament takes place at Roberts Stadium in Evansville, Ind. March 1-4.

The NKU men's basketball team is the three seed in the tournament. They will play the six seed, Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne in the first round of the tournament at noon Thursday, March 2.

If the Norse win, they will play either Southern Indiana or Bellarmine in the semifinals of the tournament Friday, March 3.

If NKU loses, its season will probably be over. The Norse are currently ranked third in the Great Lakes Region. Only the top two teams in the region make the NCAA Division II Tournament and an early loss in the GLVC Tournament would ruin their chances at one of those spots.

The NKU women's team is the number one seed in the tournament and will play IPFW, the eight seed, in the first round at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 1.

NKU is ranked number one in the Great Lakes Region right now. If it keeps that number one ranking through the tournament, it will be eligible to host the Great Lakes Regional Tournament in the NCAA Division II Tournament at Regents Hall.

See tournament brackets page 8

Photos by Kelly Sudzina and Anna Weaver/The Northerner



## Howard Storm had a 'hell' of an experience

By Scott Wartman  
Staff Reporter

When AC/DC wrote their song "Hell Ain't a Bad Place to Be," they couldn't have been further from the truth; just ask former Northern Kentucky University art teacher Rev. Howard Storm.

In 1985, Storm had a near death experience, but there was no tunnel with a bright light at the end for him. Rather, he said he was viciously led down a hallway by several sinister looking men into a room of unfathomable darkness. Storm was one of the unlucky souls to be sent to hell.

Before this harrowing experience, Storm said he was an atheist and this was one of the main contributing factors to his damnation.

"I was very materialistic," said Storm. "I hadn't loved God and my fellow humans."

Storm's unfortunate journey to the underworld took place while he was on vacation in Paris. Storm took ill with a perforation of the stomach, which is life-threatening, and immediately went to a hospital.

In immense pain and anguish, Storm said he knew he was dying.

"This was it, I felt," Storm said. "This was the big nothing, the big

blackout, the one you never wake up from, the end of existence."

As Storm was lying in agony in the hospital bed, he said he closed his eyes and the next thing he knew, he was standing next to his bed looking at his body. Storm said his wife was in the room and he tried to get her attention, but no matter how loud he yelled, she remained impassive.

Storm said he then heard his name being called from the doorway of the room, beckoning him to come out. He followed the voice outside the room into the hall, he said, and was greeted by a light mist which obscured his surroundings slightly.

Storm said there were figures off in the distant fog that promised to take care of him if he would follow and he obliged.

"They were more like silhouettes, or shapes, and as I moved toward them, they backed off into the haze," Storm said.

However, Storm recounted, the longer he kept following the figures, the more he realized they did not bear goodwill toward him. Some of the figures, Storm said, began to say cruel things about him and make fun of him, while the other figures tried to quiet these aggressive beings by saying "Shh, he can hear you, he can hear

you."

"What became increasingly obvious," Storm said, "was that help was further away the longer I stayed with them."

Storm got a clear view of the beings as the walk progressed, he said, and described them as "normal looking people who were 'very gray and drab.'"

Storm said he was eventually surrounded in complete darkness and he refused to go any further. He said the beings began to hurl insults at him more fervently, and then thousands upon thousands of them began to pounce on him and savagely beat him.

"Their main interest seemed in toying with me and provoking me," said Storm. "Basically, they were a mob of beings totally driven by unbridled cruelty and passion."

No matter how many of the demons he fought off, he said, there would be more to replace them.

Storm said he was kicked and gnawed on as the beings began to eat him alive. After a while, Storm said the gruesome attack began to subside and the crowd of demons dwindled to only a few here and there that still picked and jabbed at him.

Then, for reasons for which Storm said is still unknown to him, he felt

his own voice say "Pray to God" three times.

"I thought at the time, 'I don't pray. I don't know how to pray,'" said Storm.

At the mention of God, Storm said the beings began to shrink away in disgust and anger.

"They retreated into the darkness as if I was poison," said Storm. "I was left alone in complete darkness."

"I was completely alone and this was a time of reflection. I became desperate. I would be stuck here forever," Storm said.

An eternity passed, Storm said, as he laid there broken and hurt. Then Storm said he yelled out "Jesus, please save me!"

Out of the darkness emerged a light, he said, and it started to move toward him at a rapid pace. Storm said the light enveloped him and he was no longer in the horrid pit of hell. Rather, he said he was surrounded by a throng of radiant beings.

He saw in the brilliant light all his wounds, beginning to mend themselves, he said. Storm mentioned that this wasn't quite heaven, rather just the gates of heaven. Storm said there were many small spheres of light

See STORM, Page 4



Howard Storm had a near death experience 10 years after this NKU yearbook photo was taken in 1975.

# Natural Science makeover

Delayed renovations to flooring will resume after break

By Melanie Goodman  
Staff Reporter

Renovations to the floors of the Natural Science Building, delayed twice due to unexpected problems, are planned for the week of spring break, according to Dan Drake, Physical Plant director.

Drake said several options were explored for new flooring plans, but because of cost and extensive time involved, have been eliminated. He said spring break renovations, upon approval from the appropriate chairs, will include the removal of the remaining carpet on all floors, leaving the concrete completely exposed.

"It was agreed that a concrete floor was preferable to the existing carpet," Drake said. "It's debatable if the concrete floor has a better appearance than the old carpet, but I think all would agree that it's safer."

Biology professor Dr. Debra Pearce has taught in the Natural

Science Building since 1976 and said she is disturbed by its current condition. "It's not uncommon for people to trip over these tangles of unraveled rug. Luckily, I've not seen anyone actually fall," she said. "I'm sure our guest speakers and prospective students are highly impressed by our facilities."

According to Drake, the two options explored for floor renovations were a hard surface flooring and new carpet. These were decided against because a new surface laid now would only be removed when the new Science Building opens, scheduled for the fall of 2002. When the building is vacated after the completion of the new one, a full-scale renovation of the Natural Science Building is planned.

Pearce said delaying any major renovation to the building seems to be the logical alternative. "It doesn't make sense to pump a lot of money into something that will be torn

down in two years. It sure does feel tacky in the interim though," she said.

Director of Campus Planning Mary Paula Schuh said the Natural Science Building will endure a complete makeover. This will include moving walls to improve the dimensions of the classrooms, replacing floor finishes, painting all the walls and replacing the ceilings. She said a new roof will be installed, and the building will also be connected to the campus central heating and cooling system through a new tunnel that will be extended to the old building as part of the construction of the new one.

