

Northern Kentucky University

THE NORTHERNER

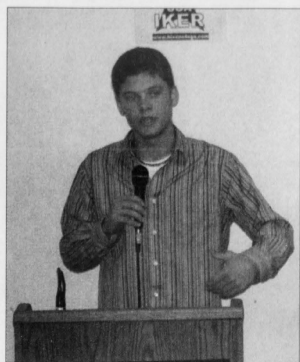
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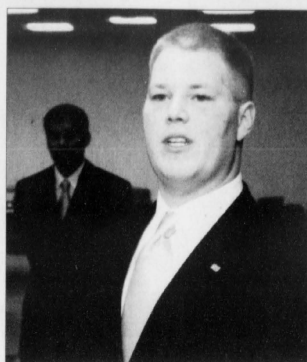
SGA race takes off

Hixson, Fegan, to compete for president



Mike Brennan / Photographer

Andy Hixson announced his candidacy for SGA president March 22. Hixson would like to give financial aid to students if he is elected.



Tony Redell / Photo Editor

Eric Fegan declared his intention to run for SGA president March 17. Fegan plans to promote student empowerment if elected to SGA.

Fidelity adds funding to lake project

By EMILY CHALFANT
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Kevin Canafax and Paul Smith of Fidelity Investments announced Northern Kentucky University with the second installment of its \$1 million contribution for a lake renovation project at the Board of Regents meeting Wednesday, March 17.

Fidelity initially donated \$500,000 to the \$2 million project in 2002.

"I, along with Paul, come to you this afternoon representing the Fidelity Foundation, and we are very pleased to be able to award Northern Kentucky University the second installment of our pledge of \$1 million for the campus green and central plaza redesign as part of the shaping the dreams vision," Canafax said.

NKU President James Votruba said the funds "will be combined with \$1 million that will match to have a \$2 million lake renovation project that will transform the center of the campus" by changing the size of the lake, as well as making it more attractive and accessible.

"The lake will have walkways around it; it will have a bridge across the center of it," Votruba said. "It will be a place for students and faculty and staff to go to retreat. It will be relaxing."

"It will have two different tiers of waterfalls," Votruba said, adding, "I have promised once the waterfalls are completed to go over it in a barrel."

The second installment was actually transferred in early February to complete Fidelity's donation, but Smith and Canafax presented the Board of Regents with a letter that confirmed the transaction.

"This is a critical and a very strategically important partnership for Fidelity Investments," Canafax said. "Our foundation is a tremendous vehicle for us to make investments in institutions and

organizations in this community that are really transforming and shaping the vision for Northern Kentucky and greater Cincinnati for generations to come."

Smith noted that Fidelity does not make significant contributions to academic institutions often.

"We have been able to secure this million dollar gift for a couple of reasons," Smith said. "One of them is, we do have a superb partnership with the university, and the second is the belief that ... as a region, we are very fortunate and quite blessed to have a leader of [Votruba's] expertise, and it made it a lot easier when we tried to sell this concept."

"This is really going to be an exciting project for the campus."

-Ken Ramey

their continued support of the university.

"Fidelity Investments has been a terrific partner to the university for a number of years," Votruba said. John Carman and Associates are currently the designers for the project. Ken Ramey, vice president of Administration and Finance, said he would like for the first phase of construction to begin this year. However, before renovations can begin, the university is still in need of \$1 million to match Fidelity's contribution.

"We have not identified another donor for the Fidelity match at this point in time, and this project will only be done with private funding," said Ramey.

"There has been some discussion about phasing the project since we already have \$1 million in hand, but this decision is not finalized as yet."

Once the necessary funding is acquired, NKU can look forward to a change of scenery on campus.

"This is really going to be an exciting project for the campus and one that can transform our green space," said Ramey. "We look forward to the projects being finalized and construction to begin."

Hixson, Iker plan to bring diversity, fairness to SGA

By AMANDA VANBENSCHOTEN
Editor in Chief
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Vice President for Public Relations Andy Hixson and Sen. Jeff Iker declared their candidacy March 22 for Student Government Association president and vice president.

Hixson and Iker presented a platform of issues focused on a promise to bring diversity to SGA and encourage more student involvement in the organization.

"We are dedicated to the value of diversity," Hixson, a junior, said.

"That's one thing that the current SGA does not have, and I don't feel that we can make good decisions for the student body unless we have a diverse student government."

"The Hixson-Iker team is gonna be able to represent you throughout the whole year, not just at tuition time," Hixson told a crowd of approximately 75 supporters.

"I love NKU and I love making it a better place," said junior

Iker, a first-semester senator.

Hixson said his administration would set aside money from the SGA budget to give additional financial aid to students.

A committee of SGA members would hear students' cases and decide how to allocate funds based on need.

"I want there to be an opportunity for students who don't have the money to stay in school to stay," he said. "How we do that [is] gonna be up to the Senate."

"I don't want to control everything."

The administration also plans to implement an online forum to evaluate and provide feedback on professors, a system it describes on its Web site as "working with professors, not attacking them."

A third aspect of the Hixson-Iker platform is to increase understanding and collaboration between SGA and other student organizations by "rebuilding bridges that have been burned by the previous

See HIXSON, page 4



Fegan, Pollitt plan to fight tuition rise, improve dining

By C.J. FRYER
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Executive Vice President Eric Fegan and Chief of Staff James Pollitt announced their candidacy for Student Government Association president and vice president March 17.

Approximately 100 students listened as Fegan introduced his "contract with NKU students," which outlines his ticket's platform of issues. Each student was given a copy of the contract, and the crowd watched Fegan and his four running mates signed the document.

According to Fegan, the idea to create a contract with NKU students was based on a similar concept adopted by the U.S. Congress in the early '90s.

The contract details 10 issues Fegan and his ticket plan to work on, should they be elected to office. According to Fegan, the three most important issues on the contract are "The Student Tuition Fairness Act," "The Student Empowerment

Act" and "The Food Service Reform Act."

Fegan, current chair of the tuition committee, feels his experience in the area will help him fight against unfair tuition increases.

"We are the shareholders of the university," he said. "We are the ones who pay the biggest part of the bill. We ought to get the biggest part of the benefit."

Fegan also wants to empower students by fighting for student allocation of student fees. He said under the current system, university administrators are in control of allocating money to student organizations, and when it isn't spent, it goes back into a general fund.

Food service is also an area Fegan believes is a big issue for students. He would like to make meal plans optional for residential students, offer value meal to commuters, and create a student food service task force to identify other problems.

The Fegan-Pollitt ticket has endorsed Sen. Amanda Bailey

See FEGAN, page 4

Judicial council: Senate needs to approve impeachment

By C.J. FRYER
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The Student Government Association Judicial Council halted the impeachment process of Vice President for Public Relations Andy Hixson on March 19, after determining that the procedure was improperly handled by the SGA Ethics Committee.

On March 5, the committee sent a letter to the judicial council moving to impeach Hixson.

The committee felt he was in dereliction of his duties. Hixson appealed the impeachment proceedings on the grounds that the procedure was unconstitutional.

Sen. Nathan Hagler, who served as legal counsel for Hixson, argued to the judicial council that the SGA constitution

calls for a two-thirds signed petition from the Senate for impeachment.

"We shouldn't even be at this point," Hagler said.

He said the petition is essential for many reasons. Hagler said a petition would educate members of the Senate and hold the ethics committee accountable for its decisions.

Hagler told the judicial council that if the impeachment went through, there would be

no accountability in SGA. The judicial council unanimously agreed with Hixson and Hagler's argument.

A crowd of student supporters cheered and applauded when the council came back with its finding.

Hixson was surprised to see the number of students that attended to support him. "I did not expect this many students," he said.

"A lot of people see me as

being picked on, and no one likes to see someone be picked on."

"The student body has a definite opinion on this," said Rachel Whisner, who showed her support for Hixson by creating signs for students to hold up during the hearing.

"For [the ethics committee] to make a decision that doesn't reflect what the student body wants makes no sense," Whisner said.

"They're here to represent us."

Although Hixson was pleased with the decision and was happy to see a room full of supporters, he did not see the day as a victory.

"I see today as a tragedy. It's a loss for the students," Hixson said.

"This should have never happened. The students are the

See IMPEACH, page 4

'Battle' allows bands to rock

In its second annual Battle of the Bands, the Activities Programming Board proved that NKU knows how to rock. Nine bands competed March 16, but only one came out on top.

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Arts & Entertainment: pg 8-9

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Classifieds: page 6

dpsreports

MAR 22 2004
Monday 2:13 p.m.
 Classification: PROPERTY -
 Missing Property
 Location: LANDRUM HALL
 Disposition: Under investigation
 Summary: Subject reported a cellular phone missing from the listed location.

MAR 22 2004
Monday 12:26 p.m.
 Classification: PROPERTY -
 Property Damage
 Location: NUNN DRIVE
 Disposition: Closed
 Summary: Subject reported damage to the cabin at the listed location. Upon investigation, it was determined the damage was caused by a winter storm and will be repaired by the carpentry shop.

MAR 21 2004
Sunday 1:13 a.m.
 Classification: TERRORISTIC
 THREATENING
 Location: WOODCREST
 APARTMENTS
 Disposition: Under
 Investigation
 Summary: Subject reported receiving threatening phone calls at the listed location.

