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Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2005



Nicole Jones / Photo Editor

Beth Bell makes a purchase at Ritazza café in the W. Frank Steely Library.

Library to see new café

Chartwells will begin construction on Ritazza Café this week

By SARAH LOMAN
Assistant News Editor
IrishGrSarah@aol.com

Work begins this week on a new café that will be going in the W. Frank Steely Library common area.

Chartwells, the new food service company that Northern Kentucky University hired, is footing the bill for this new café called Ritazza.

It will have a more expansive selection with hot and cold foods available.

Chartwells flew a designer in to look at the space available for the café, and the construction should start this week.

There will have to be some adjustments to one of the library doors so that the entire stand can fit.

"It's gonna be pretty nice," said Andy Meeks, director of business operations. "It'll have deli-style sandwiches, espresso and soup."

"It's a reasonably upscale type of operation."

The change is occurring because the previous café, Jazzman's, is owned by NKU's previous food service provider.

Chartwells had the same concept and decided to put one in the same place.

Meeks believes that it's "safe to say" that the café will be finished within a month's time, or possibly sooner.

New SGA constitution approved

By C.J. FRYER
News Editor
cjfryer@fuse.net

After a year-long struggle, the Northern Kentucky University Student Government Association is now operating under a new constitution.

But that doesn't mean the struggle is over.

The Board of Regents unanimously approved the new constitution at its Jan. 26 meeting, after the student body passed the document in a Jan. 19 referendum. However, the version of the constitution passed was not the same version that the student senate approved at its Nov. 29 meeting, which prompted SGA Sen. Michael Tobertga to challenge the legitimacy of the referendum. Tobertga submitted a petition signed by 200 students to the dean of students office Jan. 25.

SGA President Andy Hixson, who serves as the student regent on the board, said he was faced with a difficult decision in deciding whether to present the constitution to the board. He said because it was the version approved by the constitution committee and the student body, he chose to bring it to the board, despite the controversy.

"If I had gone before the Board of Regents and said, 'Oh, we don't have anything,' then what would have happened?" Hixson asked. "Would they write one for us, maybe, because we can't handle it?"

"This year, we have (a constitution) that's acceptable ... and then something happens ... (that) makes SGA look like they're not capable of handling the situation."

-SGA President Andy Hixson

"I didn't want to take that chance."

At the Jan. 31 SGA meeting, Hixson said because embarrassment fell on the student senate, it should be held responsible for figuring out how the version mix-up occurred. He announced an ad hoc legislative review committee would investigate the situation and report its findings

no later than Feb. 14.

Tobertga said he is weary of the committee's intentions.

"This is not about looking into what went wrong," Tobertga said. "This is about going after me ... because of the controversy that I stirred."

Tobertga compared the investigation to a "witch hunt" that is out to put blame on him.

"It's not my own personal agenda to cause controversy," Tobertga said. "I don't like controversy. I'm probably one person who tries to stay out of it."

"But there are some times that you can lay down all you want, and people will walk over you every time. It's time that you stand up and say, 'enough is enough and it's time for a change.' That's exactly what I did and people didn't like it - they got scared."

Hixson said the committee is not out to get anyone. "This committee is to find out what happened so that we tell the senate the findings and report to the board what happened," Hixson said.

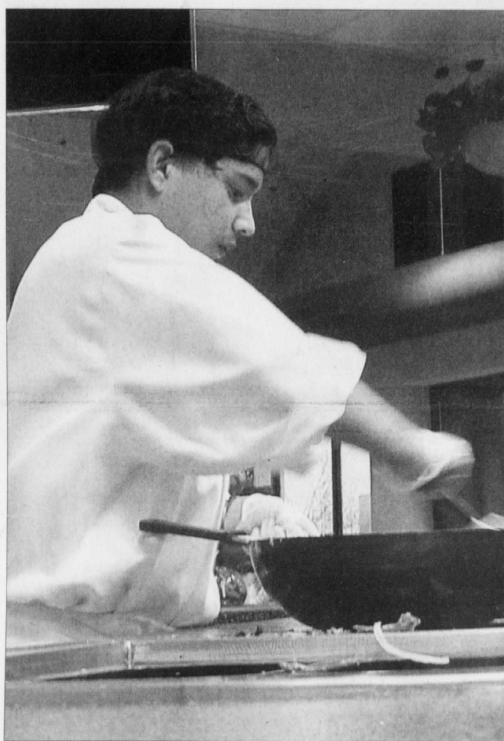
Chief Justice Nathan Hagler said the judicial council would rule on Tobertga's petition by Feb. 7. The judicial council could approve another referendum, which would ask students if they want to repeal the new constitution.

NKU's last attempt to have the Board of Regents approve a new constitution ended in failure. Although the student senate and the student body passed the previous document, NKU President James Votruba recommended sending it back to SGA at the board's July 21 meeting. University officials deemed the previous constitution, which gave SGA control over the Activities Programming Board and the Residential Housing Association, a "flawed document."

"The constitution that was passed by Student Government last year was unacceptable," Hixson said. "This year, we have one that's acceptable ... and then something happens where a different document goes from the committee to the senate (that) makes SGA look like they're not capable of handling the situation."

"That was the last thing that I wanted to happen."

See CONSTITUTION, page 3



Mike Brennan / Photographer

Bikash Khadka, an international student from Nepal, works on campus in the Norse Commons dining hall.

New job policy for foreign students

By SARAH LOMAN
Assistant News Editor
IrishGrSarah@aol.com

University policy regarding international students working on and off campus recently changed this past October due to the Social Security laws changing.

You have to be in good academic standing. You have to have comprehensive medical coverage. You have to be enrolled for one academic year, and then you still have to receive written permission.

Those are just a few things that international students who attend Northern Kentucky University have to go through to get a job. Before, international students coming to the United States on a student visa who were in good legal status could apply and get a Social Security card upon arrival. They had to have their card before they could apply for a job.

Now students have to have a

firm offer of a job before they are allowed to apply for their Social Security card.

To accommodate these students who will work on campus, the university has them go through a process.

They first go around and apply for jobs. When they have an offer and have accepted it, the employer then calls the Office of International Student Affairs and makes them aware of it.

The Director of International Student Affairs, Viki Kimball, then writes the students a letter for the Social Security office. The students then take the letter to the office and can apply for a Social Security card. The employer must hold the job for the student until they get their card, which usually occurs between 10 days and two weeks.

International student employees are only allowed to work 20 hours a week, whether the job is on campus or not, by federal immigration

regulations.

"Their primary purpose is to study," said Kimball. "Most visas are not allowed to work at all."

"They have allowed those with student visas to work because they need the practical training that they will receive in the work environment."

About four percent of the students at NKU are international students, with close to 90 different countries being represented.

"Their GPAs are generally very good," said Kimball. "They have to convince both the Consulate and the university that they are serious students."

The Consulate General's Office is part of the United States Embassy and deals with immigration issues.

Despite what may seem like a lot of paperwork, Kimball says that most international students on campus have a job.

Caucus to hear concerns

By SARAH LOMAN
Assistant News Editor
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Students will have an opportunity to be heard in the legislative world Feb. 5 when the Northern Kentucky Legislative Caucus meets on campus.

The forum-style meeting will be held in the University Center cafeteria to attend to constituent concerns. The amount of time that each person will have to address the caucus will depend on how many people are present for the meeting.

Student Government Association president Andy Hixson feels that it will be a good opportunity for the student body. "I hope that the NKU student body will take this chance to express their concerns about the university's underfunding, that I hear every day, to the Northern Kentucky Caucus," Hixson said in a press release.

Robert Schrage, the assistant director of the Northern Kentucky Area Development District, agrees. "The general public should be interested, and the students should be interested," Schrage said. "There's a lot of issues on the table that will affect Northern Kentucky University."

Schrage, who is also in charge of staffing for the caucus, went on to say, "Students have seen some major tuition hikes, and getting funding has always been a major priority. And there's the budget. Also, the arena is the number-one capital project for northern Kentucky," Schrage said. "There's a lot to concern students."

Students who are interested in addressing the caucus are encouraged to arrive early to the meeting and are required to sign in. Those who have signed in will be called on to participate in the order in which they signed.

"This is an excellent opportunity for the students, faculty and staff and friends of NKU to communicate the importance of the caucus's work on behalf of the university," said Joe Wind, executive director for government and community relations at NKU, in a press release.

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campusreport

campusbriefs

Students may qualify for larger tax refund

Working families and individuals who have lower incomes may qualify this year for an important and often overlooked tax break known as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), according to Mary Lepper of the Northern Kentucky University Asset Building Coalition.

"The Earned Income Tax Credit rewards two things – hard work and family," Lepper said. "It is geared toward people who work hard but don't make a lot of money, and it is one way the federal government has helped to successfully lift millions of families and children out of poverty."

The EITC provides low-income workers with a rebate of all or a portion of the federal income taxes they pay each year. In order to be eligible for the credit, an individual must have a job and must file a tax return. According to the IRS, the maximum EITC for 2004 is \$4,300 for families with two or more qualifying children.

For more information on the EITC, tax preparation site locations, dates and times, and services offered, visit the Coalition's Web site at aces.nku.edu/ite or call (859) 572-6578.

NKU offers job opportunities

Northern Kentucky University students will have a chance to interview with local companies. The Career Development Center currently has 12 on-campus interview opportunities with five different well-known companies for both full-time and co-op positions.

To apply for these positions and interviews, students must be registered in the Career Development Center's job search referral service, *Norse-Recruiting*. To get registered with *Norse-Recruiting* send an e-mail to cdc@nku.edu with full name, date of birth, active e-mail address.