Schuh said decisions have not been finalized as to which departments will be housed in the Natural Science Center upon its complete renovation. However, there will be priority given to creating a student lounge and study space in the former science building.



Melissa Riggs/The Northerner

The concrete steps in Norse and Woodcrest will soon be replaced with fiberglass steps. They will be less affected by weather and ice will not freeze on them. The change will be done over time and will cost \$300,000.

## Contact DPS through web

By Kelly Simon  
Staff Reporter

The Department of Public Safety website offers students a chance to learn more about the department and gives them an avenue to voice their concerns and comments, Associate Director Leo Calderon said.

"In general, it is a good place for students and visitors to visit our department and to get an overview of what the department has to offer. They can do this at their own leisure," he said.

DPS offers 21 different pages or links including information about campus policies and services the department offers to students, faculty and staff.

The website [www.nku.edu/~dps](http://www.nku.edu/~dps) offers several links to pages, such as the department's mission statement, campus maps, anonymous crime tips, campus crime statistics, crime bulletins and public safety personnel compliment and complaint forms that can be filled out online.

The latest online addition occurred Jan. 19, 2000, when the department added the Northern Kentucky University severe weather policy. DPS added on the policy and the different ways students can obtain up-to-date information, whether it is through the means of radio, television or a

recorded telephone message.

Another recent addition involves the implementation of the anonymous online crime reporting feature that rolled out in September 1999. Members of the campus community can anonymously send tips about criminal activity via the Internet simply by filling out a form online.

Senior Brian Beck said, "I think this is a terrible idea. It is far too easy for someone to be wrongly accused of committing a crime without the accuser being held responsible. This type of system is open for abuse."

He believes this feature of online crime reporting makes it easy for students to falsely accuse individuals of crimes.

However, Beck particularly likes the feature of reporting any compliments or complaints online. He said, "This would be a very effective way of tracking problems on campus and things that are working well."

With the help of combined efforts from campus administrators and several officers from the department, the website went live in early 1998, Calderon said.

He said in June 1998 he revised the website significantly. Calderon helped standardize the home page and the other pages, added more graphics, and implemented new features like online crime report-

ing. Officer Tim Baker updates the website a couple times a week, he said.

Calderon said, "This year we are focusing more on workshops. We are developing a system where we have certain workshops scheduled throughout the year."

The next workshop will cover the topic of sexual assault. The workshop is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, in the residence hall.

The presentation is open for all students and will focus on "student awareness, risk reduction, crime definitions, as well as victim's rights and procedures," according to the schedule of events page. All workshops are posted annually on the website for students to view.

Calderon said, "We link a lot of sites together to make it easier for students to get information. A lot of services students just don't take advantage of, and it's not because we don't advertise these services."

He said during "transitions" for freshmen the department always informs incoming students about the services and information the department offers. They make a point to promote the use of their website.

Calderon said they continuously recommend students to visit the home page during presentations and workshops throughout the school year that DPS sponsors.

## Dorms step up with new steps

By Matt Kessler  
Staff Reporter

The concrete steps in the Residential Village will be replaced with fiberglass steps later this year, Assistant Director of Residential Life Kim Vance said.

She said the fiberglass is much more expensive but will save money in the long run. The concrete stairs only cost about \$13 each, but the fiberglass steps will run about \$60 to \$80 each.

"The first shipment of stairs is on its way," Vance said.

Vance said this about one-third the number needed to complete the project. The first shipment will cost \$20,000. Vance estimates the total cost of replacing all the stairs will be approximately \$60,000 to \$70,000.

Vance said the project will take a while to complete. Work will begin when the staff is available to do it. She said the steps with the most problems will be replaced first.

"The areas that will probably be looked at first are the stairs that are more subjected to the weather conditions," she said.

Vance said since all stairwells have two exits, one will always be open for students.

"It should be no inconvenience to students," Vance said.

Vance said the new steps will have slits in them which will mean ice will not freeze on them and the changing weather will not affect them as much.

DPS responded to Transportation Services where a man was feeling ill. After talking to the patient's supervisor the officer believed that the patient had suffered a mild seizure and then passed out. Cold Spring Life Squad transported the man to St. Luke East Hospital.

Residential Life reported it had received several pornographic e-mails and other e-mail offering free membership to certain adult-related websites. There was no suspect. Residential Life told DPS they would forward any future complaints about this matter to them.

### D.P.S. REPORTS

DPS responded to a fire alarm in the University Center. The officer arrived as the building's occupants were leaving. The alarm sounded because the hose connected to a Coca-Cola machine's carbon dioxide tank had a leak and sparked which created some smoke. The Coca-Cola vendor turned off the tank and said he would call Coca-Cola to fix the problem. The fire alarm was reset and everyone was allowed to enter the building again.

DPS responded to the Business Education and Psychology building after a report of vandalism. A red marker had been used on the men's restroom and in the elevator. The markings were easily removed.

DPS responded to Norse Hall in reference to tampering with the computers in the Residential Life office. The computers tampered with belonged to the Director and Assistant Director of Residential Life. It is unknown who might be tampering. It is possible the problem is simply staff miscommunication.

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# NKU ROCKS helps students make a connection

By Melanie Dawn Brooks  
Staff Reporter

Northern Kentucky University is stepping up its efforts to recruit and retain minority students. One way the university is doing this is through the NKU ROCKS (Responsibility Opportunity Community Knowledge) program.

The program is designed to help first-time African American freshmen students adjust to college life both academically and socially. The program was launched last April.

According to senior English major Jitana Benton, a coordinator of the program, NKU ROCKS has been quite successful. "All of our efforts are in line with Dr. Votruba's goal of not only recruiting but retaining students at NKU — to help make it a more diverse learning community."

"We have about 54 students in the program, with 11 peer mentors and 13 faculty mentors. For last semester, the mean GPA of the students were 2.6," she said. Benton said this is really a good start for the program.

NKU ROCKS pairs mentees with not only a student peer mentor, but a faculty mentor as well.

Getting students used to the rigors of college life can be a challenge. Benton said one way NKU ROCKS deals with this issue is to have students enroll in the African American Learning Center.