MAR 21 2004
Sunday 12:26 a.m.
 Classification: MEDICAL
 RESPONSE
 Location: REGENTS HALL
 Disposition: Closed
 Summary: Medical assistance was requested for a subject at the listed location. Officers and the Central Campbell County squad responded. Subject received an evaluation on the scene and refused transportation to the hospital for further treatment.

These are the latest reports
 of our print deadline.
 For a full listing visit
 the DPS website at
<http://www.knu.edu/dps>

campusbriebs

SGA proposes book exchange

Sen. Michael Vaughan has asked the Student Government Association senate to consider approving an SGA-sponsored online book exchange program that would allow students to cheaply buy and sell textbooks. Students could access the program through the SGA Web site and establish an account to auction off and/or sell textbooks to other NKU students, according to Vaughan.

He would like to charge students \$1 for each textbook they sell.

He expects the program to cost \$400 to implement and to raise nearly \$30,000 in profit, which he said would be rein-

vested into programs to benefit students.

Vaughan said he does not expect the program to create competition between SGA and the campus bookstore because the exchange would "offer a service for students."

He said the proposal is based upon similar programs at other Kentucky universities.

The NKU SGA has implemented a similar program in the past, where students could drop books off at the SGA office for exchange. Vaughan said an online exchange would be more convenient for students and administrators.

The senate is still considering approval of the program.

Ky. Post readers: NKU athletics should move to Div. I

An online poll by the Kentucky Post during the week of March 15 showed that a majority of readers are in favor of moving NKU athletics from Division II to Division I.

Supporters said that the men's and women's basketball teams deserve a higher profile due to winning Div. II records. Skeptics said the \$3 million cost of a Div. I move is out of reach given NKU's current budget crisis, according to a March 20 article in the Post.

NKU has been considering a move to Div. I for years, but recent state approval of a new special events center for the

university has reignited campus and community interest in the idea.

SGA resolves to recite pledge at meetings

The Student Government Association approved a resolution March 15 to recite the Pledge of Allegiance before each Monday meeting and to purchase an American flag and t-lapole.

Sen. Benjamin Harrison proposed the resolution, which the Senate unanimously approved. Reciting the pledge will be optional, after some senators expressed concern that reciting a pledge of allegiance to the American flag could make international students uncomfortable.

nationalbriebs

Anniversary of war draws protest

Thousands of protesters across the globe took to the streets March 20 to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the U.S.-led war against Iraq, according to the Associated Press. Demonstrations occurred in New York, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, London, Rome, Cairo and Tokyo.

Demonstrators carried signs to protest U.S. involvement in Iraq and call for the removal of U.S. troops from Iraq. President Bush ordered air strikes against Baghdad on March 19, 2003, but with the time difference it was already March 20 in Iraq.

Gas prices reach all-time high

Gasoline prices across the U.S. have reached an all-time high. A survey by the American Automobile Association reported that the average price of regular gasoline per gallon was \$1.78. California drivers have seen the greatest increase with gas prices well above \$2 a gallon for the past month. The nationwide rise in costs is attributed to a strong fuel demand, low inventories and high crude oil costs.

Cincinnati police cleared in death

Prosecutor Michael Allen decided March 22 that there were no crimes committed by the police who struck a black man at least a dozen times with metal nightsticks after he lunged at them.

Nathaniel Jones, 41, died shortly after the fight with the officers. According to the coroner, Jones had high levels of cocaine, PCP and methanol in his blood. Additionally, he suffered from obesity.

Allen, after reviewing the police and medical evidence, said that the case would now be closed and that it will not go before a grand jury.

AAC to forgo food for needy

By Emily Chalfant
 Assistant News Editor
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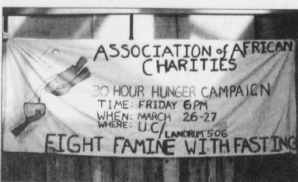
to such countries as Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ethiopia and Ghana.

"There are people in Africa that go without food for more than 30 hours," said sophomore Selina Oladapo, executive vice president of the AAC. "We want to make people see how they feel."

The campaign begins at 6 p.m. Friday, March 26, when participants will meet in the Business Education Psychology room 200 to listen to a speaker. Later, the event will shift to the student lounge in the University Center and then to Landmark 506. Games, cards and movies will be provided for entertainment.

Juice and soda will be available during the fast, and after the 30 hours, participants can enjoy a feast of African foods provided by African Cuisine or pizza.

The event is open to all NKU



Photograph by Mike Brennan / Illustration

The AAC hunger campaign will benefit needy African families.

students and faculty members. All AAC members will participate in the hunger campaign, as well as members from several other NKU organizations. The AAC will have a table set up in the UC lobby Thursday, March 25, for people to participate in

sign up or make a donation.

"There is no amount too small to donate," Oladapo said. Last year the campaign raised \$1,200 and was voted the most outstanding program at NKU's Student Organization Celebration awards.

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13410	IPS 300.003	MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS	FRIDAY 12-2:45 PM
13471	MMT 320.004	CONSUMER BEHAVIOR	FRIDAY 12-2:45 PM
13175	BAO 365.006	BEHAVIOR IN ORGANIZATIONS/UNDERSTANDING ORGANIZATIONAL LIFE	FRIDAY 3-5:45 PM
10987	ECO 100.006	PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS	SATURDAY 9-11:45 AM
11069	FIN 305.005	PRINCIPLES OF FINANCE	SATURDAY 9-11:45 AM
13405	IPS 165.012	INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS COMPUTING	SATURDAY 9-11:45 AM
11054	FIN 205.003	PERSONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	SATURDAY 12-2:45 PM
13706	BUS 230.007	LEGAL ENVIRONMENT	SUNDAY 9-11:45 AM
13470	MMT 305.007	PRINCIPLES OF MARKETING	SUNDAY 3-5:45 PM

GENERAL STUDIES COURSES, WEEKEND

13269	BIO 120.008	GENERAL BIOLOGY	FRIDAY 12-1:50 PM
13273	BIO 120	GENERAL BIOLOGY LABORATORY	FRIDAY 3-5:45 PM
13000	ENG 200.022	INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE	FRIDAY 3-5:45 PM
10127	AFR 100.010	INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN STUDIES	SATURDAY 9-11:45 AM
10743	ECO 316.006	RACISM & SEXISM IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	SATURDAY 9-11:45 AM
11106	ISO 101.110	WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY	SATURDAY 9-11:45 AM
13367	MS 102.171	HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES THROUGH 1877	SATURDAY 9-11:45 AM
12851	SP 101.008	ELEMENTARY SPANISH I	SATURDAY 9-11:45 AM
13058	WMS 310.002	WOMEN, WAGES & WORK	SATURDAY 9-11:45 AM

For more information about the week-end business degree at NKU, contact:

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othernews

Grayson: student life matters

Urges political and civic involvement among college students in order to give NKU voice in Frankfort

By C.J. FRYER

News Editor
cjf.northerner@fuse.net

When Secretary of State Trey Grayson spoke to students at Northern Kentucky University on March 19, he came with a message:

"Get involved in college life."

Gail Wells, dean of the college of arts and sciences, introduced Grayson, who became the first Northern Kentuckian elected to statewide office since 1919.

Grayson graduated from Dixie Heights High School. He then went on to graduate from Harvard College and the University of Kentucky, studying law.

Throughout his life experiences, Grayson said he has come to learn the importance of being involved and engaged.

He said he also learned much from his parents, who were very active in the community when he was a child.

Grayson told the students that there are many ways they can get involved in their NKU community — whether it is through Student Government Association, Greek life, or any other student organization.

He also believes helping out with political campaigns is a perfect way for college students to increase their civic engagement.

According to Grayson, groups like the College Democrats and College Republicans are great "vehicles" for students to become more politically involved.

Grayson, 31, was elected to Secretary of State on November 4, 2003.

The position's minimum age requirement is 30.

This early civic engagement on Grayson's part is inspiring to many politically inclined and interested students such as SGA Sen. Sherree Davis.

Davis, who organized the event as part of SGA Week, was excited to have Grayson come to NKU and speak to students.

"It was really important for him to come, just so that he can let students know that legislators and people in the government care," Davis said.

"People in the government are willing to help and willing to listen because that's their job."

In addition to stressing the importance of involvement, Grayson answered many other questions from students.

Topics he discussed included what his office duties entail, Northern Kentucky's presence in the state capital, and NKU's continuing problems with lack of funding.

Grayson recognized many of the students from their attendance at a Feb. 5 Frankfort rally protesting higher education



Photo contributed by Secretary of State Trey Grayson, the first Northern Kentuckian elected to a statewide office since 1919, spoke to a group of students, offering advice about college and answering questions they had.

budget cuts.

He assured students that their actions were noticed and had an effect on the government.

"People were impressed that that many students came down," Grayson said.

Grayson also updated students on his proposed Summit for Civic Literacy, which would be held in conjunction with NKU Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement, the Office of the Secretary of State,

the Department of Education and the Department of Justice.

The summit would encourage youth to take a greater interest in the government by attempting to restore more civic education to classrooms.