Several companies have open interview schedules that will allow anyone interested to be able to sign up for an interview. For more information and a list of companies/opportunities, you can contact the Career Development Center at 859-572-5680 or e-mail cdc@nku.edu.

The following reports were filed with the Northern Kentucky University Police Department between Jan. 25 and 31.

Tuesday, Jan. 25

12:04 p.m. Subject reported a minor, non-injury auto accident at Kenton Drive. Both vehicles remained in service.

Wednesday, Jan. 26

8:58 a.m. Subject reported the theft of a laser printer from Steely Library, under investigation.

11:45 a.m. Subject reported the theft of cash from the listed location, under investigation.

2:45 p.m. Subject stated that a textbook had been stolen from a book bag that had been left at Steely Library, under investigation.

6:35 p.m. Subject reported the theft of a purse from the Applied Science and Technology building. The complainant later stated that the purse was found and recovered.

Thursday, Jan. 27

10:43 a.m. Subject reported that a textbook was stolen from Steely Library, under investigation.

10:48 a.m. Subject was issued a Kentucky State Citation for speeding and for an expired registration on Nunn Drive.

1:21 p.m. Medical assistance was requested for a subject at the University Center. Officers and Central Campbell County Squad responded. Subject was transported to St. Elizabeth South for further evaluation and treatment.

4:17 p.m. Subject reported that a

VCR was stolen from the Landrum Building, under investigation.

Friday, Jan. 28

1:01 p.m. A complaint was received that stated there were subjects playing cards for money at the University Center. Upon arrival, Officer located and spoke with the subject(s) and advised them of the University's Policy on this matter.

1:09 p.m. Subject reported the theft of a 2005 NKU Parking Permit from a vehicle while parked at the parking lot V on Jan. 27. Subject was referred to the Parking Office for a replacement, under investigation.

2:41 p.m. Medical assistance was requested for a subject at the University Center. Officers and the Central Campbell County Squad responded. The subject was transported to St. Luke East for further evaluation and treatment.

3:56 p.m. Officer conducted a traffic stop at University Drive. The driver was issued a Kentucky State Citation for an expired registration and failure to produce an insurance card.

4:03 p.m. Officer observed a vehicle with expired registration plates on Alexandria Pike. The driver was issued a Kentucky State Citation for an expired registration.

5:49 p.m. Subject was issued a Kentucky State Citation for speeding on Johns Hill Road.

7:55 p.m. Officer observed a vehicle disregard a traffic light on Kenton Drive. The driver was issued a Kentucky State Citation for failure to obey a traffic control device.

policebeat

Saturday, Jan. 29

1:40 a.m. A smoke alarm was received from the University Suites. Officers, Power Plant and Central Campbell County Fire Department responded. Upon arrival, it was determined that the alarm was caused when a hot iron fell onto an art project. The alarm was reset, building cleared for occupancy and scene cleared at 1:55 a.m. The State Fire Marshal's Office was notified via e-mail.

6:42 p.m. A single vehicle non-injury auto accident was reported on Johns Hill Road. The vehicle was moved from the roadway but remained in service.

7:19 p.m. Officer requested a vehicle be towed from the University Center fire-gates. The owner of the vehicle arrived before the vehicle was towed, paid the tow driver the show-up fee and moved the vehicle.

Sunday, Jan. 30

1:56 a.m. Officer responded Norse Hall because of a noise complaint and found a party involving alcohol. One subject was issued a Kentucky State Citation for possession of alcohol by a minor. The alcohol was confiscated and secured in DPS evidence.

12:04 p.m. Subject reported the theft of a prescription drug from Kentucky Hall. The theft is currently under investigation.

6:23 p.m. Officer observed a vehicle with an expired registration on Martha Layne Collins Blvd. The driver was issued a Kentucky State Citation for an expired registration.

10:41 p.m. Subject reported damage to a vehicle while parked in parking lot P, under investigation.

Monday, Jan. 31

10:58 a.m. Officer conducted a traffic stop at parking lot V. The driver was issued a Kentucky State Citation for an expired registration and failure to produce an insurance card.

2:00 p.m. Officer conducted a traffic stop at parking lot V. The driver was issued a Kentucky State Citation for no Kentucky registration and no insurance.

2:00 p.m. Subject reported a non-injury auto accident in parking lot L. Both vehicles sustained moderate damage, but remained in service.

3:28 p.m. Subject reported the theft of an NKU Parking Permit from an off campus location. An officer advised the subject to file a theft report with the Newport Police. Subject was referred to the Parking Office for a replacement.

3:44 p.m. Officer observed a vehicle with expired registration plates on University Drive. The driver was issued a Kentucky State Citation for the expired registration.

4:14 p.m. An officer observed a vehicle with expired registration plates on Johns Hill Road. The officer issued a Kentucky State Citation for an expired registration.

7:00 p.m. Subject reported the theft of a watch from the listed location, under investigation.

8:36 p.m. Officer conducted a traffic stop at Nunn Drive. The officer issued a Kentucky State Citation for speeding and gave a verbal warning for improper registration.

Funding Available to Students

The Office of Research, Grants & Contracts is pleased to announce the following funding opportunities available to students in Spring 2005 to complete a research or creative project

1 The Student Undergraduate Research Grant (SURG) offers funding up to \$500 to NKU undergraduate students who will complete the research or creative project before they graduate.
Deadline: March 4, 2005.

2 The Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) offers funding (\$2,500 stipend/\$500 supplies) to students with faculty mentors in:

- Accountancy
- Art
- Communication
- Economics and Finance
- Education Specialties
- Elementary, Middle and Secondary Programs
- History and Geography
- Information Systems
- Literature and Language
- Management and Marketing
- Music
- Nursing and Allied Health Professions
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Social Work and Human Services
- Sociology, Anthropology and Philosophy
- Theater
- Honors Program
- Women's Studies.

3 The Graduate Student Research Grant (GSRG) is a new opportunity which offers funding up to \$750 to NKU graduate students who will complete the research or creative project before they graduate.
Deadline: March 4, 2005

For more info about funding opportunities available to students, visit <http://rgc.nku.edu> and follow the link to Student Opportunities. Or call the Office of Research, Grants & Contracts at 572-5166.

Deadline: March 25, 2005

othernews

Universities fight military recruiting

By PATRICK KIERSTRA
Knight Ridder Newspapers

The standoff between military recruiters and universities that want to bar or limit their access to campus will be decided by the Supreme Court, if the Bush administration has its way.

Although the case has been framed as a free-speech test, it is also loaded with civil-rights questions and with concerns over military readiness.

At the heart of the dispute is the military's ban on openly gay service members. "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" conflicts sharply with the tolerant ethos and written policies of many universities, which forbid discrimination because of sexual orientation.

Those campus policies were trumped by a decade-old law now known as the Solomon Amendment, which gives the Pentagon the authority to withhold federal funds from colleges that deny equal access to military recruiters. At the University of Pennsylvania, that could affect more than \$500 million in federal funds each year.

Last fall, the law's opponents convinced an appellate court that the amendment violated universities' First Amendment rights. Last week, the court

agreed to stay its ruling until the Justice Department can appeal it to the Supreme Court. Students and administrators at local institutions were waiting for the court's decision to hear the case before formally reevaluating what to do.

But even if the Solomon Amendment is ultimately deemed unconstitutional, the local schools appear unlikely to ban the military, and some will not limit military access at all.

"This is a delicate balance," said Maura McKenna, 32, a Penn law student and co-chair of the Lambda Law chapter, which is fighting the amendment.

"If our classmates satisfy the military's hiring criteria and want a military career, it would be just as discriminatory for us to block them from pursuing that career as it is for the military to refuse to hire LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) students."

Indeed, campus resistance to the amendment has often been largely symbolic. For instance, when Penn Law School decided that its career office should not work with military recruiters, they set up at the university's central career office instead.

But such compromises haven't satisfied the Pentagon.

"We should have the same access as any other employer,"

said Maj. Michael Shavers, a Department of Defense spokesman. "We just want to compete on a level playing field for the talent that our nation's universities are putting out."

In some quarters, debate over the Solomon Amendment has become a full-fledged battle in the culture wars. Harvard University professor Alan M. Dershowitz, for example, has labeled the law "an immoral and probably illegal extortion." And in a letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft, four GOP senators called the lower court's ruling "an insult to our military."

"Veterans across the country are rightly concerned that academic and legal elites — unable to promote their hostility to the military through the democratic process — have been conducting an active and aggressive campaign in the courts to deepen the divide between military and civilian culture in our nation,"

A letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft from four GOP senators

the letter read.

While the rhetoric has been cooler locally, several Penn Law School professors and students did file suit to overturn Solomon, and there have been sporadic protests there as well.

Law schools such as Penn's and Harvard University's have been ground zero for the Solomon fight because most reputable schools belong to the Association of American Law Schools. The group forbids members from assisting employers that do not follow the association's nondiscrimination policies.

When Solomon made that impossible, the association's members were told to "ameliorate any adverse effects of non-compliance with regard to the educational atmosphere for gay and lesbian students."

While some schools responded by suing the government, Widener University in Chester, Pa., chose to post disclaimers when military recruiters came

around. "Military policies are beyond the control of the School of Law," Widener's disclaimer reads.

At Villanova University, amelioration has meant programmed discussions on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," said Law School dean Mark A. Sargent. But the Main Line university, which boasts alumni such as retired Gen. Anthony Zinni, will continue to welcome recruiters even if Solomon is overturned, Sargent said.