"The AALC is a three course tier taught by minority faculty. Courses include University 101, taught by Dr. Rose Morgan, Dr. Prince Brown's Sociology 110 (Race and Gender), and Dr. Ann Taylor's Speech 100 (Principles of Speech). Students stay together through all three courses, so this gives them a chance to bond together," she said.

Benton also said the group takes field trips together such as the one they took last semester to the Underground Railroad.

For Greg Walker, a junior peer mentor, being a part of NKU ROCKS is something special. "I believe people should join the program because it is a way to help serve the community. It is a way of saying thank you to the people who helped you out," he said.

Walker likes to do some special things for his mentees.

"I am more than just a mentor. I am a tutor, a counselor and a friend. I like to have movie nights, and I like to give movie passes to my mentees who do well in their classes. During some of our study sessions I like to give them something they can't normally get here on campus—a home cooked meal! These are the little things I like to do for my mentees," Walker said.

NKU ROCKS is one of three student mentor groups on campus. There is also Students Helping Students (SHS)—an organization open to all students, freshman through seniors, and Peers Coaching Peers, a group dedicated to community service. This group travels to local high schools and teaches students about drug and sexual abstinence.

For the first time, all three groups are trying to put together a program that will honor the student mentors. Currently the three groups are looking for a logo that will join all of them together.

"In March, we will have a banquet that will give recognition to the student mentors. For those graduating, we will give them a pin to wear on their robe," Benton said. To be a mentor a student must:

- Be a sophomore, junior or senior with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
- Have a minimum of one faculty recommendation (preferably from their prospective major)
- Demonstrate the ability to work well with others (e.g., fraternal, student government, or residence hall rules)
- Illustrates leadership in the community or in religious organizations.
- Has excellent communication skills, both written and verbal.
- Demonstrate a commitment to punctuality in meeting with students.

There will be a consideration for those second year freshman who participated in the 1999-2000 NKU ROCKS program. These students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. In addition to the faculty recommendation, they must also have a letter of recommendation from a faculty or peer mentor.

Applications for peer mentors can be obtained at the Office of African American Student Affairs and Ethnic Services on the third floor of the University Center.

## Vending cart removed from Albright due to low sales



This "Moveable Feast" vending cart, which is located in Landrum, is similar to one that lies vacant in Albright Health Center. The cart in AHC was shut down because of sluggish sales.

By Peter W. Zubaty  
Copy Editor

Sodexo-Marriott's decision to remove the "Moveable Feast" vending cart from the second floor of Albright Health Center created a groundswell of popular opinion.

The transfer of food service worker Duke Mile to the University Center cafeteria after the close of the vending cart prompted students, faculty and staff to circulate a petition that garnered nearly 225 signatures. The petition is titled "Petition to Bring Duke Home," and it reflects the affection those who came into contact with Mile had for him.

Custodian Vicki Compton said, "Everybody loves him. He's very outgoing, good personality and he cheers everyone up. He's your lifesaver when it comes to coffee."

In the absence of Mile, there is an empty cart. A group of vending machines is conspicuous behind the vacant cart.

Sally Schaefer, a senior social work major, said there is now no

way to get food in AHC. "The health care students and social work students are always there, they usually don't leave and there isn't enough time to go to UC."

To fill the void, food services plans to add vending machines with a greater selection.

Custodian Donna Dunn said that isn't enough. "And besides, the coffee in those machines tastes like crap."

Food services director Andy Meeks said he understands Mile's popularity.

"Duke's a great guy. He really enjoyed working over there. I wish it could be open," Meeks said. That popularity did not translate into dollars, however.

Meeks said the cart only brought in an average of \$60 per day and it didn't really pay to have someone operating the cart. "In this particular case, it is not even paying the labor."

Meeks said those that signed the petition had a misconception of the traffic in AHC and the business the cart did. "We nursed it along for

four and a half years, it just didn't pick up."

Dr. Tony Atwater, dean of Professional Studies and Education, said he sympathized with those who signed the petition. "The human element is not there [with machines]," he said.

"I would have liked to see more of an effort toward helping sales improve. It's not just giving the student the service, it's how that service is provided. And Duke brought that," Atwater said.

Ken Ramey, assistant vice president of Business Services, said about the cart, "We've tried doing it two days a week, when student volume was highest. Dr. Atwater asked us to give it another shot, to see if the business would increase."

Ultimately, economic concerns won out over qualitative factors. Atwater said, "This may just be a microcosm of the issue of creating a more student-friendly environment."

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# Dees spreads message of justice

By Christopher Lee Boggs  
Contributing Writer

Morris Dees, one of the world's renowned civil rights attorneys, spoke in front of a packed audience in Northern Kentucky University's Greaves Concert Hall Thursday, Feb. 24.

He gave examples of civil rights infractions and told personal stories of triumph against the hate groups he has fought throughout his years as the chief trial lawyer for the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC).

Dees founded the SPLC in the late '60s after a lucrative career in book publishing.

He said he was always troubled by the oppression of his black friends. Phil Talferro, a local trial attorney, NKU Regent member and a friend of Dees, told the story of a 16-year-old boy who saw a black friend of the family beaten by a state trooper and charged with being drunk.

Dees said he knew that his friend wasn't drunk, but the court punished the friend because of the testimony of the lying state trooper.

That day Dees realized his desire to specialize in civil rights law.

The SPLC is located in Montgomery, Ala., which is considered by many to be the heart of Dixie. The mission of the SPLC is to get hate groups around the United States into the court of law and take away all of their opportunities to spread hate.

Usually the SPLC focuses on suing the hate groups so they lose the financial means to spread their messages. Some of the groups include the Ku Klux Klan, White Aryan Resistance, and United

Aryan Nation.

Dees said in today's society the fight against racism and hate crimes "takes three steps into a positive direction, but then two steps back."

Dees said he doesn't believe everyone should put down what they are doing in life and become a civil rights crusader. He said cleaning our own houses and getting rid of the hate in the neighborhoods we live in would, however, be a nice start.

"Start in your own backyard," Dees said.



Katie Herschude/The Northerner  
Civil rights champion Morris Dees signed autographs after delivering NKU's Black History Month keynote address.

## Mr. T Experience releases 'Alcatraz'

By Mike Brown  
Staff Reporter

On Feb. 11, Bernie's Distillery was host to a vintage rock 'n' roll band, The Mr. T Experience. Numerous individuals were on hand to watch rock 'n' roll at its best.