Its ultimate goal would be to get more young citizens to vote, because the youngest voting bracket has historically had the least percentage turnout at elections.

Many people believe this lack of civic literacy might be a reason for the low turnouts of young people at the polls.

Grayson said the summit is still on track to be organized and presented this fall.

If all goes as planned, the committee would evaluate current voluntary and required civic literacy programs within Kentucky schools, create a strategy to enhance long-term civic education and then recommend a plan of action to increase civic literacy by December 1.

"If it doesn't happen this fall, it will only [be] because we think we need more time," Grayson said.

Grayson also informed students that the Northern Kentucky area might see greater representation in Frankfort in coming years.

Grayson told the students that people in his office commonly joke about how "every governor's from central Kentucky."

"And if they're not, they move after they leave office."

According to Grayson, Kentucky's population is currently split, with about half rural and half urban.

However, all of the growth is coming in urban areas.

This means that over time there will be more representation in the state government from urban areas, such as Northern Kentucky.

"As political power changes, you'll see more money come up here."

[You won't see this university being as chronically underfunded, because we'll have a greater voice," Grayson said.

"You're going to see more qualified northern Kentuckians running for some of these statewide offices," he said. "Demographics are working in our favor."

Grayson also talked about the importance of voting and making sure college students are registered to vote.

"If more Northern students are registered to vote, Northern's voice will be louder," Grayson said.

Davis agrees with Grayson's views, and was grateful to have him share them with the students.

"He actually cares about education, that's his big quail," Davis said.

"He agrees that our university needs help."

Student votes to hold more weight

By AMANDA VANBENSCHOTEN

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Students at Northern Kentucky University will have more responsibility than ever when voting for leadership in next month's Student Government Association elections.

In addition to electing five executive board members, 15 senators and two judicial council justices in the April 14 and 15 SGA elections, students will also vote for a new SGA constitution.

"It's so much simpler to do it on April 14 and 15 because we're already holding another election," said Sen. Michael Vaughan, chair of the senate elections committee.

Students can vote online from the NKU Web site (www.nku.edu). Links to the homepage will be e-mailed to all students on April 13. The link will also be available on the SGA Web site and through the Norse News Network (N3). Vaughan said he hopes that online voting and increased awareness of the election will lead more students to vote in the election than in the past. He plans to post candidates' biographies and copies of both the old and proposed constitution on a special election Web site.

He said it seemed "trivial" to hold a separate election for the constitution, which was approved by the senate Feb. 18.

The vote, originally scheduled for early March, was postponed by an appeal of the senate's vote filed with the SGA judicial council, by Andy Hixson, vice president for public relations. The council denied the appeal Feb. 26, deciding that the senate's vote on the constitution did follow correct procedures set forth in its current constitution.

The new constitution has been a subject of controversy and has undergone multiple revisions since it was introduced to the senate in January.

The original document proposed sole SGA control over all student organization funding, including that of student media, the Activities Programming Board and the Residential Housing Association. It also proposed the creation of an SGA-led Student Funding Panel to regulate funds for student organizations, and the consolidation of the executive board from five to three members.

Sen. Mike Tobertga, author of the first draft of the constitution, worked with SGA officials and advisers on two revisions before it was presented to the senate for a vote. The third draft eliminated student media due to issues of legal and ethical conflict, and provided for the appointment of international and minority students to the funding panel. The senate rejected the document Feb. 2. Critics said the proposed constitution would have given SGA disproportionate control over student organizations.

Hixson presented an alternate constitution, and the two documents were combined after consulting with student leaders.

The revised version, approved by the senate Feb. 18 and up for a vote by students April 14 and 15 includes the following:

- provides for "shared governance," a policy of increased collaboration between SGA and other student organizations
- would establish an SGA-led Student Fee Allocation Board to distribute student fee money to student organizations. The board would be composed of the SGA executive vice president, finance committee chair, vice president for student organizations, APB executive director

tor. The university president would choose one faculty and one staff member to sit on the board. The SGA president would appoint five students to the board: one non-traditional student, one minority student, one international student and two at-large members.

- would allow the board to control funding for SGA, APB, the Student Organization Council, the Legacy Fund and 75 percent of the Programming and Activities Grant

- would require the APB executive director and RHA president to serve as senators and be elected by senate

- would restructure the executive board to include the positions of president, executive vice president and vice president for student organizations instead of the current president, executive vice president, vice president for administrative affairs, vice president for public relations, and vice president for academic and student affairs

- would create the finance, ethics and student rights committees

- would allow the finance committee to "review, at its pleasure, any University financial affairs of interest to the students"

CORRECTIONS

- The picture of the week in the March 3 issue of *The Northerner* (page 2) was incorrectly credited to photo editor Tony Redell.

Photographer Mark Bennett took the picture.

- The telephone number of student-run radio station WRFN was listed incorrectly as (859) 572-1800 in the March 3 issue ("Student radio

makes strides," page 5). The correct phone number is (859) 572-7800.

Also in the story, DJ Nick Greenwald was said to have "created the station of out thin air." This is incorrect. Greenwald has worked with fellow staff members to improve, not create, the radio station.

The staff of The Northerner apologizes for any inconvenience or misunderstanding these omissions and inaccuracies may have caused.

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Impeach

Continued from page one

ones who are losing here, with all this petty garbage going on."

In an official statement issued by Chief Justice Dave Caddell on March 22, he said that proper impeachment requires a two-thirds signed petition by the Senate.

Thereafter, a letter could be sent to judicial council, outlining the Senate's grounds for impeachment. The justices would then discuss disciplinary procedures and determine whether options such as removal or censure would be appropriate.

Joe Myers, chair of the ethics committee, said this appeal as a last-minute escape for Hixson.

"They got out on a technicality," Myers said.

"They knew they couldn't win the impeachment case, so they went for the only technical issue they may have had an advantage in.

"Had the true merits of the case come forward, there's no doubt in my mind how it would have been ruled," he said.

Myers argued at the hearing that obtaining a two-thirds signed petition by the Senate was optional, not mandatory, for impeachment proceedings.

Caddell said, "The charges, from what I know, were probably pretty tight. [But] if you're going to try to impeach someone, it needs to be done the right way."

Caddell stressed this idea in his statement: "Hixson's impeachment was improper for purely procedural reasons. We make clear that this

holding in no way means that Hixson should not be impeached due to the substance of the charges that were brought forth against him by [Sen. Joseph P. Mayer III] and affirmed by the Ethics Committee."

"[I]f you're going to try to impeach someone, it needs to be done the right way."

— Chief Justice Dave Caddell

process by offering a petition to the senators of SGA."

Myers said he has not yet decided whether he will pursue the

impeachment by drafting a petition to present to the Senate.

He believes attaining a petition signed by two-thirds of the Senate may present a challenge due to the partiality caused by friendships.

"In the United States Senate, politics are important. In Student Government, it's more of a friendship thing," Myers said.

"We did what we did because J-Council is impartial."

Myers admitted that Hixson might have had a better case.

However, he said he still thinks the Judicial Council should have heard the case.

Hixson disagrees: "Judicial Council did the right thing."

The judicial council is composed of Justices Caddell, William Volk, Chris Whitworth, Josh Estep and Dustin Cahill.



Tony Redell / Photo Editor
Hixson and Myers spoke at the hearing.

Hixson

Continued from page one

administration."

Hixson said he plans to "contact the leaders of student organizations, apologize for any sour feelings that there may be, and get to work on rebuilding those relationships."

He said SGA would co-sponsor programs with other student organizations and offer feedback to them.

"The Hixson-Iker team will take no one over," he said.

"We aren't looking to board money, we're looking to be as much away as we can for the betterment of the students."

Hixson and Iker also promised to eliminate "good old boy politics" in SGA.

Hixson said it is his goal to make SGA "as enjoyable as possible," and will eliminate the practice of forcing SGA members out of the organization in order to appoint friends.

He said he would change the way senate appointments are

made by requiring students to submit a formal application and then allowing the senate to review applicants' qualifications before they are presented for appointment.

The Hixson-Iker ticket has endorsed junior Jen Perry for vice president for public relations, junior Marchelle Crawford for vice president for student and academic affairs, and sophomore Sheena Dunn for vice president for administrative affairs.

Perry, a former member of the SGA Judicial Council, said she is eager to get involved in the organization after taking a year-long break.

"I'm really excited to get back into it and get involved," she said. "I think we'll get a lot more out of it than has been done in the past year."

Perry said she joined the Hixson-Iker ticket because "they're going in the right

direction."

"I took a one-year leave of absence because I did not agree with what was going on in SGA and I could not support it," she said.

"It's time to get back into it. I really want to make a difference. I know with this team and what we stand for, we're going to do it."

Senior Joe Scully, a marketing major, said he attended the Hixson-Iker rally because "they're finding a lot of hidden needs that nobody else has really thought about."

"Everybody says they'll fight for tuition; that's all you hear about," he said.

"But student government should help you out [with] more than just that. There's other things they can do to make the students happier."

For more information, visit www.hixson-sga.com.

Fegan

Continued from page one

for vice president for student and academic affairs, Sen. Josh Ruth for vice president for administrative affairs, and newly-appointed Sen. Abdul Kazi for vice president for public relations.