At Temple University in Philadelphia, the decision is out of the law school's hands. The university's nondiscrimination policy makes a campuswide exception for military recruiters and the R.O.T.C. program. Changing that, said Temple Law dean Robert J. Reinstein, would require a vote by trustees.

Butgers-Camden student Patrick Hild predicted that, if the amendment is overturned, his law school community will come together and decide their antidiscrimination policy is more important than allowing military recruiters to use our career center.

There are signs that an informal consideration of new campus policy is already under way at Penn, where university president Amy Gutmann had exchanged e-mails and had dis-

cussions with campus groups opposed to the amendment.

Penn has long been committed to the principles of non-discrimination, openness, and tolerance," she wrote in an e-mail to Jacob Press, the law school student coordinating the anti-Solomon campaign. "Since these fundamental moral values are a core commitment of this University, they will certainly inform our consideration of the issues."

Her e-mail also said that Penn would wait for the Solomon litigation to be resolved before making any decisions.

While law school students at the University of California-Los Angeles, the College of William and Mary in Virginia, and elsewhere have filed friend-of-the-court briefs supporting Solomon, there has been no organized support for the amendment from local law schools.

Phillip Carter, a Los Angeles lawyer and Army veteran who co-wrote a pro-Solomon brief, thinks that's a shame.

"In the long run, if they really want to change the military's policy, they should encourage more of their graduates into the service," Carter said. "It's not going to be a guy from Texas A&M that does it. It'll be Penn graduates and Harvard graduates who change that policy."

Constitution *Continued from page one*

Tobregta said he is upset the board would not even vote on last year's proposed constitution, yet it approved this new constitution.

"In the past they did not honor the student vote, and now they are," Tobregta said.

In his petition, Tobregta also claimed the new constitution gives too

much power to the administration.

After a suggestion from Votruba Jan. 26, Hixson asked the board to eliminate a section of the new constitution that gave the NKU President the power to amend or repeal any provision in the constitution or action of SGA. The board removed the section from the document.

However, Tobregta said this deletion did not truly take away this power from the university president, citing another part of the new constitution that states, "The Board of Regents retains final authority over all actions of the SGA and the board has delegated such authority to the president of the institution and other designated

officials as appointed by the president."

"It is the board's job to look out for the best interest of the institution," Tobregta said. "But who is really the basis of the institution? Is it the buildings, is it the faculty, staff and administration, or is it the students? I think it's everybody, but I think they're kind

of sidestepping the students."

Hixson doesn't see it this way.

"The Board of Regents has control over everything on this university anyway," Hixson said. "That's never going to change ... You have to have checks and balances."

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For more information: Call the Northern Kentucky University Upward Bound office at 859.442.3520. To complete an application, stop by the Upward Bound office at 412 Johns Hill Rd., Highland Heights between 8:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. weekdays or go to our Web site at <http://access.nku.edu/upwardbound> and download the application and mail to the address above.

Application Deadline: Friday, February 28, 2005

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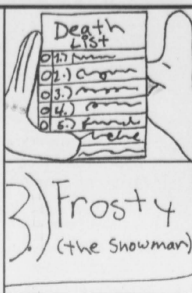
Nomination forms are available at all Academic Deans and Departmental Offices. Forward all Nominations to: Office of Vice-Provost Lucas Administrative Center, Room 834

Northern Kentucky University's Outstanding Academic Advising Awards are sponsored by the Academic Advising Council. The awards are designed to honor individuals who have demonstrated the highest standards of academic advising in service.

GRIMMER

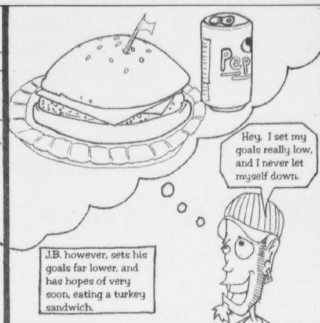
by Ricky Glore and Josh Blair

Grimmer is filling in for his father, the Grim Reaper, who is home sick from work.



The Fellas

by Alex Campbell



cryptograph

Created by Mitchell Cahill

This is a single-letter substitution cipher. A letter of the alphabet used below corresponds to only one letter of the chosen standard alphabet, and vice versa. The correlation was chosen in random order. No letter is substituted for itself.

Hint: E = N

This week's quote is from Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure:

"XCR, ODPWC P VBGCC XDVC PE XPJC
MFG UVER OPWW UC JMNX XGPEJDXEV,
XDC XGFXD PN OHWR NXVWWHEN OPWW
ECYCG UC V NFKCG UVER FXPW OC
DVYC CRRPC YVE DVWCE ME BFFXVG."

classifieds

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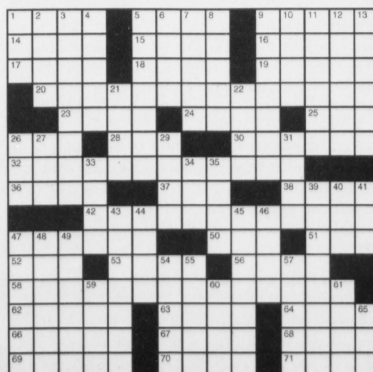
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crossword

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

- | | | |
|--------|----|------------------------|
| ACROSS | 24 | Belgrade man |
| 1 | 25 | Wind dir. |
| 5 | 26 | PFC's entertainment |
| 9 | 28 | Bonus NFL periods |
| 14 | 30 | Slurred |
| 15 | 32 | Literary lion roared? |
| 16 | 36 | Pot sweetener |
| 17 | 37 | Big letters in Detroit |
| 18 | 38 | Tours to be |
| 19 | 42 | Pop singer bragged? |
| 20 | 47 | Share billing |
| | 50 | Sellout letters |
| 23 | 51 | Make a choice |

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| DOWN | 5 | False front |
| | 7 | Drill parts |
| | 56 | Smart one |
| | 58 | Musician wanted |
| | 62 | Fortune's deck |
| | 63 | Carrier to Israel |
| | 64 | Disagreeable responsibility |
| | 66 | First name of a plane |
| 47 | Major ending? | |
| 48 | Dele opposite | |
| 49 | Fill an empty flat | |
| 50 | Conks out | |
| 51 | Italian noble family | |
| 1 | Green shade | |
| 2 | __ mater | |
| 3 | Parachutes | |
| 4 | Astronomer | |
| 5 | Cannon | |
| 6 | Stir up | |
| 7 | NYC cultural attraction | |
| 8 | City on the Seine | |
| 9 | One cubic meter | |
| 10 | Dishonorable | |
| 11 | Vivacity | |
| 12 | Taken down like a QB | |
| 13 | Sweet-smelling gas | |
| 14 | Lacked | |
| 15 | Untidy person | |
| 16 | Ship's company | |
| 17 | NATO member | |
| 18 | __ Jose, CA | |
| 19 | Disparaging remark | |
| 20 | Logical starter? | |
| 21 | For fear that | |
| 22 | Place | |
| 23 | Wise birds? | |
| 24 | Opinion value? | |
| 25 | Elected off. | |
| 26 | NYC summer hrs. | |



LAST WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 43 | Environment | 59 | Small rodent |
| 44 | Border lake | 60 | "Six Feet Under" character |
| 45 | Baby beds | 61 | Twosome |
| 46 | Kind of model | 65 | Fr. holy woman |
| 47 | Net flinger | | |
| 48 | Gasoline rating | | |
| 49 | Unsaturated alcohol | | |
| 50 | Coarse wool | | |
| 51 | Conductor Sir Georg | | |
| 52 | Uneven | | |

Answers to this week's puzzle will be published in next week's issue.

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viewpoints Letters to the editor

Parties need balance

Dear Editor,

Democrats are on the sidelines because that is where they have placed themselves. Nothing should have made them more clear than when John Kerry received a chorus of boos during the inauguration. As a Republican, I'm happy to see my party retain power, as a historian, I'm becoming alarmed.

This country has always worked best with two viable parties contesting for power. As history illustrates, one-party systems just don't work out all that well for the citizens. That is why this Republican would grab the donkey by its ears and shake some sense into it if he could.

In contrast with Nancy Pelosi's idiotic rant about "extremist Republicans," I would only point out that you was an honored guest at her party's convention. To allow Michael Moore, the easiest man in the world to see through, to stand at the podium was an indication of just how stupid the Democrats think American voters to be, a tactical error commensurate with a Republican Party gone mad allowing skinheads to preside at theirs.

So if, as John Kerry indicated, the Democrats truly do wish

to "...reach across the aisle..." they can start by discontinuing their childish filibusters, stopping the comparison of the economy with the Great Depression (and thereby assuming the voters to be idiots), admitting that this is the United States, a grown-up country capable of making its own decisions without input from the outside, stopping the rant from the destruction of Social Security, which their party denuciated over a four decade span of congressional control - and by telling Nancy Pelosi to sit down and shut up.

We need two viable parties to maintain a power balance, not one that is ever more powerful while the other continues to punch holes in its own boat.

Dennis Fished,
anthropology

One's attendance can affect others

Dear Editor,

Regarding Sean Dressman's Jan. 12 letter addressing the attendance policy and an instructor's prerogative to drop students for non-attendance, I'd just like to say to the non-attendees: "Get out of my seat if you

How to write The Northerner

Editors and staff of The Northerner welcome input from the campus community. Submit letters in the following format:

- E-mail letters to the editor to northerner@nku.edu, or submit letters by visiting the online edition at www.thenortherner.com.
- Letters must include writer's name, telephone number, class year and major.
- Letters must be 400 words or less.