The Mr. T Experience is touring for its new release "Alcatraz," a blend of traditional rock 'n' roll with a punk rock edge.

Although "Alcatraz" is the band's first release in almost two years, the crowd on hand eagerly anticipated the band's surprise return, even with meager promotion by the venue.

The opening band, The Smugglers, gave the crowd a very energetic performance. They played an hour-long

set which included different blends of traditional rock 'n' roll and punk rock.

Although most of crowd was on hand to see The Mr. T Experience, they gave The Smugglers an outstanding ovation.

The Mr. T Experience brought a different vibe to Bernie's the moment they took the stage.

The extravaganza began with "Dumb Little Band," a parody about the mental complex the band has with being respected by the music business.

During the mid-point of the show, lead vocalist Dr. Frank conversed with the audience about the state of rock music today and what we should do to make it more uplifting and diverse.

"Don't listen to pathetic bands equivalent to Korn and Third Eye Blind," said Dr. Frank. "Be creative and ignore MTV and Top 40 radio. Try to find out information about bands that have an uplifting message that are not in it for the money."

Dr. Frank concluded with his signature quote, "This song is about a girl!"

Beer was popular with the band. The crowd didn't seem to mind the band playing with mediocre enthusiasm.

The covers the band played were simply irresistible. They played three amazing renditions of "Can't Buy Me Love" by the Beatles, "I'll Make With You" by Modern English, and "The Austin Powers Theme."

Although the covers were intense, the highlight of the night was definitely Mr. T's thoughts on life and the state of our world. Of course their views were enhanced by alcohol, but the audience seemed to find the band's statements quite exhilarating.

The night concluded with an encore of their most popular songs "Swiss Army Girl-Friend," "Ba, Ba, Ba" and "Thank You (For Not Being One Of Them)."

Although the show seemed to be lacking in crowd participation, The Mr. T Experience put on an excellent performance of traditional rock 'n' roll.



## Courage is the best self defense

Security experts offer suggestions and give lessons in safety

By Tracy Schuster  
Staff Reporter

It is late and you have just put your babies down to sleep for the night. Suddenly, you remember a much-needed item you left in the trunk of your car.

Your car is parked right in front of the house, so you decide to make a quick dash to the car.

It will only take a minute, so you do not even bother to lock the front door when you leave the house.

Thirty seconds later, you have your head in the trunk, and you are searching around when you hear a steely voice in surprisingly close proximity command, "Give me your keys."

Your heart stops. Your blood freezes and you realize with dread that you are about to become a crime statistic.

The story above was published in *Essence* magazine and written by Dawn Baskerville. It describes a theme not uncommon in today's

society: No one is immune to violence.

Jean O'Neil, director of research and managing editor at the National Crime Prevention Council in Washington, D.C., said, "The key is to not let fear immobilize you. If you build a cocoon around yourself, you'll find you can't escape it."

According to the website [www.elbrary.com](http://www.elbrary.com), most crimes

occur within a two-mile radius of a victim's residence, with a large portion of the crimes taking place in the home itself.

Suggested safety tips for home security, according to the website, are: prune shrubs

nearby to eliminate hiding places for intruders, make sure all doors are locked with safety bolts and

install a home security system.

Many experts have invented a variety of tactics people can effectively use to increase their level of personal safety and confidence.

Experts such as Debbie and Mike Gardner, founders of the Survive Institute located in Cincinnati, Ohio, have made their own changes in the self-defense industry.

The Gardner's trademark motto

for their company is "The Best Message is Simple to Remember: B.S.T. This stands for: Belly Breathe, Space and Throat."

During seminars the Gardners demonstrate "B.S.T." and how to handle violent situations.

They show their audience correct breathing techniques, how to

deal with invasion of personal space and demonstrate a physical technique against a person's throat, if violence cannot be prevented.

Mike and Debbie Gardner use colored props and special effects such as police lights, gunshots and sirens during their seminars.

According to the Survive Institute newsletter, the seminars teach people differences between four kinds of attackers, how to break the freeze of fear, why most self-defense tips are ridiculous and many more things.

For information regarding the Survive Institute visit [www.surviveinstitute.com](http://www.surviveinstitute.com).

Other national safety organizations for information:  
• National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) (800) TRY-NOVA  
• National Victim Center (800) FVY-CALL  
• Survive Institute (513) 791-7453.

*"The key is to not let fear immobilize you. If you build a cocoon around yourself, you'll find you can't escape."*

-Jean O'Neil

## STORM: faced death, changed

From Page 1

drawing in and out of a great, concentrated bright center. He likened it to what a galaxy looks like, except it was larger.

Feeling ashamed of how he acted in life, Storm said he felt unworthy to be in the presence of such awesome beauty. Storm told the beings, which appear to be angels, that "You must have made a mistake, I don't belong here."

He said an angel replied, "We don't make mistakes, you do belong here."

"The angels went over my life from beginning to end," said Storm. "I saw my actions in a whole new light and in ways I had never thought of them before."

In addition to this, Storm said the angels revealed many secrets about life. He said the angels told him that life was "abundant and plentiful throughout the universe" and that the end of the world will not come from nuclear weapons or war, rather, God will begin to rescind mankind's free will and use divine intervention to turn the universe into a utopia.

Storm said the angels also revealed to him the reasons they allow horrible atrocities such as war and why "bad things happen to good people."

"The angels said they allowed very few wars to happen out of all the wars humanity has tried to start," explained Storm. "They allowed a few wars only to bring humanity to its senses."

Renewed with a sense of hope for the future and a completely new outlook on life, Storm said he reluctantly was sent back from the majestic and beautiful nirvana he just experienced.

And just like that, Storm said he was back in his body.

"The first thing I wanted to do was tell my wife about the experience and tell her I loved her," said Storm.

At first, Storm said his wife thought it was a hallucination, but she began to see a remarkable transformation in Storm's personality.

Once his condition improved and he was discharged from the hospital, Storm started pursuing ministry in the Church of Christ. Then, in 1990, he quit his teaching job at NKU and became pastor of the Zion United Church of Christ.

Storm cautions that his story should not be taken by some as a justification that Christianity is the only correct religion. He simply chose the Church of Christ because that was the faith of his parents.