Aside from the issues, Fegan said his ticket is running on experience, diversity and improvement.

Fegan believes his ticket's combined experience of seven semesters on SGA is a big advantage over Vice President for Public Relations Andy Hixson's ticket.

"Our competitive ticket really has three people on there that have never been on Student Government," Fegan said. "Additionally, we think we're as diverse, if not more diverse, than them."

Fegan believes his ticket is very diverse, as it is composed of Greek and non-Greek students, residential and com-

muter students, and an international student.

"One thing [Hixson's] ticket is lacking [is] a non-Greek Caucasian, which makes up about 92 percent of this campus," Fegan said. "That's what James Pollitt represents for us."

"A ticket, per se, is only the president and executive vice president candidates. They're running the president and vice president of one fraternity on a ticket against us," he said. "That's why we like to talk about diversity."

Fegan also said that his ticket is committed to improvement. It is advocating Division I Athletics, pushing for continued progress of the student union center and the special events center, and working towards increasing the value of an NKU degree.

Freshman Kristen Worley attended the Fegan-Pollitt rally

with many of her Kappa Delta sorority sisters.

"I think they're a strong council, and they'll lead our school into the best interests," Worley said. "They have the same opinion as the majority of the students here."

Current SGA President Chris Pace was also in attendance, and was impressed by the large turnout.

"They have an impressive crowd, and that's really what these campaign parties are all about. I think they've gotten off to a good start," he said.

Pace is also very impressed with the platform Fegan and Pollitt are running on.

"I think when you have people who are willing to take advantage of an opportunity to give the students more of a say in things, it's always a good thing," he said.

For more information, visit www.fegan2004.com.

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student body.

viewpoints letters to the editor

npr

norse poll responses

Compiled by Mark Bennett

Do you plan
to vote in the
SGA election?



Dan Cheeseman,
Sophomore, political relations

"I'm uninformed of the
whole situation."



Amanda Smith,
Freshman, communications

"No, I don't really know
anything about it."



Kristin Worley,
Freshman, art education

"Yes. Students should vote.
They are making decisions
that affect things
on campus."



Kata Suzuki,
Senior, criminal justice

"No, I'm not interested."



Jeff Stahl,
Senior, radio/television

"No, I'm out this fall."



Andrea Schmidt,
Senior, psychology

"No, I haven't thought
about it."

I'm not dropping any names
because public slander just isn't
my style of persuasion.

I guarantee that when Andy
and I take office next semester
the students will finally see how
much SGA can benefit them.

They boys, how about starting
my "investigation."

Jeff Iker
Junior, speech communication

Hixson avoids "partisan politics"

Dear Editor,
In an article on the March 5
online edition of *The Northerner*, a member of
College Republicans made a
statement that Andy Hixson has
not been fulfilling his duties in
CR.

As president of College
Republicans of NKU, I would
be the record straight.

First, it should make no difference
to the SGA Senate Executive
Committee whether and to
what extent Andy participates
in other campus organiza-

tions. Any issues facing Andy and
the Student Government
Association should have nothing
to do with Andy's participation
in CR or any other organiza-

Second, Andy has been a
great part of the College
Republicans. He has served as
vice president for nearly two
years, and Andy has a unique
ability to build bridges beyond
partisan politics. He widely

engages himself with community
leaders of all political per-
suasions. He has been an as-
set to CR.

Noah Meeks
Junior, chemistry

Northerner's coverage biased

Dear Editor,
I am writing regarding the
article on *The Northerner's* Web
site. I consider this article to be
very biased. It skims Hixson's
responses, leaving no room for
his defense. Even if the al-
legations were true they must
have some reasonable ex-
planation as to why they are
true. In my opinion if this article
were to be printed in *The Northerner*, it should include:
the allegations toward Hixson,
Hixson's defense, and why
these issues are being brought
up.

I find it very convenient that
the impeachment of Andy
Hixson from the SGA happens
so close to the elections on
April 14 and 15.

This is all politics now. In
my opinion Fegan and Pollit
are intimidated by Andy
Hixson. I believe this due to
the nature of the campaign that
Fegan and Pollit are running.

It's bad enough that they are
running on immoral views and
lying to the people. Why do you
think they'd try to trash Andy's
name also?

I just ask that you consider all
the different reasons for the
actions mainly of two people:
Fegan and Pollit.

Anthony Stoebor
Freshman, business administration

Hixson neglected duty to students

Dear Editor,
I believe it is my duty and
obligation to provide informa-
tion pertinent to the impeach-
ment and removal of Vice
President for Public Relations
Andy Hixson.

I spend many hours in the
SGA office working for the
students of this university. Though
I am neither paid nor mandated
by the SGA constitution to post
and serve office hours, I take
pride in making myself avail-
able to the officers and senators
of SGA as well as the student
body.

Due to this, I consider myself
to be knowledgeable of activi-
ties in the SGA office.

Since late October of 2003, I
have noticed Mr. Hixson's lack
of involvement in both serving
his office hours and fulfilling
his duties. I brought this to the
attention of the other members
of the Executive Board.

Executive Vice President Eric
Fegan stated that Andy was his
friend and that he should be
given the opportunity to correct
his actions.

At the time, I believed this
was a close, I saw less of Mr.
Hixson in the SGA office and
more neglect of his duties.

At the start of the spring 2004
semester, I took it upon myself
to record Mr. Hixson's office
hours.

According to the SGA constitu-
tion, officers are to post and
serve 10 office hours a week.
Mr. Hixson has averaged less
than one office hour this semes-
ter.

How to submit letters to 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
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edition at
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- Letters must include writer's
name, telephone number, class
year and major.
- Letters must be 400 words or
less.

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- Event or organization
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Submit to Amie Vogt, vogtmari@nku.edu.
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space.

editorialboard

STAFF EDITORIAL
The Columbia Chronicle
(Columbia College)

(U-WIRE) CHICAGO - It's
been nearly three decades since
George Carlin offered up those
words in the United States) have
been coining up in his "Filthy
Words" routine, and sadly, not
much seems to have changed
since.

Perhaps it's the unjust back-
lash from "nipple gate" or the
Super Bowl halftime show, or
perhaps it's a security blan-
ket draped over us by George
Bush's puritanical reign of
"family values."

In any case, four-letter words
are now taboo on television
again, as well as nudity, vio-
lence, frank discussions of sex-
uality or anything that might
depict a realistic portrayal of
human behavior.

And the Federal
Communications Commission
is making sure it stays that way.
Multimedia depots such as
Clear Channel (which owns
1,200 radio stations and a large
percentage of all the media out-
lets in the United States) have
been coining up to the federal
government's audacious and
ignorant tactics in the hopes of
creating good will in prepara-
tion for Bush's almost certain
victory in November.

On March 3, the U.S. House
of Representatives and Commerce
Committee voted to end a measure
that would dramatically
stiffen penalties against televi-
sion and radio broadcasters
who air "indecent material" to
the House of Representatives.

The bill, which the commit-
tee approved at a near unani-
mous measure of 49-1 and was
recommended by the FCC,
approved fines of up to

\$500,000 per violation, in addi-
tion to agreeing to require the
young people from indecency
a broadcaster's license after three
violations.

"We have forged what I
believe is a bill that will protect
young people from indecency
and deter companies from
pushing the envelope of appro-
priate broadcasting," said Rep.
Fred Upton (R-Mich.), the pri-
mary author of the bill.

On Feb. 26, Clear Channel
pulled Howard Stern off of six
of its stations and in compliance
with the FCC's new "zero toler-
ance" policy, claiming indec-
ency on the part of the popular
shock jock.

Stern's crime?

He had the audacity to criti-
cize Bush and the FCC.

Moral crusaders like Upton
have been bringing their hands
for decades at the "decline of
moral standards" in this coun-

try, but it wasn't until Janet
Jackson exposed her pierced
nipple to the entire country did
they have a facade to advance
their agenda.

Despite what the members of
the bourgeoisie and intellectually
stunted crusaders club argue,
there is no call for the govern-
ment to be zealously regulating,
let alone censoring what they
find offensive to their backward
and antiquated sense of decen-
cy.

We've heard all the argu-
ments, but the simple fact
remains that the government is
there to provide and secure the
rights of the people, not after
them, despite what their matu-
red sense of decorum dictates.

People have a right to express
themselves, regardless of how
controversial or unpopular their
views may be. Any tampering or
restriction on these core ideals
is tantamount to treason.

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determined weekly by a majority vote among the editorial board, which
is composed of all section editors, assistant editors and senior staff
members.

slimbone

by mike maydak



horoscopes

For the week of March 22-28, 2004

By Lasha Seniuk, Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service (KRT)

Aries (March 21-April 20)

Long-term romance and new relationships are strongly favored over the next eight days. Pay special attention to subtle suggestions or requests for deepening intimacy. At present, loved ones may be emotionally needy. Remain focused on immediate obligations and all will be well. Thurs. through Sat., business promises are unreliable; expect key officials to miscalculate deadlines or offer unrealistic plans. Avoid group projects, if possible; mistakes will prove costly.