- Letters must be received on Friday before publication in order to be included.
- Event or organization announcements will not be printed on the Viewpoints pages. Submit to Regan Coomer, coomer@nku.edu.
- The Northerner reserves the right to edit for content and space.

can't make it to class."

I realize that you are busy. We are all busy, but most of us manage to make the time for class. When conflicts arise, we notify the professor in advance.

Your decision to skip classes does not affect only you and your grade, but it also affects the student who was shut out of registering because you got there first. I've missed the opportunity to take classes at the most convenient time for me because the small classes in the

Communication Department close quickly. Instead, I have to work around my business, my family and my volunteer work in order to get the classes I need.

As an added incentive to come to class, you should know that people who attend and participate in class make better grades with less effort than those who don't attend.

Debbie Behler
Senior, speech communication

editorialnote

voting brings hope to Iraq

Strategies outlined by President Bush seem to be falling into place

The people in Iraq held their first free elections in half a century, and there were celebrations throughout the country. Blue fingers could be seen throughout most of Iraq as people waved them in the air, freedom was theirs.

The insurgents did attempt to scare people into staying home but it did not work. A good estimate put the amount of votes cast at 8 million of 14 million people, and nearly 60 percent of people who could vote did. Some had speculated turnout would be poor, and that 15 percent would be the best they could hope for.

By reading a sample of Internet blogs, one can get a sense of the feeling in Iraq. As one blogger put it, "Everyone out on the streets is happy, even the Iraqi security forces who will laugh and joke with journalists - the first time they've done it in months" (<http://www.backtoiraq.com>). Another said, "You thanks go to George W. Bush who will enter the history as the leader of the freedom and democracy in the recent histo-

ry! He and his people are our friends for ever!" (<http://hammorabi.blogspot.com/>)

These people seem happy that they have been liberated from the iron fist of Saddam Hussein to say if you had read the newspapers over the last year, you would have gotten a completely different story.

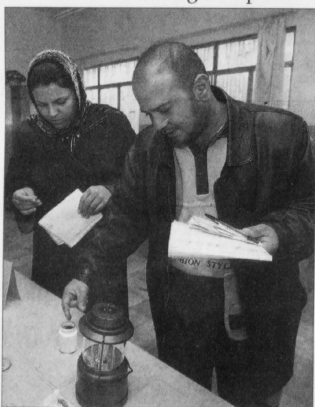
The media has been reporting to everyone about the mess in Iraq. In fact, Sen. John Kerry made it a focal point of the election. News over the weekend painted a different picture. The people seemed to be thankful and jubilant. Where were the American-hating Iraqis we had grown to know?

Perhaps it is all politics, the liberation and those against it, but I like to think there was something being done there for a good reason. Freedom and liberty were central themes to the inaugural speech, and it looks like Iraq was a good place to start.

Steve Fumero is a senior history major and a member of the College Republicans at NKU. You can contact Steve at SFumero@gmail.com.

The way I see it

with Steve Fumero



A man's finger is stained purple from ink used to fingerprint voters during Iraqi elections Jan. 30, in the Jadiriyah district of Baghdad. A surprisingly high number of Iraqis cast ballots.

Moving out means moving on

A few months ago, I made the first important decision of my life. I decided to move out and get an apartment. I was going to take the swimmy off and doggy paddle down to the deep end. Unfortunately, I found out that it was more difficult to keep your head above water than I thought. There are swim lessons for life.

First off, nothing is free. NOTHING! Common household items will come back to get you. It got so bad that my roommate and I used toilet paper as currency. I had become a tip pusher.

"Hey Man, can I score some sheets?"
"Sheets?"
"Don't play dumb with me. I

know you got it!"
"Okay, I got the stuff, what you got?"
"Whatever, I need to squeeze that Chaco!"
The grocery store, or "the house that mocks me," was no easier. All of your old favorites from your mom's kitchen cabinets might be gone. It is Big K for you. Doritos forget it, try some Cheesy Triangles. Golden Grains, sorry Donald Trump,

life food aisle.
The jerks at the generic food companies must enjoy the naming process of their ghetto products. They want to make it as obvious as possible that you are poor. Coca Cola? Don't make me laugh. It is Big K for you. Doritos forget it, try some Cheesy Triangles. Golden Grains, sorry Donald Trump,

Live on some Bronze Grahams (Come on, they put hair on your chest).

I became a vegetarian. Not by choice though, all I could afford was refined beans and ramen noodles. The spice in my life became switching from chicken to beef broth. I do become creative though. Who knew with enough Taco Bell sauce packets, you could make a tasty soup?

I needed calories and in a bad way. That is a problem I decided to attack head on. I got drunk. Yes, sir. I drank enough alcohol that a Kennedy adopted me. How can you feel hunger pains when you are hung over? I am not promoting drinking... wait a minute, yes I am. You will never meet a sober comedian. Life on your own isn't that bad. With your own place, your social life receives a boost.

Invite your friends over and make sure they are getting those needed calories as well. If you can get the opposite sex over, you won't have to live in fear of your dad walking in with his robe open exposing the family jewels. Nobody wants to hear the phrase, "Son you are doing it wrong. Do I have to show you everything?"

Though living on your own is a shock at first, I would have not changed a thing. I highly suggest doing it. Fix up stuff about yourself that you didn't know before. Don't be that 25-year-old loser still living in his parent's basement. Move out Norse, and study with caution.

Matt Stanton is a junior liberal arts major at NKU and a stand-up comedian. You can contact Matt at stantonm@nku.edu.

npr

norse poll responses

Compiled by Sara Truitt

What do you think is NKU's biggest problem?



Joe Heizer
Junior, English

"The look sucks. We look like a prison."



Adam Martin
Junior, computer information technology

"The goose pool that is always all over the sidewalks."



Vanita Brewer
Senior, education

"DPS doesn't treat us fairly at our on-campus parties."



Lynda Merrill
Junior, psychology

"Our advisers not advising our students to get their degrees in a timely manner."



Jesiah Brock
Junior, political science

"Diversity. It's my opinion that a lot of students on this campus have a lack of concern for minorities on campus."



Jessica Durr
Junior, television broadcast

"Parking. They jacked up the price for tickets but they still charge us to park in the garage."

GENERAL EDITORIAL POLICY

The views expressed on the Viewpoints page do not necessarily represent the views of The Northerner, its editors or its writers. The individual articles express those of the authors. The Northerner and its staff respect the right to a free and open dialogue as allowed under the First Amendment.

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The staff editorial reflects the views and opinions of The Northerner staff. Staff editorials are written by a senior staff member. Topics are determined weekly by a majority vote among the editorial board, which is composed of all section editors, assistant editors and senior staff members.

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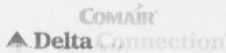
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Hey, it will last a lot longer than the
candy and flowers
you were planning on.

Attention NKU Students!!

The first 40 students to each of these games
will receive a FREE Rivalry T-Shirt courtesy of the
NKU Student Life

NKU • Kentucky Wesleyan

Hey PANTHERS...

Watch us in the Postseason!


NKU Basketball 2005

Thursday, February 3
5:45 p.m. - Women
7:30 p.m. - Men

NKU
Southern Indiana

Norse will give you something to
SCREAM
About!

Saturday, February 5
1 p.m. - Women
3:15 p.m. - Men



Life and Times

Ramen

Add more than just flavor to ramen noodles



By AMY EHRENREITER

Features Editor

ehrenreiter@nku.edu

Although college is an opportunity to gain a higher education and understanding of the complex world, when it comes to food, students want simplicity. Ramen noodles have been considered a staple food for college students.

"It's quick and easy to make," Emily Coyle, a sophomore art major said.

The preparation for the microwave-ready ramen soup meal is simple.

"Boil them, strain the noodles, and add the flavor," Arnette Olson, junior elementary education major, said. Ramen wasn't always an instant meal. Momofuku Ando, the founder of Nissin Foods in Japan, perfected the instant noodle. In the 1970s,

he marketed it to the United States, and according to the Book of Ramen by Ron Konzak, the world ramen market grosses about \$10 million annually.

The low cost and high profit from these noodles can be attributed to the international locations of ramen factories. Although ramen is common in many countries, the flavoring and preparation may vary. Korean Ramen, for example, contains a lot of spices and has packets of black bean sauce included.

China, the birthplace of ramen, has the product in a variety of Szechwan flavors, whereas Japan, the country credited with flavoring, has their ramen mostly in mild seafood flavors. The United States offers ramen in a variety of meat, mushroom and mild spiced flavors according to the Book of Ramen.

Not all college students of today may remember the introduction of ramen in America, but they carry their love, or need, of ramen with them to college.

Monica Schoster said, "I've eaten ramen like four times in the past week." The sophomore art education major said she tried ramen in high school and now eats it on a regular basis.

Although many college students use the cooked noodles and flavor packets as a meal, few realize the potential each pack possesses.

The Official Ramen Website (www.mattfischer.com/ramen) is dedicated to just that – new recipes for ramen noodles.

Whether used for a quick meal or a base ingredient to experiment with, ramen has found its niche within our society and college life.