"If I had been Hindu, let's say, I would have seen a Hindu God," said Storm. "If God respects me, then he respects my culture. If people have God-like characteristics, a feeling of compassion and living that out, then it's ok. God really doesn't care a fig

about theology."

Storm is writing a book which delves deeper into his experience called "Descent into Death," which is due out in May.

As fantastic as Storm's story is, one can easily assume there are plenty of skeptics out there.

Dr. Johnny Pressley, a professor of theology at Cincinnati Bible College, is one such skeptic.

"Anytime someone has a vision of hell, I believe something happened, but it might not be exactly what the person believes it to be," said Pressley. "We know so little about the mind. The thought of the death experience for someone who is dying could be enough to trigger some reaction."

Pressley, however, said he doesn't totally discredit Storm by saying that we really can't say what the afterlife might hold for us.

"Hell could be just an emotionally torturing place or there could be physical pain as well," said Pressley. "I can still appreciate the fact that physical death experiences cause miraculous spiritual growth in people."

Father Terry Hamilton of St. Vincent Ferrer Church in Montgomery echoes the sentiments of Pressley. Hamilton said the pope issued an edict describing hell as the absence of God, but the church doesn't go into much more detail.

"The church's belief is that hell is more of an emotional thing, but there is no real way of knowing until we die," said Hamilton.

Father Hamilton also added that Storm's case was the first near death experience involving Hell that he has ever heard.

Storm, however, is ambivalent toward his critics.

"I can't make someone believe," Storm remarked. "You've got to try to live as a loving person, tell people the truth and let them decide."

Storm said it's hard recounting the memories of hell, but said he feels an obligation to tell others about his experience and this was one of the driving motives in writing his upcoming book.

"I hope my experience could give people an opportunity to reexamine their lives," Storm said.

Storm said avoiding eternal damnation is simple.

"It's the easiest thing in the world," asserted Storm. "We just have to realize our own weakness and faults."

Storm said he is no longer afraid of death. This former devout atheist and strong critic of religion said when he does finally go to take up permanent residence with God and is shooting pool with the likes of Elvis and Jimi Hendrix, he wants to be remembered for one thing. "I want people to know that Jesus was my best friend."

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The Mercy HealthPlex in Anderson is currently seeking part-time Men's and Women's Locker Room Attendants to work flexible hours cleaning locker rooms, holding towels and greeting guests. A high school diploma (or GED) is required. Some cleaning experience is a plus, but we are willing to train the right candidates! For more information, please call Rick at 513-624-1886. You may also apply in person or mail a resume to: Mercy HealthPlex, Human Resources, 7495 State Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45255.

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# Softball expects top three Two-win end

By Bruce Reller  
Sports Editor

Last year's NKU softball team had its first winning season since 1992. The Norse finished with an overall record of 20-15 and just missed the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament with a 6-10 conference record. According to NKU head coach Kathy Bown, the team's goals are to do even better this season.

"We expect to be in the top three in our conference," she said. "We want to win the conference tournament. We want to finish in the top three in the conference in batting average, earned run average, and fielding percentage."

Sophomore Krista Eldridge, who was third on the team with a .302 batting average and third on the team with 106 hits last season said, "We want to make it to the conference tournament and be one of the top teams. We have a good group of people who work well together."

There are many players on the team this season that will help the Norse accomplish their goals. Senior center fielder Holly Trauth and junior infielder Joanna Doerner, who was second on the team last season with a .346 batting average and third on the team with 36 hits, are among the upperclassmen who will make a major impact for NKU.

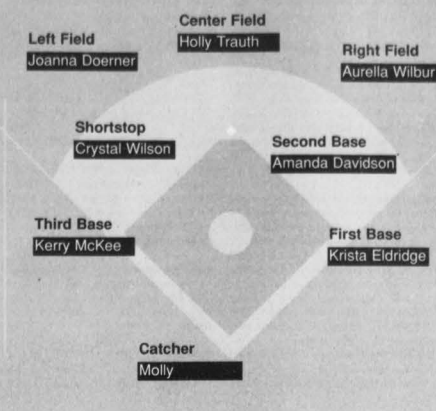
"Holly Trauth is a very good hitter and a good defensive player," Bown said. "Doerner hits number two and is a solid offensive and defensive player. She does what is asked of her."

Junior infielder Kerry McKee, who led NKU with 109 hits last season, and senior pitcher Suzi Parkinson, who was 2-1 with a 2.26 earned run average last season, will also be big contributors this season for the Norse.

The Norse also have plenty of young talent on the team this season with eight freshmen. According to Bown, four of the freshmen are expected to be starters once the season starts.

"All the freshmen are very talented players," she said. "I expect them to step up and make an impact. One of them [Crystal Wilson] will start at shortstop. One will start at second, one in the outfield, and one pitching."

## PROJECTED STARTERS — FIRST GAME



The upperclassmen will be able to help the freshman fit in on the team, according to Trauth.

"The freshmen are really good. They play as a team," she said. "As upperclassmen, we want to be an example and a role model to them."

Eldridge added, "We want to lead by example. We know how to play at the college level. We want to show them the ropes. We blend in well together."

Another aspect that will help out the Norse this year is the opening of their new field on campus. Last season, they played on the intramural field and another field off campus. This new field is a place for NKU to call home and gives the team a better recruiting tool for future players.

"The new facility is a big plus and is incredible," said Bown. "The kids are excited to play there. They want to be there to win. It is like a new attitude."

Eldridge said, "It is a great feeling. It is a place to finally call home."

According to Trauth, the new field is going to help out the softball program in a big way. "The new field is awesome. It is an unbelievable field," she said. "The whole program is going to go up."

As for how the team will perform offensively and defensively this year, the team is going to be just fine, said Bown.

"We were successful in the fall season, 6-3," she said. "Defensively, we are solid than that in the fall. Offensively, we are a little slow, but we expect to take fire. We have very good hitters."

The softball team is ready to start another successful season, and there is no sense to worry about anything. The team is working hard and is ready to go, said Trauth.

"The whole team has improved on everything," she said. "We have worked hard in practice and we look tough."

## Norse end season at No. 1 in conference

By Bruce Reller  
Sports Editor

lar season with a record of 24-2 and 19 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

The NKU women's basketball team wrapped up its regular season with two conference road wins against Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, 63-58, and Southern Indiana, 61-48.

In the Edwardsville game Thursday, the Norse held a 30-26 halftime lead, as NKU shot 46 percent, 13 for 28, from the field. The Cougars kept it close most of the way through the second half with the Norse.