Taurus (April 21-May 20)

Greater freedom will be available in business relationships or concerning difficult work challenges. Monday through Wednesday, watch for colleagues or officials to dramatically change their expectations. Provide creativity; your suggestions will be quickly adopted. Later this week, social invitations arrive without warning; expect competing schedules, fast reversals and suddenly postponed events. Romantic partners will demand your full attention.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Many Geminis may realize that past romantic complications are too costly. Private social triangles, misinformation or blocked intimacy may strain present relationships. Muddle through; current emotional obligations will soon prove more rewarding. After friends, watch also for quick financial or social reversals. Friends, co-workers and key officials may provide misleading advice. Refuse to be derailed from important projects; reliable progress will soon arrive.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Over the next four days, paperwork will be bothersome. Watch for complex workplace reversals and incomplete financial reports. Some Cancerians may also encounter rare legal mistakes or lost corporate records. If so, alert all key officials. Ethical standards may be at issue. Tuesday through Friday, loved ones may be moody or emotionally distant. Don't be dismayed. At present, minor family concerns may seem overwhelming. Offer encouragement.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)

Unrealistic goals, complex love affairs or past family conflicts are no longer valid. Before midweek, expect fast improvements in all intimate relationships. Let outdated expectations fade. Loved ones need to witness a solid and reliable commitment to the present. After Wednesday, workplace gossip and idle speculation are best avoided. Older colleagues may present misinformation. Refuse to be drawn into group discussions or public criticism.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Physical appearance and social charisma are strongly accented this week. Before Thursday, watch for friends and potential lovers to ask probing or flirtatious questions. Don't be unnerved; your generosity and wisdom have not gone unnoticed. Wednesday through Saturday also highlight postponed family plans and revised schedules. Loved ones may feel mildly threatened by new friendships or planned celebrations. Remain attentive.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Recently shy friends offer intriguing invitations. Before Wednesday, watch for a sudden upsurge in romantic attraction and social interest. Some Librans, especially those born early in October, will also begin a new era of intimacy and trust. Later this week, business decisions may feel overwhelming. Someone close may wish to improve job conditions or research exotic career changes. Don't hesitate to ask detailed questions.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Before Thursday, passionate invitations and new love will be difficult to resist. Quick ultimatums, rekindled commitments or sudden pledges of affection may be accepted. Use this time to negotiate key relationships. After Wednesday, watch also for close relatives to criticize financial plans, property settlements or contracts. Long-term payments may cause controversy.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Business stress will slowly fade. Early Tuesday, watch for efficiency and respect to return to workplace relations. Wait, however, for added instructions. Before next week, key officials may create unusual term projects or complex job assignments. Thursday through Sunday, romantic discussions work to your advantage. Pay attention to the subtle observations of friends and lovers. Revised daily promises are needed. Stay alert to home plans and minor social details.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

Career ambition and stalled relationships will move forward. This is an excellent week to ask for favors from loved ones or request job advancement. After midweek, however, a younger friend may be moody or socially doubtful. Provide support. Someone close may need to quickly develop public confidence. Group announcements, family introductions and planned celebrations are accepted. Late Sat., rest and pauper the body; physical energy may be low.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

Early this week, senior co-workers may demand greater public support. Team achievement, time schedules or hiring practices are accented. Remain silent. This is not the right time to act as group leader or workplace mediator. Wednesday through Saturday, a long-term relationship may be challenged. Friends, relatives or close colleagues are openly doubtful of your recent social decisions or private promises. After Saturday, rest. Strong emotions may be draining.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20)

Honesty will resolve past misunderstandings. Before Wednesday, watch for lovers and close friends to press for clarity or new romantic promises. All is well, so not to worry. Do, however, avoid serious financial discussions or fast home plans. Slowly evolving goals are best. Later this week, previously silent co-workers may disclose controversial information or ask for public support. Trust your first impressions. Added political complications may soon arrive.

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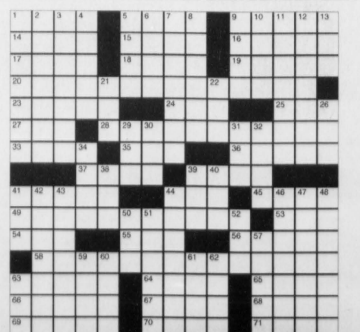
ACROSS
1 Hill crest
5 Medieval toiler
9 Out of kilter
14 Stanton film, "___ Man"
15 Spoken
16 Vacation vessel
17 Latin & others
18 Laertes or Ophelia, e.g.
19 Mongolian range

20 Union mutinies
23 U.S. retirement act
24 Sleeve card
25 Divested
27 Stimpy's pal
28 Mineral ore of uranium
33 Belgian battle site
35 Nat. with Seoul
36 Desert stops
37 Barbara or Sir Anthony

39 Greek letters
41 Teatime treat
44 Jongo
45 Labels
49 Payload's heaviness
53 Packed-house letters
54 Shift dirt
55 TV add-on
56 Like some kitchens
57 Fancy dress event
63 Religious principle
64 Alone
65 Digestive juice
66 Disney's mermaid
67 Press
68 Mined products
69 Harebrained
70 Mach-2 breakers
71 Hardy lass

DOWN
1 Beer plant
2 Goats to bed
3 Like a translucent gemstone
4 Chalk hills along the
Humber
5 Soft drink
6 Part of Q.E.D.
7 Pillage
8 Chase movie
9 Jai ___
10 Dairy product
11 Practical trainees
12 City near Fort Ord
13 Lanka
21 Price ceiling
22 CSA soldier
26 Some French
29 Cholera
30 Heavy weight
31 Old card game
32 "___ of Eden"
34 Las Vegas rival
Lawn moisture
39 Old cloth
40 LBJ's VP
41 Universal meas.
42 Barth novel
43 Naturally grown
44 Reflects
46 "Top Hat" star

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



3/3 Solution

CAMP PRAMS HELP
ORAL ROGET IRAE
STRIKEZONE TATA
ASCENT DEARSIR
DOZES PREENS
SPY BELA SEC
LOOP LIDS NOTSO
ANGUS ANT TROOP
MEANT SERF DOOME
COT SERB TEN
AUTHOR SWILL
STALLED SEASON
KIRI BELTBUCKLE
ECON LAINE KILO
DATE ELITE SPAN

48 Car front decorations
49 Like a family of girls
50 Morgantown sch.
51 Successful transplantation
52 Driving spot
53 Superior of a monastery
59 Search for
60 4 times per yr.
61 Scales
62 Puts on
63 Game of marbles

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



Rock Fight!



Nine competing bands
entertained NKU students
in this year's rocking
Battle of the Bands

By KRISTEN LANE

northernner@nku.edu

The second installment of The Battle of the Bands rocked Regents Hall on March 16. This year's battle showcased nine talented local bands, but only one would receive the \$500 first prize.

"The Battle of the Bands was created last year, and there was such a turnout for it that the Activities Programming Board decided to make it an annual event," said Sheena Dunn, a sophomore pre-nursing major and director of Music for the Masses.

"We were really excited about getting to do this again.

There was such a good turnout for the auditions, we knew it would be an awesome battle," Dunn said.

Auditions were held in February to determine which bands would compete. Once the bands had been selected, each of the nine bands was given a twenty-minute set to perform for the crowd.

Last year's champions, Payola, opened the show with a set that got the crowd warmed up and ready for the competing bands.

The first band to perform was NoRust. It seemed each of their songs flowed seamlessly from one to another, and the band's interaction within itself and with the crowd was unforced. Their song selection ranged from heavy to mellow, allowing the audience to see their versatility and talent.

When asked how the band got together, Ruehin Church, lead vocalist, said, "I was responding to an ad I saw in CityBeat."

All the members are current students at Northern Kentucky University, and they manage both a class and band schedule. NoRust currently plays around town about once a week, Church said.

One Breath Below was the next to play. Opening up with an upbeat song that caught the attention of the crowd, they continued to draw

in the crowd with each lyric. With catchy words and good beats, it was easy to sing along.

Strip the Image followed with good harmonies and a nice mix of songs. Their emotions were evident in each song that they played.

Starting eight years ago, two members of this three-man band are currently students at NKU, said Brain Tolle, a senior graphic design major. "My brother and I started the band and we found our lead singer soon after," Tolle said.

Influenced by the Beatles, classic rock, and current artists heard on the radio, Strip the Image finds inspiration for their writing in many facets, according to Tolle.

Next, with its upbeat, one-of-a-kind style, The Shout played their set.

Using a different style and incorporating other instruments not like any of the other bands, The Shout found a way to give each of their songs character. Addictive beats and good band chemistry showcased the individuality of the band.

Playing like there was no tomorrow, Alispyo busted onto the scene with its feel-good vibe.

With intense, high-energy songs, it was hard not to find yourself bobbing your head or tapping your foot to the beats.

Unique to the majority, Track West followed. With three different lead vocalists, each song brought something distinctively different to the table and couldn't go unrecognized.

-Sheena Dunn

Playing right after was Silent Station. Having their own unshared stage presence, this band was full of high energy and had such an intensity to their songs that you could truly feel the emotions that were put into every lyric.

Rounding out the battle was Domestic Hate. Hard and heavy, this band came with a raw and edgy sound. This band's in-your-face attitude came through, and with a DJ on the scene, it definitely gave a refreshing approach to the band.