Top Ramen Flavors Available

- Beef
- Chicken
- Cajun Chicken
- Chicken Mushroom
- Chicken Vegetable
- Spicy Chile Chicken
- Creamy Chicken
- Oriental
- Pork
- Picante Beef
- Picante Chicken
- Picante Shrimp
- Shrimp
- Spicy Vegetable
- Teriyaki Chicken

Ramen Recipes

Cut along the dotted lines and these cards can be placed in a recipe book

Pepperoni Pizza Soup

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 small onion, chopped;
- 1/2 cup fresh mushrooms, sliced;
- 1/2 cup green pepper, chopped;
- 1/2 cup pepperoni slices
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 cups beef broth (2 beef seasoning packets and 2 cups water)
- 1 cup tomato sauce

- 1 teaspoon basil
- 2 packages ramen (no seasoning packet)
- 1/4 cup mozzarella cheese

Preparation:

In medium saucepan, saute onions, mushrooms, green pepper, pepperoni and garlic in olive oil until tender. Add broth, tomato sauce, basil and raw noodles. Simmer for about 10 minutes or until mixture thickens. Top with mozzarella.

Kimchi Hotdog Ramen

Ingredients:

- 1/2 whipped egg
- thinly sliced smoked hotdogs for sausage
- 1 fresh garlic
- 1/2 chopped onions
- 1/2 Napa cabbage fresh
- 1/2 Kimchi (pickled cabbage)
- 1/2 dried chives

Preparation:

Brown hotdogs/sausage in a

skillet with the chopped onions and garlic. Boil water, about 3-5 cups. Reduce heat to simmer and add whipped egg slowly and stir.

Next add sliced and browned smoked hotdogs/sausage next add Napa cabbage let simmer for 1 minute.

Add package of noodles and simmer for 3 minutes. Either drain ingredients or pour into bowl.

Top off with Kimchi.

Jammin' Ramen

Ingredients:

- Beef ramen
- butter or margarine
- Optional: lemon juice
- Strawberry jam

Preparation:

Get a package of beef ramen and cook with a small amount of water. Cook for three minutes in the microwave and add in fla-

vor quickly.

Add a teaspoon of butter or margarine and a small amount of milk.

To contrast the base ingredients, add a drop or two of lemon juice. This will bring out all the flavors.

After this you want to add a very small amount of strawberry jam.

You may have to try this a few times to get the right amount of jam.

Chicken Ramen Broccoli Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 pack of Chicken Ramen
- 2-4 handfuls of frozen broccoli
- 1 cup of cheddar and Jack shredded cheese
- A bit of milk

Preparation:

Boil the Ramen and broccoli. Drain the water. Mix in the Chicken Flavor. Mix in the cheese until it's melted. Add milk until it's creamy to your liking.

Korean Noodle House Styled Noodles

Ingredients:

- 1 pack Ramen noodles (any flavor)
- 1/2 soy sauce*
- 1/2 green onions*
- 1/2 baby carrots*
- 1/2 celery*
- 1/2 taste

Preparation:

In a small sized pot, bring

water and soy sauce to a boil, then add noodles and cook until noodles are soft. Add flavor pack, stir and remove from heat.

Slice a good amount of green onions and set aside.

Slice baby carrots and celery paper thin and add to noodles as well as green onions. Don't worry about thoroughly cooking the veggies, as long as they are sliced thin.

Ramen Snack Mix

Ingredients:

- 1 1/4 stick butter
- 4 1/2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 packages ramen, crushed (no seasoning packet)
- 1 cup peanuts
- 1 cup small or bite size pretzels

Preparation:

Melt butter.

In a small bowl, combine salt, Worcestershire sauce and melted butter; mix well.

Pour sauce, cereal, uncooked ramen, peanuts and pretzels into large plastic bag and close securely. Shake bag until all pieces are coated.

Pour contents of bag evenly into an open roasting pan. Bake at 250 degrees for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes.

Spread mix evenly on paper towels to cool.

campuscalendar

wednesday

• Military History Lecture, "One Country, Two Armies: African Americans in the U.S. Military," featuring guest speaker Dr. Prince Brown, 3 p.m. in the Budig Theatre.

thursday

• Free HIV testing provided in the NKU Health, Counseling and Prevention Office in UC 300 from 1 to 4 p.m.

• Women's Basketball vs. Southern Indiana at 5:30 p.m. in Regents Hall.

• Men's Basketball vs. Southern Indiana at 7:45 p.m. in Regents Hall.

friday

• NKU Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony from 6 to 9 p.m. in the U.C. The cost is \$25 per person or \$250 for a table of ten. The price includes the dinner at 6:30 p.m.

saturday

• Free CPR/First Aid certification from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Campus Recreation Center.

• Women's Basketball vs. Kentucky Wesleyan at 1 p.m. in Regents Hall.

• Men's Basketball vs. Kentucky Wesleyan at 3:15 p.m. in Regents Hall.

sunday

• Norse Day at the Levee from noon to 4 p.m. at the Plaza. NKU organizations will be there to celebrate the beginning of Homecoming Week.

monday

• Homecoming Homegrown Talent Show at 7 p.m.

tuesday

• College Democrats meeting at noon in UC 303.

• Norse Bowl entries due to the CRC.

• BMO meeting at 8 p.m. in Norse Commons 115.

To place an event contact Regan Coomer at 859-572-5859

Levee hosts
Norse Day

Dancing and music part of celebration for Homecoming

By REGAN COOMER
Campus Events Editor
coomer@nku.edu

Face painting and balloon animals may seem like child's play, but this and many other attractions will be part of the celebration of Homecoming week's first event.

NKU's Day will be held from noon until 4 p.m. Jan. 6, in the plaza of Newport on the Levee.

The event will feature performances from Northern Kentucky University's dance team and music will be provided by a DJ.

NKU's Office of Student Life will sponsor a series of raffles of NKU merchandise.

Chairs, social chair for homecoming executive board, said.

Students should expect a good time, discounts, and free stuff.

Anytime Student Life is involved with anything, there is always free stuff for students, and this is no different."

Discussions will be offered for NKU students at Norse Day on the Levee. These include double game play up to \$50 at Gamblers, buy two

entires and get one free at Jax Grill, 10 percent off total bill at Cafe Istanbul, 20 percent off total bill at the Bamboo Club, 20 percent off total bill at Smoothie King and 10 percent off total purchase at Levee Gifts.

I encourage people to come out to this and a lot of the other events during the homecoming week," Cowens

said.

"This is a way for a lot of students to really experience what this campus has to offer. We tried this last year and because of a huge snowstorm, it was cancelled and no one came out. So we are trying it again, and hopefully Mother Nature helps us out."

"I see Norse Day as a way for NKU to keep their community of past and present students connected as well as an opportunity for the members of the community (possibly future students) to see that NKU does know how to have a good time and stick together."

An opportunity for students to earn money for their organizations will also be provided on the Levee.

Students who are members of campus organizations will be able to register and they will receive participation points for their organization.

The organization with the most points will win a \$100 cash prize.

The next Homecoming event Cowens would like to encourage students to attend is the NKU Homecoming party at Jillions on Feb. 10.

The party will be held on the second floor from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Finalists for Homecoming king and queen will be announced at 10 p.m.

Admission is free if students wear black and gold. Otherwise, a \$2 donation to St. Jude's Hospital will be accepted.

Northernlife
Professor's new book
explores space, UFOs

By KATIE WALKER
Reporter
northern@nku.edu

If you don't believe in extraterrestrials, one professor might change your mind.

Robert Trundle, Ph.D., is a full-time philosophy professor. His book, "Is ET Here? No Politically, but Yes Scientifically and Theologically" comes out in May.

An expert in the areas of ethics, politics and theology, Trundle received his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He has written numerous books on the philosophy of science and the history of philosophy, as well as countless journal articles. He is also the first philosopher to have written both a professional article and a book in support of ET's probable presence.

Martians and UFOs have captivated him since he was a child, and the interest runs in his family. His grandfather was also fascinated with aliens and even bequeathed him a small collection of books upon his death, Trundle said. "The ET Hunt" contains material from UFOlogists and military experts in support of extraterrestrial existence on Earth, as well as many interesting UFO stories and sightings. Trundle also defends his own stance on the possibility of little green men visiting our planet. "I believe contact was made

50 years ago," Trundle said, "and I believe beings from other planets are here now, mainly to study us."

"There are benign scenarios in which they might be seen as anthropologists coming here out of curiosity. There is a more threatening scenario, which is that they're studying to see if the earth is habitable. An even more worrisome possibility is that they have a hybrid program of sexually mating with humans to strengthen their species."

Trundle explains how creatures from outer space could be on Earth, just not from a political point of view. "Does ET exist from a political perspective? No, because the government is afraid of the culture shock and public panic. For the government to acknowledge the existence of extraterrestrials, there would be to admit it can't protect us from them," Trundle said.

Trundle also points out the dismissive attitude of many scientists. "I argue as a philosopher of science that science cannot exclude the possibility of ET's visit," he said. "This coupled with thousands of well-regarded witnesses accounts, renders reasonable the belief. I'm talking about pilots who have come forward even though it's meant they've had to undergo psychiatric exams as a direct result."

"Science says it's impossible to travel at the speed of light. If



Photo provided by Robert Trundle

Former Army Air Force Lt. Walter Haut (left) and Robert Trundle (right) in the summer 1957. Haut was the Public Information Officer at Roswell Army Air Base who reported the first official report in history that a UFO had been recovered by the military on July 8, 1947.

it were possible, it would take four years of traveling at the speed of light to get to the nearest star system, Alpha Centauri," Trundle said. "Given our current technology, it would probably take us 50,000 years

to get there, plus or minus. Based on that, the scientific establishment somewhat blithely dismisses the existence of extraterrestrials. It's like saying if we can't do it, they can't do it either."

What we'll never tell you,
but what you should know

Tappin' It



with Amy Ehrenreiter

By choosing this topic, I am breaking the first rule of the Five H rule. Rule one: Don't talk about what women want. Rule two: Don't talk about what women want.