Edwardsville only shot 30 percent, 7 for 23, from field goal range in the half but shot 80 percent, 16 for 20, from the free throw line to stay in the game.

NKU stayed consistent in all its shots in the second half as they shot 40 percent, 10 for 25, from the field and shot 43 percent in the game.

The Norse also shot 38 percent from three-point range and 50 percent from the free throw line to claim the five-point victory.

Sophomore Michelle Cottrell led the way for NKU with 16 points and 11 rebounds and freshman Amy Mobley contributed 12 points and eight rebounds for the Norse in the win. Misi Clark came away with 20 points for the Cougars.

The fourth ranked Norse kept right on rolling against Southern Indiana on Saturday.

Mobley and Michele Tuchfarber each poured in 11 points and Julie Cowens added 10 points for NKU in the win. Casey Hughes led the way for Southern Indiana with 16 points.

Mobley and Cottrell were also aggressive on the boards with 13 each for the Norse. NKU easily won the rebounding battle in the game 45-34, including 33-22 on the defensive end.

The Norse shot 42 percent from the field in the game, including 44 percent in the second half. Southern Indiana only shot 29 percent from the field. NKU went on to win the game by 13.

With the wins, the NKU ended its regu-

### NKU vs. SIUE

NKU (63)-Cottrell 6 4 16, Cowens 5 0 10, Jensen 1 0 3, Livingstone 2 0 5, Tuchfarber 3 2 10, Smith 0 0 0, Mobley 4 4 12, Flanagan 2 2 7, Polosky 0 0 0  
Totals: 23 12 63

SIUE (58)-Johnson 1 3 5, Larson 4 3 11, Cook 3 2 8, Clark 6 7 20, Sollberger 3 2 0, Eller 0 2 2, Gladson 0 0 0, Grizzle 0 0 0, DeShasier 0 2 2  
Totals: 17 21 58

### Half-NKU 30-SIU 26

3 pt. goals: NKU 5 (Tuchfarber 2, Jensen, Livingstone, Flanagan), SIUE 3 (Sollberger 2, Clark) Rebounds: NKU 33 (Cottrell 11), SIUE 40 (Johnson 8, Cook 7) Assists: NKU 16 (Tuchfarber 5), SIUE 8 (Larson 3) Steals: NKU 11 (Tuchfarber 3), SIUE 5 (Clark 2) Turnovers: NKU 12, SIUE 15 Attendance: 735

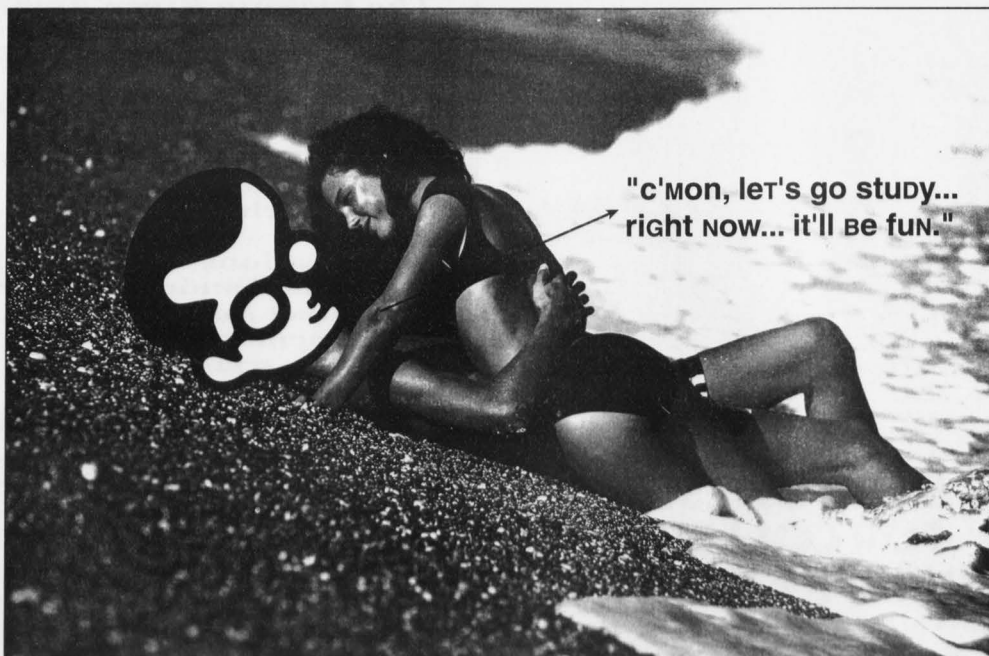
### NKU vs. SOUTHERN INDIANA

NKU (61)-Cottrell 4 1 9, Mobley 3 5 11, Jensen 1 0 3, Livingstone 3 0 6, Tuchfarber 3 4 11, Smith 0 0 0, Cowens 4 2 10, Flanagan 3 0 8, Polosky 1 1 3  
Totals: 22 13 61

So. IN (48)-Hughes 6 3 16, Donner 3 0 7, Gingerich 2 3 7, Miller 4 0 8, Glaser 2 0 4, Cunningham 0 0 0, Shaff 0 0 0, Hochgesang 0 0 0, Prewett 0 2 2, Irwin 0 4 4  
Totals: 17 12 48

### Half-NKU 30-So. IN 22

3 pt. goals: NKU 4 (Flanagan 2, Jensen, Tuchfarber), So. IN 2 (Hughes, Donner) Rebounds: NKU 45 (Cottrell, Mobley 13 each), So. IN 34 (Irwin 8) Assists: NKU 14 (Livingstone 4), So. IN 8 (Miller 5) Steals: NKU 10 (Mobley 3), So. IN 10 (Miller 6) Turnovers: NKU 22, So. IN 18 Attendance: 1,300



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Kelly Sudzina/The Northerner  
Scott Marston scored 17 of the Norse's 81 points in the win over Southern Illinois-Edwardsville on Thursday.

## NKU splits last two season games

By Bruce Reller  
Sports Editor

The NKU men's basketball team split its last two regular season games to finish with a number three seed for the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament.

The week started out good for the Norse as they easily beat Southern Illinois-Edwardsville Thursday, 81-70.

Brian Lawhon led the way for NKU with 20 points and Scott Marston added 17 points for the Norse in the win.