The votes were collected and counted while Payola played another set to end the show.

The top three bands from the battle were announced.

Coming in third was One Breath Below, in second Track West and the 2004 Battle of the Bands champions were Norust.

Support local music: Catch the following bands live

- **Payola:** March 25, *Beer Sellar* / April 5, *Beer Sellar* / April 8, *Beer Sellar* / April 22, *Beer Sellar*
- **Norust:** April 1, *York Street Cafe* / April 8, *Madison Theater*
- **Strip the Image:** March 24, *Soupies* / March 25, *Blue Note* / March 26, *Mad Frog*



From top left:

• Introducing NoRust, the winners of the second Battle of the Bands competition. The four band members include Travis Talbert (guitar), Dan Fisk (bass), Nathan Wagner (drums), and Ruehin Church (vocals).

• Brain Tolle (guitar) and his brother Jeff (vocals) of Strip the Image kept the family and band ties tight by rocking together for their twenty minutes on stage.

• Joe Seiter (bass) and Randy Steffen (vocals, guitar) had the chance to jam away not only once, but twice. The reason? They are the winners of last year's Battle of the Bands competition.

• Aaron May (right) feels the rhythm as his band Alispyo performs a set on stage.

• Thanks to Nathan Wagner (far right), and the other members of Norust, the band left \$500 richer Tuesday night.



Mark Bennett / Photographer



campuscalendar

To place an event : contact Amie Vogt at 859-572-5859

wednesday

- Delta Sigma Theta Physical and Mental Health Week runs until March 26.
- Ky. Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE) luncheon meeting from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the UC Ballroom.
- Norse Visitation Day from 12:45 to 3 p.m. in the Steeple Library. Welcome Center. Reservations required with Maribeth Carskadon at 572-1400.
- Military History Lecture, "Flyers in Search of a Dream: Early African American Aviation," at 3 p.m. in UC Budig Theater.
- Betty Douglas faculty recital from 8 to 9:30 p.m. in Graves Hall.

thursday

- There will be a Norse Visitation Day from 12:45 to 3 p.m. in the Steeple Library Welcome Center. Reservations required with Maribeth Carskadon at 572-1400.
- Master Advisor Workshop from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in 240 of Steeple Library.
- Jeremy Long Faculty Recital from 8-9:30 p.m. in Graves Hall.
- "A Piece of My Heart" will run until April 4. Shows 8 p.m. Tues. through Sat., and 3 p.m. Sun. in the Black Box Theater. General Admission is \$10. Contact the box office at 572-5464.

friday

- Last day for freshmen to access mid-term grades.
- Learning Communities Open House from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the UC.
- There will be EXCEL Training (organizational skills) at 3 p.m. in the UC, and ends at 9 p.m. and award at Newport on the Levee.
- Sergei Podniamak & students in concert at 8 p.m. in Graves Hall. \$5 donation suggested.
- An Actor's Intensive weekend workshop from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Old Science 500.

saturday

- Last day to drop a full-term course with a grade of W, to remove incomplete grades from the Fall 2003 semester, and to submit appeals to the Bursar concerning refunds.
- Transition orientation, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in UC.
- 2nd day of the Actor's Intensive weekend workshop, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Old Science 500.
- Kappa Delta Sorority sponsors Charity Softball Tournament at 10 a.m. at the Intramural Fields.

sunday

- Last day of Actor's Intensive weekend workshop from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Old Science 500.

monday

- There will be a Norse Visitation Day from 12:45 to 3 p.m. in the Steeple Library Welcome Center. Reservations required with Maribeth Carskadon at 572-1400.
- Percussion Concert at 8 p.m. in Graves Center Hall.

tuesday

- Priority Registration for summer and fall 2004 begins. Make an appointment to see an academic advisor beforehand. Schedules are available near AC 301 and online at <http://webapps.uku.edu/class/%5F Sched/>
- Norse Visitation Day from 12:45 to 3 p.m. in the Steeple Library Welcome Center. Reservations are required with Maribeth Carskadon at 572-1400.
- Port Donald Platt will read his work to celebrate National Poetry Month from 3 to 4 p.m. in room 102 of the Steeple Library Welcome Center.
- Kentucky Post Spelling Bee is from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Otto Budig Theater.

University Housing offers a closer look at campus living

Open house seeks to attract incoming freshmen to dorm, student life on campus

University Housing is hosting its annual Open House for prospective students to learn more about campus living. It will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 3 in Norse Commons.

"We anticipate 1,200 students next semester, and about 10 percent of those students live on campus," said Matt Brown, director of student housing.

The day will consist of a variety of sessions for people to attend, such as speeches, information tables and student panels.

After the new students register, the festivities will begin with Arnie Slaughter, Woodcrest Hall director, welcoming the students and introducing keynote speaker Kent Kelson, dean of students.

The students and their families will then be split up into four groups to rotate between four different information sessions.

The first session will be tables from different departments and student organizations to show how to get involved in campus life.

Departments will include admissions, financial aid and student life, coordinated by Corti Fuller, University Suites hall director.

The second activity will be a resident student panel for incoming students to speak with and ask questions of the current students. This panel will be hosted by



Mike Brennan / Photographer
Freshmen Tyler Butcher (back) and Joe Bishop (front) relax in their dorm room.

Kentucky/Commonwealth Hall director Bethany Kilgore.

There will also be a Resident Assistant panel for families to meet RAs and get dorm living information. Carmen Myrick, Norse Hall director, will host the panel.

The final session will be a tour the University Suites and Commonwealth/Kentucky Hall rooms (where freshman traditionally live).

Kohl's, Target, and Bed, Bath and Beyond will decorate some of the show rooms to give students ideas

about how to make their residence a home. The day will end with a brunch in Norse Commons at noon.

All four groups will come together and sample what the dining hall has to offer.

Information on room dimensions, what to bring to the dorms, and brochures from Dining Services will be handed out.

Over 150 participants are expected to come to the event and see what it's like at University housing.

For more information, call the office toll free at 866-572-5676.

THEATRE PREVIEW

Play brings real-life stories to stage

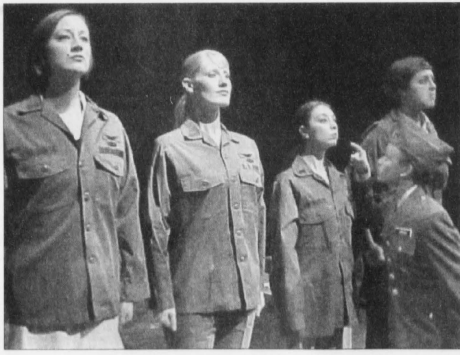


Photo contributed by the Department of Theatre and Dance
(From left to right, back row) Emily Hyberger, Elizabeth Alexander, Melissa Patterson, Karie Miller, and Kaitlin Becker star in "A Piece of My Heart," the fifth edition in the Theatre Department series.

By SUSAN NELTNER
Features Editor
nku_features@yahoo.com

Audiences will have a chance to go back in history and experience first-hand the stories of six women sent to Vietnam, in the fifth edition to the Northern Kentucky University's Department of Theatre and Dance series, "Shut Up, I Love You: A Piece of My Heart," directed by Michael King, will open Thursday, March 25 at NKU's Black Box Theatre.

The story follows six women in their quest to make sense of a world ridden by war.

"It's not a 'romantic story,'" said Karie Miller, a senior theatre major who plays the character Martha. "It's about the fight and the triumph of these women."

"That's the story: how are these women going to survive, and will they survive? In the end, you have to come to the play to find out."

Miller said that she and the

cast found inspiration through strong women in their lives today.

They also had help from various people who have experience in different areas that would be useful to help the cast understand the play as a whole.

"We had some strong expert women come in," Miller said.

These experts included Liz Goins, a student at NKU who was a medic in Iraq.

Goins talked to the cast about her experience as a medic, and routine military things such as how to march and salute, Miller said.

Another woman, Amy Alexander, is an emergency room nurse as well as mother to Elizabeth, another of the cast members.

Alexander showed the cast how to hang IVs, check a pulse, and other medical procedures, Miller said.

Two people who actually experienced Vietnam helped the cast with their direction: Paul Webster Sr. was a soldier in the war, and Ruth Marks was a nurse stationed in Tokyo.

Having Marks come in and talk was really interesting to Miller, she said, especially since Marks reminded Miller of her character.

Another thing that makes this play important, Miller said, was the fact that with this particular play an actor has the ability to read the script and know that it actually happened.

"You do a play about Shakespeare, and you can't go back and talk to him," Miller said. "But this one, you can."

Miller added that it was important for her to get everything right about this play because it is based on a true story.

"I'd feel horrible if we played it wrong," Miller said. "It's not about our interpretation, it's about getting it out there."

The play will run through Sunday, April 4. General admission is \$10, while tickets for students are \$6 and faculty are \$8. For more information on ticket prices and times call the box office at (859) 572-5464.

The ex factor: painful, but insignificant

ERIC EDWARDS
The Orlando Sentinel
(KRT)

Most people have an ex or three. Some have dozens. There is the ex we never want to see again, the one who makes us shudder with revulsion and swear to corrupt on the Levee.