I know I'm not supposed to talk about what women want, but it's close to Valentine's Day and some people need a little help finding a date for the big day.

From the first time you talk to her, to the first kiss, to the "L" word – for all of you who want to know what some women want – this is the column for you.

Approaching a
woman for the first
time

The first time may be a little awkward for the both of you if there isn't an introduction. To make things go a little easier, find an icebreaker.

If you both play pool, challenge her to a game. If you notice her in class, ask about her major or why she took the class.

Above all, be confident – but not full of yourself. When approaching her, don't use cheesy pick-up lines or be too forward. Relax. Be yourself; that is who she'll end up liking in the end.

How to tell if
a woman is interested

If she's not interested, she'll probably let you know with one of these major signs. If she says she is with someone, fakes an

illness or pretends to be gay (or straight) to avoid contact with you, chances are she's not interested.

Females can find a variety of excuses not to be chased. If she's not interested, she'll tell you she's busy, something came up or she'll ignore you completely. Other women may be straightforward and tell you to leave her alone. Either way, if the chemistry is not there, don't force it.

When talking to a woman, if she's giving short answers and she's not trying to keep up her end of the conversation, she probably doesn't want to talk to you.

If she bids you farewell with lines such as, "see you around" or "I'll call you sometime," don't pursue any further. She's telling you that if she wants you, she'll let you know.

If she is interested in you, watch for obvious signs. Standing close while having a conversation, physical contact, flirting, smiling, laughter and a positive attitude are all signs that she is interested in you.

If the two of you are in a large group and you're still the person she is focusing on, she's definitely interested.

Also, if she tries to make plans with you – invites you to a group outing, a play or other social function, that means she wants to see you in other settings and to get to know you more.

The most obvious signal from a woman is if, unknowing to you, she programs her number into your phone. This not only says she likes you, but also takes the pressure off having to ask her for her number.

Getting the number

The worst five words to ever be used to get a number are "Can I get your digits?" This, and other terrible, cliché lines are to be avoided at all costs. Also, never have your friend ask for you. This is second only to the digits pick-up line.

Be upfront with the woman;

ask, "Could I give you a call sometime?" By asking this, you're letting her know that you don't want to play any games, you just want to get to know her better.

Don't just walk up to a woman with this newfound bold line and ask her for her number – she'll think you're a creep. Try the pointers above before asking for the number.

Also, be creative. Not all women want you to be straightforward. This doesn't mean pass her a note in class saying, "Will you go out with me?" "Circle 'Yes' or 'No.'" It means find a creative way to let her know you like her.

If she does give you the number, call her. She gave it to you for a reason – not to decorate your wallet.

Asking a woman on a
date

So you've got the number, now it's time to set up a date. For anyone who has skipped the first few steps, don't ask someone out you've never met. Chances are, she'll say no. If she says yes, she's probably not the type of woman you take home to your mother.

Call her and plan to do something social. Don't make the first date just the two of you. Allow for a public setting – this will supply plenty of things to talk about.

Kiss on the first date

The night is coming to an end, and the question running through your mind is, "Should I kiss her?"

It's not unheard of to kiss on the first date. If the two of you had great chemistry, were flirtatious, held hands and had a great time, a kiss is a great way to end a date.

If you decide to make the move, don't be too forceful when kissing. Spelling the alphabet with your tongue is a bad idea. If the chemistry isn't there, don't attempt it.

If you're really far apart the whole time and conversations aren't really consistent, don't go for a kiss.

Look at her body language. If the arms are crossed and she isn't making eye contact or paying attention to you, she doesn't want you to kiss her.

If she does kiss you, don't automatically assume you'll have a second date. Women may give you a pity kiss just to make you not feel bad.

The second date

A second date is secured if other plans have been discussed. If the first date went well, then pursue it.

The "L" bomb

Even if you think this woman is great, don't say "I love you" too soon.

Depending on the type of woman you're dating, she'll either want to hear it early on in the relationship, or not until the two of you have been together for a while. This may sound confusing, but this subject all depends on how much both of you understand love.

Now, take this information and go get a date for Valentine's Day. Ask the woman sitting next to you in class, the one you catch lunch next to each day or the one you've been admiring for years.

The opinions in this column do not reflect those of all women. A group of women and men were chosen to have an open discussion of the above topics.

Contact

For questions, comments or suggestions on this topic and/or others involving relationships, sex and dating, contact Amy via e-mail at NKUanswers@hotmail.com

artsentertainment

Local man plays psychic to stars

By **RICH SHIVENER**
 Staff Writer
 northerner@nku.edu

In the heart of Mainstrasse Village in Covington lies Crystal Magic and Cosmic Source Connection with Hal Fitzpatrick a.k.a. Psychic Hal. "This is my life. This is what I'm married to," Hal said of his profession.

Hal has performed readings where popular in the early '90s, Hal amazed the psychics by having the abilities to predict their future. "I could even tell them what kind of underwear they were wearing," Hal said.

He briefly studied law enforcement at the University of Kentucky, then spent 17 years in the military. He was a part of the U.S. Army Special Forces, traveling to various parts of the world. Hal picked

up his first deck of tarot cards while he was enlisted in the army as a way to ease his boredom.

"I started to scare (my peers) in boot camp because I was so good at it," Hal said.

Soon after his military service, he gave up tarot cards and didn't pick them up until 1992.

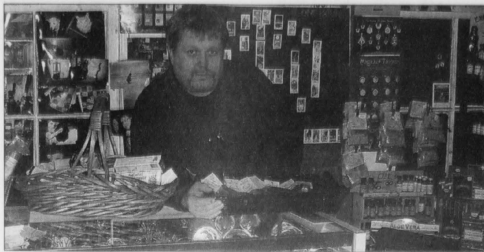
When psychic hotlines were popular in the early '90s, Hal amazed the psychics by having the abilities to predict their future. "I could even tell them what kind of underwear they were wearing," Hal said.

One thing led to another. Hal was contacted his own psychic line for a short amount of time. He traveled around to festivals, newspapers, bars, flea markets, radio

and television shows performing his psychic abilities. Eventually, he settled down in Covington and opened up shop.

Psychic Hal has become somewhat of a local celebrity. He has conducted paranormal investigations at local places such as Eden Park, Bobbie Mackie's Music Hall and the Purple People Bridge.

Besides tarot reading, Hal performs other psychic techniques such as past life regression, hypnosis, clairvoyance and healing. Hal is also willing to travel to perform readings and do private parties. Although he is passionate about psychics, Hal plans on opening his own oxygen bar and a lingerie company. "I want to do it all," Hal said. "Why stop at one?"



Rich Shivener / Photographer

Psychic Hal, seen here behind the counter of his store in Covington, became interested in psychics while in the Army.

Prog rock band scores with eclectic release

By **CHAD SNOWDEN**
 Reporter
 northerner@nku.edu

"Random lost souls have asked me, 'What's the future of rock 'n' roll?' I say, 'I don't know. Does it matter?'" Those words echo from the And You Will Know Us By The Trail of Dead's title track off its new album "Worlds Apart," and clearly the members play like it matters.

The 12 tracks represent Trail of Dead's orchestral nature, but this time around it's a bit cleaner and refined. Aside from losing band-mate Neil Busch, the band gained more musically and is ready to destroy clubs and cartridges alike.

The album opener, "Overture," is a bright classical

interlude to the album's most ambitious track, "Will You Smile Again For Me." A band that usually enjoys noisy changes from verse to chorus, "Will You Smile Again For Me" is a bit of a departure for Trail of Dead. Progressive rock overtones are heard throughout the composition, without stealing from any past or present purveyors of the long-winded art. To the contrary, Trail of Dead comes off more like a band who is creating to save the members from boredom, than to be compared to any of its reputable contemporaries.

And why not? The Texas natives dish out their sonic assault and legendary show-enders where no piece of musical equipment gets out alive. This is, after all, what got Trail

of Dead noticed further than its old label. Merge records. While its early efforts were different from most anything that was going on at the time musically, on MTV2 the band was likened to an indie-rock Nirvana with the same affinity for breaking its equipment. At the time, the band had released its second album, Madonna—the last that would be released with Merge records.

It would be three years until Trail of Dead would release its debut with Interscope. Source Tags & Codes. Two videos from that album, "Another Morning Stoner" and "Relative Ways," got considerable airplay on MTV2. Source Tags & Codes represented Trail of Dead when it can take its time with a recording. Critically acclaimed. Source Tags &

Codes generated a sizable buzz around the band's music, not to mention the buzz around its previous destructive claim to fame.

After some time off and an exhausting touring schedule supporting the release of Source Tags & Codes, the Trail of Dead, with less one member, was ready to change what its fans thought about the band. The band released an EP in 2004 containing the title track from Worlds Apart, which gave Trail of Dead fans a taste of what it has to offer next. The reception of the EP was bipolar, with some disappointed fans longing for Trail of Dead to go back to its noisy roots, and satisfied fans who have chosen to grow with Trail of Dead through the years praised and left their appetites wetted

for what was to come.

Worlds Apart places Trail of Dead beyond that of any lingering expectations. This release truly would be a surprise for anyone who isn't directly involved with the band. An album that sounds more like a comeback than a continuation, Trail of Dead has succeeded in creating an introspective atmosphere for its music to thrive. "The Best," is one of the strangest song structures Trail of Dead has ever used. Piano also fills the track much like the majority of the album. Exploding to three-part harmonies, "The Best," best exemplifies the comfort that Trail of Dead will offer, before fading into tortured screams and pleadings, coupled with creepy sounds unsettling enough to pry at your emotions then

pulled off in such a way, the listener won't be able to image the album without it. That is really the most familiar ground that Trail of Dead walks upon this time around, ending, beginning, its songs with old sound clips. The band still likes to play with the listener's ears before they are conquered.