The game was close in the first half as NKU only held a one point halftime lead, 32-31. The Cougars shot 46 percent, 11 for 24, from the field in the first half, and the Norse shot 32 percent, 10 for 31, in the half.

NKU came out red hot in the second half as they only missed seven shots, 16 for 23, from the field in the half. The Norse went on to win the game by 11.

The tables turned for the basketball team on Saturday when it faced the Screaming Eagles of Southern Indiana.

The 19th ranked Norse kept it close throughout the first half against 13th ranked Southern Indiana. Both teams were deadlocked 31-31 at halftime.

However, NKU fell apart in the second half as they shot a dismal 27 percent, 8 for 30, from the field in the half and were

only 2 for 13, 15 percent, from three-point range.

Southern Indiana shot an incredible 55 percent, 16 for 29, from the field in the second half and 48 percent for the game to claim a 75-60 victory over the Norse.

The Screaming Eagles were led by Brandon Hughes with 20 points and Habib Ademi with 14 points. Craig Sanders was the only player in double figures for NKU with 11 points in the loss.

With the split of the two games, the Norse ended the regular season with a 24-5 record and 16-4 in the GLVC.

### NKU vs. SIUE

NKU (81)-Brewster 0 0 0, Marston 6 0 17, Lawhon 6 3 20, Listerman 0 3 3, Conley 2 5 9, Perdris 0 0 0, Schaefer 0 0 0, Stowers 0 0 0, Sanders 1 1 4, Rupe 1 0 2, Norwell 3 6 12, Wieber 7 0 14  
Totals: 26 18 81

SIUE (70)-McKinzie 4 3 11, Wallbaum 2 7 11, Hartwig 4 2 10, Cowan 0 2 2, Sexson 1 0 2, Humphrey 4 1 11, Cross 0 0 0, Perry 1 0 3, Moss 3 2 9, Perkins 4 3 11  
Totals: 23 20 70

### Half-NKU 32-SIUE 31

3 pt. goals: NKU 11 (Marston 5, Lawhon 5, Sanders), SIUE 4 (Humphrey 2, Perry,

Moss) Rebounds: NKU 33 (Listerman, Wieber 7 each), SIUE 31 (Hartwig 8) Assists: NKU 11 (Listerman 6), SIUE 10 (Cross 3) Steals: NKU 7 (Marston 2), SIUE 7 (McKinzie, Perry 2 each) Turnovers: NKU 10, SIUE 15 Attendance: 1,033

### NKU vs. SOUTHERN INDIANA

NKU (60)-Lawhon 2 2 8, Norwell 4 1 9, Marston 2 0 5, Conley 0 7 7, Listerman 1 2 5, Perdris 0 0 0, Stowers 0 0 0, Sanders 4 1 11, Brewster 3 1 7, Rupe 0 0 0, Wieber 3 2 8  
Totals: 19 16 60

So. IN (75)-Givens 2 1 5, Kelley 2 0 5, Ademi 5 2 14, Hughes 8 2 20, Lyons 4 3 11, Henderson 1 0 3, Kain 1 0 3, Herdes 0 3 3, Harris 1 1 3, Green 4 0 8  
Totals: 29 9 75

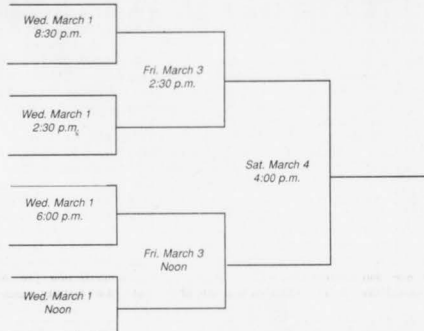
### Half-NKU 31-So. IN 31

3 pt. goals: NKU 6 (Lawhon 2, Sanders 2, Marston, Listerman), So. IN 8 (Ademi 2, Hughes 2, Kelley, Henderson, Kain, Herdes) Rebounds: NKU 49 (Listerman 11), So. IN 37 (Ademi 7) Assists: NKU 10 (Listerman 5), So. IN 20 (Hughes 5)

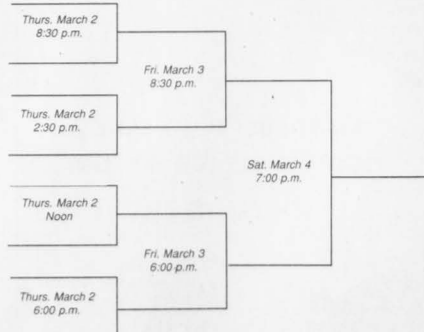
Steals: NKU 6 (Listerman 2), So. IN 10 (Lyons, Green 3 each) Turnovers: NKU 18, So. IN 13 Attendance: 3,400

## 2000 Pepsi GLVC Basketball Tournament Brackets

### Women's Basketball



### Men's Basketball



All Games will be at Roberts Stadium in Evansville, Indiana. Game times are Central Time.

## The Northerner Athletes of the Week



Photos by Kelly Sudzina

**Left: Amy Mobley**  
Mobley helped lead the Norse to two conference road wins this past week. She combined for 23 points in the two games.



**Right: Zach Wieber**  
Wieber was a key player in both conference games for NKU. His best performance was 14 points in the win against SIUE.

## The Licking River Review Cameo

**Applications are now being accepted for student editorial positions for the 2000-2001 school year.**

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**Deadline for applications - March 29**

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## Crash and (don't) tell

By Kelly Sudzina  
Executive Editor

Crash, crash, CRASH! 7:35 a.m.  
Crash, crash, CRASH! 7:42 a.m.  
This time it wasn't even the guy  
that lives above me. It was much  
worse.

Wednesday morning I, woke up  
surprised to find that construction  
was going on right outside my  
door—literally.

Apparently these practically  
brand new (seven-year-old) apart-  
ments in Woodcrest are falling  
down already. Wednesday they put  
up 40 wooden supports in my  
breezeway "alone—including an  
unsightly post right outside the  
middle of my only window.

Now when I come home after  
class I'm not just coming home  
to a massive concrete structure.  
I'm coming home to a massive  
concrete structure disguised as a  
jungle hut.

The fact that it's unattractive isn't  
even the part that bothers me,  
although something built in 1992  
shouldn't have major structural  
problems in 2000.

I was most upset that nobody told  
me about this.