We'll never again abuse mid-altering substances. There is the one you think of when you catch a scent of her while you're walking through a crowded mall.

And there is the one who is your buddy. She calls, she chats, she wants to know what's going on. She wants to keep you in her life because for some reason she likes you even when you aren't dating her.

All the exes have their places. They make great horror stories, learning experiences and funny anecdotes — i.e., the one you thought you ran over the hamster until you learned she didn't have a hamster but that the neighbors kept

Chihuahua. Oops. But of all the types of exes in the world, there is one no one can stand.

Those, of course, are other people's exes — more specifically, the ones belonging to our current girlfriends and boyfriends.

There is nothing amusing or entertaining about these people. They would be best left back in hell or in the home of the ex on the team bus or on our first job where they belong. It's for sure they aren't doing much good around here.

Except for a few I can't stand. I like most of my ex-girlfriends, although I don't have much of a relationship with any of them.

We chat on the phone from time to time. I might get a card around Christmas, and one will even call me from time to time to solicit my consultation on work-related issues. I haven't started billing her yet, but that might not be a bad idea.

While I go on long stretches without ever contemplating my

exes or their whereabouts, I am getting the feeling that I mention them about 5,000 times too often for my present girlfriend.

I forgot the golden rule of exes: It may take fish three days to go bad, but it takes only about three minutes before your current girlfriend is sickened by the thought of your ex-girlfriend.

I should know better. Pam seems to have the whole thing figured out. If it weren't for my inquisitive nature, I might think I'm the first person she has ever dated.

And for many people, that bit of self-deception is worth a mountain of contentment.

But other people's exes shouldn't annoy us so much. They should be viewed as worn-out videos that our significant others once liked to watch but are now completely bored with.

Meanwhile, we are as shiny and golden and interesting as a brand-new Oscar-winning movie.

Few people seem to have that

sort of healthy attitude about other people's exes.

I've never had a girlfriend who didn't think my most recent ex was a hideous, perverted troll, lucky not to be institutionalized for her bad taste in clothing.

And although I talk a good game, there was never an ex-boyfriend out there when I did not look upon as though he would be fortunate to lick my boot heels.

Our mothers might have raised us to say nothing if we can't find anything nice to say about someone, but when it comes to exes, the rule is: If you can't find anything profoundly nasty to say about an ex, you're just not trying hard enough.

(Eric Edwards, who has enough horror stories to satisfy anyone, writes for *The Orlando Sentinel*. You can e-mail him at edwards@orlandosentinel.com.)

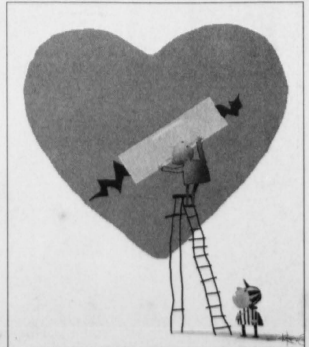


Illustration courtesy of KRT Campus
Exes can be painful and irritating, but patch it up and move on.

artsentertainment

MOVIE REVIEW

Remake of zombie classic lacks life

By JOSH BLAIR

Reporter

northerner@nku.edu

Michael Johnson wouldn't be a good zombie.

Why? Because zombies can't run. Webster's Dictionary defines a zombie as "a willless, speechless human...who is held to have died and been supernaturally reanimated."

Or "someone who behaves as though half-dead."

"Dawn of the Dead", which opened March 19, depicts zombies who run at full speed—hardly befitting behavior for someone who is "half-dead."

Zack Snyder's remake of George A. Romero's classic 1978 film finds the country infested with undead creatures,

which causes living beings (also known as people) to fight for survival and seek refuge.

In the movie, a group of survivors find shelter in a nearby shopping mall.

There they must safeguard themselves and fend off intruding zombies.

Time slowly passes and they make a plan of action.

They realize they can't stay in the mall forever, yet they have no place else to go.

The only resemblances to the original film are zombies and a shopping mall.

With that in mind, the movie should be titled differently, something along the lines of "This movie is dead, literally and figuratively."

There's a Hollywood trend to recreate classics and cash in

on previous successes.

It's easy to make a movie with a similar theme, slap on the same title, and call it a remake, but it's not easy to recreate that spark found in the original film.

Many things that gave the original a special spark and made it a great zombie movie were absent from this version.

The characterization was dismal — most of the supporting cast served no purpose, save to add to a mounting body count.

Most important, for those familiar with the original, there were no rampaging bikers.

The best addition to this version was the character Andy (Bruce Borne), the proprietor of a weapons shop located across the mall parking lot.

Andy added the most life to



Photo contributed by rottentomatoes.com
In the movie 'Dawn of the Dead' the world is overcome by zombies and the survivors must find a way to overcome lifeless creatures while trying to stay alive.

the film by playing a game of shooting zombies that looked like celebrities.

Fans of zombie movies will

be disappointed. It had plenty of gore, but felt rather empty, nothing like the original.

It's like granddaddy used to

tell us: When there's no more room for fresh ideas, the crap will walk the Earth.

VIDEO GAME

'Halo 2' release delayed one more time

By MELISSA HODGES

Reporter

northerner@nku.edu

September seems so far away for those anxiously awaiting Bungie Studios' release of "Halo 2: Combat Evolved."

Some Xbox gamers are starting to wonder if the first-person shooter will ever come out.

With earlier release dates such as March 2003, June and August 2004, and, now, September 2004, some video game enthusiasts are becoming a bit agitated.

However, it seems that the wait will be worth it.

Halo 2 continues the adventure of Master Chief and Cortana after they escape the first game and return home, only to find that an entire Covenant fleet is attacking Earth.

As the story develops, Master Chief will take the fight back to the Covenant forces, following the "player" new worlds, including the Covenant home world.

Here, the player meets the Brutes and the Prophets — a new race that is part of the pact between the Elites (featured in the original).

Along with new levels and

enemies, the game play has improved. Master Chief will be able to interact with the environment. The gamer will be able to use objects as cover and even shoot out lights to cloak the enemy in darkness.

While on the moon, the low gravity will let Master Chief move in slow motion and jump far distances.

Adding to the surroundings, Bungie Studios has mentioned the thought of using ambient life (bugs, birds, etc.) to enhance the visuals and give the game a richer environment.

However, this addition is not definite and could be cut from

the game if it conflicts with scheduling purposes.

Included in the sequel will be new ATVs, new Warthogs, and a motorbike. The driving controls will be a bit different and perhaps more difficult to maneuver.

Three different models of the Warthog are available and used for different environments. For example, the Jungle Hog has modified wheels and camouflaged cover, while the Snow Hog is equipped with snow treads. And the Transporter Hog is the largest Warthog and can hold up to six passengers.

While the game may seem

amazing, Bungie Studios wants the consumer to keep in mind that "Halo 2" is still a game in development.

However, what Bungie can promise is that "Halo 2" will be an online game supporting multiplayer games through Xbox Live. In fact, Bungie foresees large-scale, squad-based online games. Some gamers have even predicted that "Halo 2" will be the biggest online multi-player game ever.

Anticipation of the Xbox

game is mounting. Now that Bungie has officially announced the September release date, gamers are foaming at the mouth, ready to shell out 50 bucks for the game.

With many stores offering pre-orders, the game is almost sold out before it's even hit the shelves.

Retailers are already to the limit on reservations and beginning to turn away prospective buyers.

So Halo gamers beware: hurry to your local store to reserve a copy. Otherwise, you may be empty-handed and crying come September.

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Sports Scene



Coach's heir up in air

NKU administrators have found themselves in a bit of a quandary in their search of a replacement for men's head basketball coach Ken Shields. The apparent front-runner for the job, current assistant coach Dave Bezold, might face some stiff competition for the position.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reported that NBA hall of famer Dave Cowens contacted the university about the head coaching position. NKU Athletic Director Jane Meier would not comment on who has applied for the job, but expects Cowens to get serious consideration if he is one of the 50 applicants for the position.

If Cowens has applied, then NKU's dilemma is this: Do you go with loyalty and hire Bezold, or do you go with the big name in Cowens? The university hopes to narrow down the candidates by the first week of April and name Shields' successor by mid-April, according to Meier.

"The university wants to continue to be able to compete at or near the top of Division II basketball," she said.

"It will be important that the new coach interact positively with the student-athletes on the personal and academic levels."

A native of Newport, Ky., Cowens starred at Newport Catholic in high school. After playing for Florida State University, he went on to a stellar NBA career spanning eleven seasons.

He averaged 17.6 points and 13.6 rebounds per game in his career, and was named one of the 50 greatest NBA players of all time in 1996.

Cowens has also experienced coaching success at the NBA level. He led the Charlotte Hornets in two back-to-back 50-win seasons and finished with a 161-191 career coaching record.

As hard as it would be to turn down Cowens, it would be just as hard (if not harder) to do the same to Bezold.

After playing underneath assistant coach Pat Ryan at Holt County High School, Bezold has been an assistant to Shields for the past 14 years.