Unlike anything that is being played right now, Trail of Dead came just short of curing cancer, or the equivalent of cancer, musically. Few bands in action in the mid-to-late '90s are still slugging it out almost 10 years later, garnering as much attention as Trail of Dead has received. The attention is apt, and with this latest release, Trail of Dead continues on its path of destruction, conquest, and enlightenment.

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IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 4

Flies in the Pine Tar

Reds show promise

→ with Matthew Daniels

Sure, it's still freezing outside, but let's talk a little baseball. Why not? Thanks to BANCO and free-agency, we never really took our hands away from the hot stove this winter anyway.

Here in Reds country, the organization did something that we have not seen in quite a while. They made moves. Can you believe it? They actually signed free agents. They increased payroll (wonder of all!). They brought in starting pitching. They filled holes with veterans who weren't part of some geriatric clearance sale (well, uh, a couple were). Who would have thought that Go Dan O'Brien had a pulse after he? He still looks like the guest speaker at an insurance seminar, but, bless him, he's trying.

Going into the winter, the Reds had to address needs at third, third, the bullpen, and the starting rotation. Business, as usual, right? Not quite. In the end, the Reds would have done nothing and blamed the fans for not providing enough revenue. This year, out of the nowhere, they changed tactics. They signed the underrated and productive Joe Randa to play third. He's an excellent fielder, with a little pop in his bat. Third base...check.

The Reds traded for Ramon Ortiz, signed Eric Milton, and resigned Pat Wilson. Each is a middle-of-the-rotation starting pitcher and superior to anyone the Reds have had in quite a while. The final two rotation spots are up for grabs in spring training, with about five or six good young arms competing for a job. Starting pitching...not overhwhelming, but...check.

We would all miss Barry Larkin, if he would only retire already. Larkin vastly overestimated the value of his remaining skills and found himself exiled from the organization. That said, his old job falls to Felipe Lopez or Rich Aurilia. Aurilia was picked off of the scrap-heap as insurance should Lopez continue to stumble in his development. The last couple of years have been awful for the once highly productive Aurilia, but the Reds got him for much less than they would have had to pay Larkin, and he is set for years younger. A return to form could pay off big for the Reds. Shortstop...a cheap gamble...check.

The bullpen should be a grab bag in spring training, with a mix of new and old. Ben Weber, Kent Merker and David Weathers do not exactly strike fear into the hearts of opposing batters; never have, and never will. They're just filler. The rest of the arms will be made up of young talent that did not make the rotation along with Ryan Wagner and Danny Graves. This does not appear to be a particularly strong crew, but the Reds get a surprise or two every year and hope this one is no exception. Bullpen...weak, but lots of arms there...a reluctant check.

Now, if everyone could only stay healthy, who knows? Junior, Dunn, Kearns, and Casey bring a lot of firepower, but if a couple of them get life-threatening hangnails, the team could be in trouble again. The Reds might have a decent chance in the NL Central this year if all goes as planned, and we'll have a little excitement going into spring training for a change.

Matthew Daniels is the Assistant Sports Editor for The Northerner. You can e-mail him at mattandani@fox.net.

Norse lead, fall to Quincy

Opponents come from behind with last-minute shots to steal victory 75-74

QUINCY, Ill. — With less than six minutes to go in the game, it looked like Northern Kentucky University was going to cruise past Quincy for an important road victory Jan. 29.

The Norse held a 64-52 lead with 5:26 remaining, and NKU was rolling. Mike Kelsey had lit up the Quincy defense with his long-range shooting, and NKU had contained the Hawks defensively most of the game.

All of that changed in a hurry during the final two minutes.

Four missed free throws and a turnover hurt NKU, as did a pair of unlikely three-pointers from a 6-foot-9 post player who was shooting less than 20 percent from long range going into the Jan. 29 game. The result was an amazing 75-74 come-from-behind victory for Quincy at the Pepsi Arena.

And it all came down to a wild, dramatic finish in the closing seconds.

After Cory Cummings made one of two free throws with 10.1 seconds left to cut the Norse lead to 74-73, NKU rebounded the basketball. Sean Rowland's pass in the backcourt was stolen, however, and Jordan Roth drove in for an uncontested layup to give Quincy a 75-74 lead with 4.7 seconds left.

NKU had a final chance, but Kelsey's jumper was off target at the buzzer. Quincy scored 15 points in the final 1:49 of the game to pull out the improbable victory.

"We find ways not to finish off games, and that's exactly what happened to us again," NKU head coach Dave Beitzel said. "You have to hit free throws late in the game, and you have to take care of the basket-

ball. Except for our first game of the season (against Michigan Tech), we have not proven we can win in this kind of situation."

Kelsey led NKU (9-10 overall, 5-8 Great Lakes Valley Conference) with 29 points, and the senior guard made seven three-point shots. He scored 15 points in the first half as NKU built a 40-33 lead at the break.

The Norse — who shot 61.9 percent from the field in the opening 20 minutes — pulled away in the second half and held a 64-52 lead with 5:26 left in the game. Quincy, however, used an 8-0 run to get within 64-60 with 2:36 left.

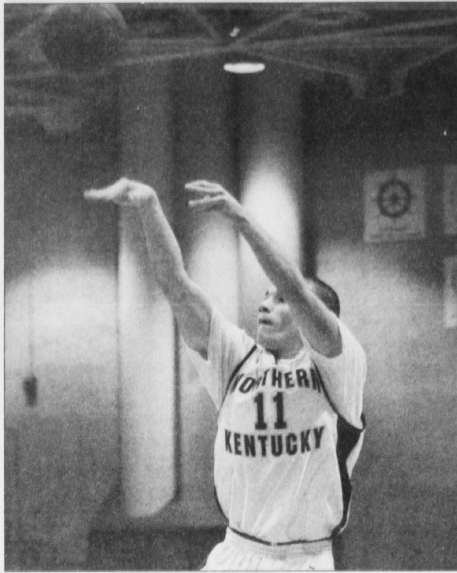
Phil Gettinger — who had made just two three-pointers all season prior to Saturday — drained a pair of treys in the final 44 seconds to keep Quincy within striking distance. He entered the game shooting 18 percent from behind the arc.

Gettinger led Quincy (12-7 overall, 8-5 GLVC) with 19 points, including eight in the final minute. Cummings finished with 17 points, and Roth scored 16.

Kelsey was the lone double-figure scorer for NKU, which finished at 42.3 percent from the field. Rowland had nine points and nine assists for the Norse, while Pat Cary added eight points.

NKU will play host to Southern Indiana at 7:45 p.m. Feb. 3 in Regents Hall. The Norse dropped to 10-12 overall, a team decision to the Screaming Eagles on Jan. 8 at Evansville, Ind.

*Article by Sports Information



Blue I Photographer

In the loss to Quincy, Mike Kelsey scored 29 points, including seven three pointers.

Turnovers factor in Lady Norse loss

Team ends winning streak, falls out of first-place tie with Quincy in Great Lakes Valley Conference



Blue I Photographer

Connie Myers scored 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in the loss to Quincy.

QUINCY, Ill. — The battle for first place in the Great Lakes Valley Conference was decided by halftime Jan. 29, and one look at turnovers told the entire story for Northern Kentucky University.

NKU committed 16 turnovers against Quincy in the first half, trailed by 22 points at the break and was unable to overcome the huge deficit as the Lady Hawks pinned a 65-50 loss on the Norse at the Pepsi Arena. Quincy regained sole possession of first place in the GLVC with a 10-3 record, and the Lady Hawks improved to 13-7 overall.

"I told the players Quincy would be fired up for this game because they just lost at home to Bellarmine (on Jan. 27)," NKU head coach Nancy Winstel said. "I was disappointed with our play in the first half."

NKU (12-8 overall) dropped out of a first-place tie with Quincy in falling to 9-4 in the GLVC. The Lady Hawks snapped the Norse's eight-game win streak and handed NKU its first loss since Dec. 30.

It also marked the fourth consecutive time during the past two seasons that Quincy has beaten NKU. A year ago, the Lady Hawks posted three victories against the Norse.

Quincy shot 66.7 percent from the field in the first half and coasted to a 38-16 lead at the break. The Lady Hawks used a 25-9 run to close out the first half.

Jessica Stuckman finished with a game-

high 23 points for Quincy, which was coming off a 78-64 loss to Bellarmine Jan. 27. Stuckman shot 10-for-17 from the field and also grabbed seven rebounds.

Connie Myers scored 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead NKU, which was held to 36 percent shooting from the field. Myers has now scored in double figures in 13 consecutive games.

Sarah Woods hit a trio of three-point shots in the second half and finished with nine points for NKU, which could never cut the Quincy lead under 10 points in the second half. The Norse, playing without injured center Karmen Graham, received eight points and four rebounds from freshman Angela Healy.

"We played much better in the second half, and Sarah Woods made some big shots for us," Winstel said.

Brittany Winner scored seven points for NKU, and teammate Karyn Creager added five points. NKU finished with 24 turnovers.

NKU will return home and play host to Southern Indiana at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 3. Southern Indiana's record currently stands at 4-8 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference and 11-8 overall. The Screaming Eagles lost Jan. 29 to Kentucky Wesleyan 67-63 at home.