I have a mailbox on campus. I

have a door that people will occa-  
sionally tape a notice to (usually  
about minor stuff like changing the  
filter in the air conditioning unit,  
etc.). But there was nothing men-  
tioning the fact that there were  
going to be big men with loud  
walkie-talkies sawing and hammer-  
ing with platforms and all literally  
right outside my door for six hours  
straight or more. And again the next  
day.

At one point I looked outside my  
door and I wasn't even sure if I was  
allowed to leave or not. They had  
yellow construction tape stretched  
all across my doorway.

As I said before, I'm glad they're  
keeping the building from falling  
down around my ears. I just wish  
they would have warned me I'd be  
hearing all the noise.

And a little comfort info about  
the construction might have helped  
too. If I hadn't been working at *The  
Northerner* I might not have read  
the article in the Jan. 19 issue that  
explained this was only a precau-  
tion because of some water damage.  
I may have thought I was in im-  
mediate danger and panicked.

Remember I'm the one that has to  
live here. If it's enough to concern  
you, it's enough to concern me.



Distributed by Collegiate Presswire Features Syndicate

## Driver's Ed: Pete's tips for safer driving

By Peter W. Zubaty  
Copy Editor

In today's crass, callous, rude  
and selfish society, road rage has  
become an increasingly common  
fact of everyday life.

The American economy and  
infrastructure is structured in such  
a fashion that most citizens are  
almost required to own a car to  
have any chance whatsoever to  
function in day-to-day life.

Through our government's kow-  
towing to big business, most  
notably automobile manufacturers  
and oil companies, and the inabil-  
ity, or unwillingness, of most  
major cities - save for the densely  
populated eastern seaboard and  
Chicago area - to develop an effi-  
cient mass transit system, we can-  
not even imagine what life would  
be like without a car.

The unfortunate abandonment  
of our inner cities for the "safe"  
(read: white) suburbs has resulted  
in the proliferation of miserable

suburban dumps such as Florence,  
Springdale and (insert the suburb  
you live in here). It is nearly  
impossible for someone living in  
an actual urban setting to shop for  
reasonably priced basic items such  
as groceries and clothing.

So how do we solve the prob-  
lem? Well, I would be perfectly  
content if we could abandon all the  
suburbs, return the land to its  
ideal agricultural use, and repopu-  
late our cities. But I know that is  
unrealistic. People like their cars  
too much. But I must admit, I am  
not too fond of mine right now,  
with gas prices hanging around  
the \$1.50 per gallon range. So it  
looks as though we are all stuck  
with each other.

Here's a thought: To make the  
realities of daily travel a bit less  
strenuous, I vote we take to heart  
what I call Pete's Tips for Safer  
and Smarter Driving.

Please, always use your turn  
signal. Regardless of what you

may think, I don't know where  
you're going.

- Learn the rules of right-of-way. Few things are more irritating than to be stuck behind a group of people who are unable to figure out whose turn it is to go. Rule of thumb: First person to the stop sign goes first. If you all get there at the same time, the person on your right gets the nod. If you still can't figure it out, be courteous and motion your fellow driver to go first.

- Those of you driving those wholly unnecessary SUVs, you don't own the road. Pay attention when backing up, and don't bully around those in smaller vehicles just because you can. In most cases, you are really only hauling around children and groceries. Why not get a station wagon instead? That is all SUVs really are anyway.

- When it is raining, snowing, icing or any other inclement weather, slow down. You may think that you can drive the same speed in those conditions, but you can't. You only cause wrecks.

- If you have a cellular phone, don't use it while driving. You only cause wrecks. And besides, you really aren't as important as you have led yourself to believe. This also applies for those who feel it necessary to shave, apply makeup, style hair and other grooming that should have been done at home.

- When you stop at a stop sign, it is not necessary to stop for a full 30 seconds to a minute before proceeding through the intersection, five seconds is quite adequate.

- When merging into heavy expressway traffic, do not stop at the end of the on ramp and try to gun it when you see a break in

the traffic. It is easier to pay atten-  
tion to the speed of the traffic and  
pace yourself to find a safe merge.  
There is a reason it is called the  
acceleration lane.

- Don't pretend like you are a NASCAR driver by dashing in and out of traffic and cutting in front of semi-truck drivers. If traffic should suddenly grind to a halt, those trucks need all the leeway they can get to stop. If they hit you, you will lose.

- Stay on your side of the road. Fortunately I have a small car that handles well. In a larger vehicle, I would have a difficult time avoid-  
ing those drivers who are too incompetent to stay on their own side.

- I am not impressed by your car's speed. When you squeal tires, or drive unnecessarily fast, the only impression you're making to me is that you are an idiot

and you get a charge out of pony-  
ing up the \$300 to replace your  
tires every year.

- And finally, to our friends in the law enforcement community, police have a bad enough reputa-  
tion with the public at large. The media scandals generated by minority mistreatment and unethical practices are bad enough. It does nothing to improve your image when you turn on your blue lights and proceed through an intersection just because you don't feel like waiting for the signal to turn green. This abuse of privilege, while seemingly minor, paints police officers as hypocritical, and gives ethical officers amidst the ranks a black eye.

So what have we learned? More than anything else, the underlying theme is courtesy. Through cour-  
tesy, we can reduce the stress we place on others and make that insufferable commute a wee bit  
friendlier.

## NORTH POLL

### What are your plans for spring break?

Jennifer Potter  
Erlanger  
"To lay on the beach in  
Daytona."



Stephanie Jones  
Louisville  
"Party hard."



Cindy Whalen  
Ft. Mitchell  
"Have fun in the sun."



Earl Cramer  
Cincinnati  
"I have to go to Hilton  
Head for a tennis tourna-  
ment."



Brad Dawson  
Florence  
"Fun or not, I'm going  
nowhere."



Brandon Kramer  
Villa Hills  
"I'm going to Cancun."



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*The Northerner* welcomes all letters to the editor and editorials. We  
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the Kentucky Intercollegiate Press Association. Publication is week-  
ly on Wednesdays excluding university observed holidays and final  
examination weeks.

As a thank you for reading *The Northerner*, we invite you to the advanced showing of the film "Mission to Mars" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 7 at the Showcase Cinemas in Springdale. Bring this ad UC 209 on Monday, March 6. Seating is limited so tickets will be given on a first come first serve basis. While Supplies Last.