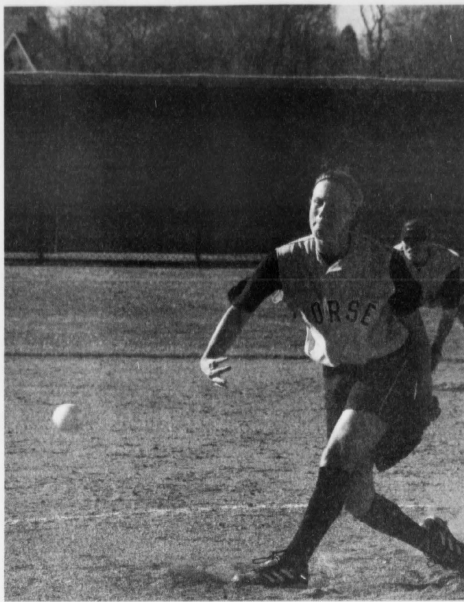
Shields attributes much of the success he has had to Bezold. Shields became aware of Cowens having a possible interest in the job about two and a half months ago when members of the Cowens family contacted him about the position.

"I don't know if he (Cowens) has applied, all I told them was that if the university searches for replacements, anyone can apply. I think Dave is the one and that is how I feel," said Shields. "I know what the administration will go about the search in an appropriate way."

So will it be Bezold, Cowens, or some other third party candidate? It's a tough question to answer, one that could determine whether the NKU program will have the same success it has had under Shields.

"Everyone's worked very hard to be successful," said Meier. "We have had success during Shields' tenure and we expect to continue that success with the new coach."

Softball starts off at 23-1, baseball splits against MSL



Emily Britholte kept her record unblemished this weekend, finishing with her seventh victory of the season. The Lady Norse have started the 2004 season with a 23-1 record, the best in the program's history.

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. — Stephanie Leimbach collected three hits and scored three runs Sunday afternoon as the Northern Kentucky University softball team swept a doubleheader from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, 9-1, 5-2, at the Frank Ignatius Grein Softball Field.

Leimbach was 2-for-2 with a pair of runs scored in the opener, and she also added a run-scoring single. Angie Lindeman added two hits and two RBI as the Norse used a five-run third inning to seal the victory.

Sophomore pitcher Krystal Lewallen improved to 13-1 by allowing just four hits and an unearned run in the opener. She also had five strikeouts in the five-inning victory.

Lewallen's performance comes just one week after being named GLVC pitcher of the week. During the spring break trip to Florida, Lewallen went 7-1 with 75 strikeouts and a 0.12 ERA. On the season, Lewallen is 12-1 with a 0.23 ERA, with seven shutouts, three saves and 114 strikeouts.

In the nightcap, NKU's Emily Britholte improved to 7-0 this season by scattering five hits in seven innings on the mound as the Norse cruised to a 5-2 win. NKU scored four runs in the third inning and coasted to the doubleheader sweep.

Leimbach scored a run and added an RBI single for NKU, which improved to 23-1 overall. Lindeman also collected a run-scoring hit during the third inning for the Norse, who are 4-0 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

NKU's 23-1 start is the best in the history of the program. NKU will play a non-con-

ference doubleheader at Ohio Dominican today, and the Norse will play in the GLIAC/GLVC Challenge at Peoria, Ill., beginning at 6 p.m. Friday with a game against Gannon (Pa.) University.

In baseball action this weekend, Rick Wood scattered eight hits and allowed just two runs Sunday as the Northern Kentucky University baseball team defeated the University of Missouri-St. Louis, 9-2, in the first game of a doubleheader at the Bill Aker Baseball Complex at Friendship Field.

Wood also had five strikeouts en route to the complete-game victory for the Norse, who snapped a 2-2 tie by scoring four runs in the fifth inning.

NKU added three insurance runs in the sixth inning, and Wood notched his third victory of the season.

Jenrod Fraley went 3-for-4 with four runs batted in for NKU. Keith Jackson added two hits and three RBI for the Norse.

Jackson upped his season average to .315 with eight doubles and nine RBI's in 20 games. Fraley is now hitting .212, with two home runs and nine RBI's in 19 games for the Norse.

Missouri-St. Louis gained a split of the doubleheader in the nightcap with an 8-2 victory.

Starting pitcher Derrick Moores got his first win of the season in the second game on Saturday, as NKU also split a doubleheader with the Rivermen on Saturday.

NKU will travel to Ashland, Ohio, today for a doubleheader against Ashland University at 1 p.m.

**Article by Sports Information
Kyle Burch contributed

Key players return to tennis team

Crawford hopes to repeat last season's coach of the year honors and conference championship

By KYLE BROWN
Reporter
northerner@nku.edu

Coming off a 2003 season, where his team went undefeated in Great Lakes Valley Conference play and won its first conference championship since 1990, Northern Kentucky University men's tennis Coach Geoff Crawford has reason to be excited about the upcoming season.

However, the Norse will face just competition from other GLVC foes. In the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's Regional Poll, the University of Indianapolis is ranked eighth, the University of Missouri-St. Louis is ranked sixth, and the University of Southern Indiana is third.

"The team has a lot of potential," Crawford said. "It's as strong or stronger than last year's team, but the competition in the conference and in the region has also gotten significantly stronger. It's going to be a very interesting year for us."

Ranked fourth in the ITA's Regional Poll, the Norse will be led in singles play by three players who made last season's All-Conference Team.

Senior Amine Benjelloun is a team leader both on and off the court, according to Crawford. "He's been a major stalwart for us, playing number one for us since he came here," Crawford said.

"He keeps the team in line and we're expecting really good things from him. He has to go against the other team's best players day in and day out."

Junior Billy Hopkins is another returning All-Conference player.

"Billy is one of the quickest and most consistent players on the team," Crawford said. "He's not going to give up on any points. What Billy lacks in physical size, he makes up with his 'high-revving motor'; he just won't give in on any matches."

Junior Nick Herzog completes the trio of returning All-Conference players. "Nick truly has the potential to be a good player," Crawford said. "When he comes in with a great mental attitude, and with the great physical power he can play with, he is a really formidable force to have to compete against."

Transfers Oliver Marinovic and Marek Pawelec are two newcomers who have played

well during the season. Marinovic is undefeated and ranked 11th in the region this season.

For doubles play, Benjelloun and Marinovic are ranked third in the region due to a strong showing in a tournament during the fall. So far this season, NKU has posted a 5-3 record with two of the losses coming to Division I schools Xavier University and the University of North Carolina-Asheville.

The team has posted impressive wins against the 28th ranked team in Division II, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, and the 24th ranked NAIA team, Olivet Nazarene University.

The team begins conference play March 23 against Indianapolis followed by matches March 26 at Saint Joseph's College and March 27 at Lewis University.

Cowen Crawford enters his 14th season as head coach at NKU and is coming off his best season to date.

After finishing 22-5 overall, posting an 8-0 conference record, and winning the conference tournament, he was awarded GLVC Coach of the Year.

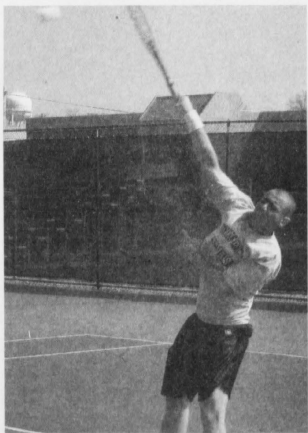


Photo contributed by Joe Ruhl
Amine Benjelloun leads a strong returning cast for the Norse.

Teams end basketball seasons in tourney

By KYLE BUCH
Sports Editor
burchky@yahoo.com

The NKU men's and women's basketball teams ended their respective seasons during spring break.

The men's team had an early exit in the first round of the GLVC tournament, falling 83-74 to Southern Indiana.

The women's team was also defeated in the first round of the GLVC tournament, 67-58 by Indianapolis.

However, the Lady Norse were fortunate to receive a surprise invitation to the NCAA Division II tournament. NKU played hard, but fell 51-49 to a higher-ranked Quincy University team.

NKU trailed 51-49 with two seconds left, when Norse guard Nikki Perkins made a last-second three-point attempt that fell short, giving Quincy the victory and ending the Norse season with a final record of 17-11.

The Lady Norse had another successful season, and next year should be even better.

They will return with their top three scorers: Connie Myers, Sharrell Snaadon, and Perkins, as well as starting point guard Elizabeth Burrows.

The Lady Norse will also return with freshmen Karmen Graham and Karyn Creager, who both got valuable playing time this season.

This was the first in the last five seasons that the Lady Norse have failed to break the 20-win mark.

However, it is the sixth straight season they have made an appearance in the NCAA

Division II tournament.

The men's team also has a promising team returning to the court next season.

Junior guard Mike Kelsey will return after averaging 16.9 points per game. Junior Steve Purdon, who Head Coach Ken Shields said was one of the most consistent players for the Norse, will also return after averaging 10.7 points per game. The Norse will also welcome back a promising trio of freshmen who saw success.

Kevin Reinhardt, who finished in second place for con-

ference freshman of the year, will return after averaging 8.8 points and 3.7 rebounds per game. Brian Levin also experienced a solid freshman season, averaging five points per game in 11 starts. Kevin Schappell, who Shields calls the hardest-working player he has coached in 16 years, rounds out the trio and will contribute immensely to the success of next season's team.

"These players are the most coachable that I've had," Shields said. "They really laid it on the line."

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