*Article by Sports Information

Ducks keeping hockey alive in Cincinnati

By DON MIDDLETON
 Staff Writer
northern@nku.edu

While the NHL season has seemingly been just 136 days and 1,042 total games cancelled due to its second lockout in the last 10 years, hockey is still alive and well in Cincinnati.

The Cincinnati, Mighty Ducks have been in existence for eight years now, and its success and large fan base ultimately lead to the demise of the infamous Cincinnati Cyclones of the East Coast Hockey League (ECHL). While hockey is popular has been on a downward spiral since the NHL decided to expand to 30 teams, hockey still remains a passion among the people in the greater Cincinnati area as it has seen professional hockey for the

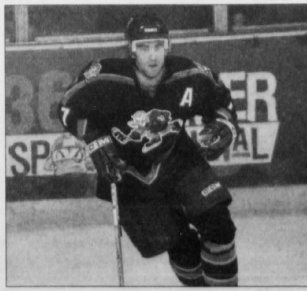
past 15 years. While many NHL players turned to play for European teams during this lockout, many young NHL stars such as Ilya Bryzgalov, Joffrey Lupul, Alexei Smirnov and Stanislav Chistov have found homes on American Hockey League (AHL) teams such as the Mighty Ducks.

Currently, the Ducks are in third place in the AHL's Western Division with a record of 23-21-1-3 (Wins-Losses-Overtime Losses-Shootout Losses). A dominant team at home with a record of 14-5-0-2 just recently had a franchise-record nine-game home win streak halted. A great deal of the team's success has to do with the great fan support. The Mighty Ducks average about 2,300 fans per game, which is right around the league average in attendance.

Besides their performance on

the ice, Mighty Ducks players do a great deal within the community such as Buster's Buddies where at each home game, Buster, the Mighty Ducks' official mascot, offers underprivileged children or those who have health or other problems tickets for them and their families, a special Buster's Buddies T-shirt and other team-related items. After the game, they are escorted into the Mighty Ducks' dressing room to meet members of the team and receive autographs.

It is doing things like that that people will never forget and keep them coming back, because sometimes the greediness in sports (as seen by the NHL lockout) overshadows what sports should be about — fun and giving back to the fans. For more information, visit www.cincinnatimightyducks.com.



Photograph contributed by the Cincinnati Mighty Ducks.

Mark Popovic is a defenseman for the Cincinnati Mighty Ducks.

hotseat



→ with John Rasp

In this week's Hot Seat, John interviews Mark Hawking. Mark is a freshman on this year's men's basketball team.

John Rasp: How did you make the decision to attend NKU?

Mark Hawking: I chose NKU because I was being recruited for basketball. It was the top school on my list.

JR: Who is the best dancer on the team?

MH: It would have to be either Walt (Mike Kelsey) or Sean (Rowland).

JR: What's the hardest thing about being a freshman basketball player?

MH: The hardest thing about being a freshman is taking all the stuff from the seniors. You get picked on a lot, but

it's all in good fun.

JR: Out of all the seniors, who picks on you the most?

MH: It would have to be Walt and Sean.

JR: Out of the freshman, who is the best one-on-one player?

MH: I think it would be Billy (Finnell). He's deceptively quick.

JR: When are we going to see you dunk in the game?

MH: Whenever I get in the game and get a chance to.

JR: What's your best road trip story?

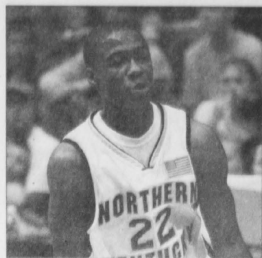
MH: When we were in Michigan, we got stuck in the elevator. All of us that were stuck had to crawl out.

JR: Who would you say is the best player at Playstation II on the men's basketball team?

MH: I've only played against Rhino (Kevin Reinhardt), and he seems to beat me a lot even though I talk a lot of trash.

JR: Which women's player would most likely beat you in a game?

MH: Karen (Creager).



Blue / Photographer

Mark Hawking is a key reserve for the Norse this season.

Women hoopsters win big over Spalding

Norse take home a win and a Winstel bobblehead



Blue / Photographer

Angela Healy scored a career high 17 points and grabbed 9 rebounds in the win over Spalding.

BY MATT STEFFEN
Sports Editor
MSteffen2@msn.com

On "Nancy Winstel Bobblehead Doll Night" Jan. 25, the Northern Kentucky University women's basketball team defeated the Spalding Lady Pelicans 93-41.

Spalding led the game early in the first half by a score of 5-4, but later in the half senior guard Elizabeth Burrows made a three point play the old fashioned way to give the women hoopsters a 24-13 lead. This was the first double-digit lead for the Norse in the first half. NKU led Spalding at halftime by a score of 41-23.

Karmen Graham's layup as time expired gave the Norse their biggest lead of the game. Graham scored 16 points and had 7 rebounds.

"Once we got established we played a good game," said NKU women's basketball coach Nancy Winstel.

"It took us a few minutes to get going, but with Spalding being a non-conference opponent I was able to try a couple of different combinations of players against them."

The varying combinations allowed Norse starters some

"It was good to play all nine players and have them score."

- Head Coach Nancy Winstel

time to rest while younger players improved their game.

Freshman Angela Healy grabbed nine rebounds and led the Norse in scoring with a career high 17 points. Healy made a basket in the first half to increase the Norse lead to 17-13.

The Norse, who improved

their record with their win to 11-7 overall, held Spalding to a 29.4 shooting percentage from the field. They also out-rebounded Spalding by 49 to 27.

"With us playing a non-conference opponent, we had to keep our focus because we were playing a different team," said Winstel. "It was good to play all nine players and have them score."

Nicole Chiodi, another freshman, also had a big game for the Norse. She scored 8 points and grabbed 6 points in the win.

The win was the Norse sixth consecutive win in the month of January.

This is the fourth straight time that the NKU athletic department has held the bobblehead promotion and second of this year. Earlier this season, there was "Dave Bezdol Bobblehead Night." The promotion has also included the Ken Shields bobblehead, and the NKU mascot "Hey U."

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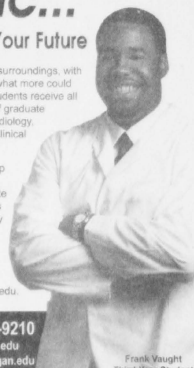
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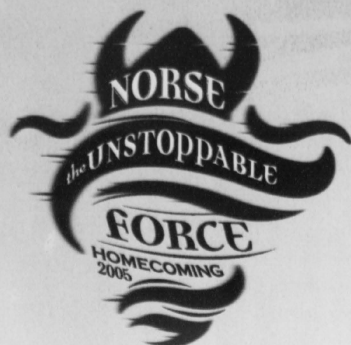
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HOMECOMING 2005 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
2/4 Friday	12 pm	Banner, window, and department decorating begins	UC lobby, UC & NC windows, departments
2/4 Friday	12 pm	Black and Gold Day - free food! <i>Sponsored by SGA</i>	UC Lobby
2/6 Sunday	12 - 4 pm	Norse Day	Newport on the Levee
2/6 Sunday	6 pm	SuperBowl Party <i>Sponsored by RAs</i>	University Suites Lobby
2/7 Monday	12 pm	Banner, window, and department decorating judged	UC lobby, UC & NC windows, departments
2/7 Monday	7 pm	Talent Show <i>sponsored by APB</i>	Otto Budig Theater
2/8 Tuesday	8 pm	NKU Freestyle Battle <i>sponsored by APB</i>	Otto Budig Theater
2/9 Wednesday	10:30 am - 2:30 pm	Bets for Bucks and Digital Caricatures <i>sponsored by APB</i>	UC Lobby and Cafeteria
2/9 Wednesday	1 pm	NKU Homecoming guest speaker Dr. Stephen Boyd and reception	Otto Budig Theater
2/9 Wednesday	9:00 pm	Yell Like Hell, Duke/ Duchess announced	Albright Health Center
2/10 Thursday	7:30 pm	Up 'til Dawn VIP Reception	Jillian's
2/10 Thursday	9 pm - 2 am	Homecoming Celebration and King/ Queen Courts announced with transportation provided by APB	Jillian's
2/11 Friday	All Day!	Black and Gold Spirit Day	(wear your school spirit!)
2/11 Friday	12 pm	Free Food Friday <i>sponsored by APB</i> and Knowledge Bowl	UC Lobby and Cafeteria
1/31 Saturday	4 pm	Alumni Chili Cook-off	Regents Sidewalk
2/12 Saturday	5:30 pm	Norse Women vs. Indianapolis (Prince/ Princess announced at halftime)	Regents Hall
2/12 Saturday	7:45 pm	Norse Men vs. Indianapolis	Regents Hall
2/12 Saturday	Halftime of game	Crowning of King & Queen and organization winners announced	Regents Hall

NEW

float decorating contest

- Each organization will be provided with a 34" steel Radio Flyer Wagon to decorate.
- Completed floats need to be in U.C. Lobby by noon on Monday, February 7, 2005. Also, a small slip of paper needs to be attached to the float with the name of the sponsoring organization.
- The floats will be displayed throughout Homecoming week. The winner will be determined by how much money the float collects for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
- The float winner will be announced at the Women's Homecoming Game on Saturday, February 12, 2005. A representative from each organization must be present at this game to potentially receive their prize.
- All organizations are responsible for taking their wagon with them after the game.

guidelines:

- Must incorporate the Homecoming Theme
- No living beings/animals on float
- Must be in good and reasonable taste



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