



## Appointment rejected by senate

### SGA president's recommendation for position not approved, some believe race an issue

By C.J. FRYER

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The Student Government Association's executive board will continue to be one member short because the senate did not approve an appointment for the vacant position of vice president of student involvement at its Feb. 21 meeting.

SGA President Andy Hixson recommended Sen. Jesiah Brock for appointment, but in an 11-0 vote, with 17 senators present, the recommendation did not meet the required two-thirds approval of the student senate as required by the constitution.

"(Senators) have a duty to represent the student body," Hixson said, "and when (six) just refuse to vote, they're not representing the students."

The position became open when former Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Amanda Bailey resigned, which was officially announced at SGA's Jan. 24 meeting. The position's title was changed to vice president of student involvement after the Board of Regents approved a new SGA constitution Jan. 26.

Hixson received five applications for the vacant position, and after deliberating with his executive board, he



Brock

decided Brock was the most qualified candidate and could devote a sufficient amount of time on the board.

"(The executive board members) were based on qualifications only," Vice President of Administration Sheena Dunn told the student senate after its vote. "The only person that I see fit and that I would want to work with on my exec team... is Jesiah Brock."

"For some reason or another, people don't want to vote for him. Obviously what we do is not good enough when we try."

Michael Tobegta was one of the six senators who did not vote on the rec-

ommended appointment and said he was not presented with enough information. He said he feels the process was "rushed."

"We needed to have questions answered," Tobegta said. "They weren't. I was not prepared to vote."

Although Sen. Keisha King agreed that there could have been more discussion on the recommendation, she said citing this fact as a reason not to vote is a "cop-out."

King said she thinks "it's a racial issue," saying Brock was well-qualified and there was no reason not to vote for his appointment.

"I hope to God that (race) had nothing to do with it," Hixson said, "but at face value, it appears (it did)."

Tobegta disagrees: "I'm not looking at this as a black-and-white issue. I'm looking at whether this is just going to help all students or just going to help only a few students."

"I think that (Brock) could do a great job as far as working with student organizations and everything, but there's something inside of me that's saying that some special interests are going to be given priority."

Hixson listed the creation of Project Diversity, an initiative for multicultural advancement, as a top priority for the semester at SGA's spring retreat Jan. 7-8.

Tobegta said SGA could help with diversity issues on campus, "but that it

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## Students rally in Frankfort

By SARAH LOMAN

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Northern Kentucky University students rallied at the Capitol Wednesday, Feb. 16, primarily to address the under-funding of the university. The Board of Student Body Presidents hosted the event, and Student Government Association President Andy Hixson went along for the ride.

"I felt like it was as successful as it could have been," Hixson said. "We were there to send a positive message to the legislators, not a negative one. We're not down there to cause trouble; we just want to show them that we're educating ourselves and we're gonna be involved."

Students were a little more conscious of the timing of the rally this year because of last year. "What happened last year was that the General Assembly was in session while the rally was going on," SGA Sen. Michael Tobegta said. "Some of the legislators felt that it was disturbing."

The rally was over 15 minutes past the time that individuals need to do more to get Frankfort's attention focused on NKU. "As important as going to the rally is, it's even more important that individuals send letters to their representatives," Hixson said.

Students will continue to have contact with the legislators who voted against the budget.

SGA and the Presidential Ambassadors have both taken trips to Frankfort this semester, one week apart, and for the same purpose. They want the voices and the faces of NKU to be in the minds of the legislators before they make any budget cuts to higher education.

And it looks like it's starting to work. The issue of the state budget has made the front page of nearly every newspaper in the state numerous times since the legislators left the state Capitol failed to pass the budget by deadline last year.

A huge step was made on Feb. 18 when the House passed the budget that NKU students and many others had been working for. The money from the state for the arena and the agency bonding for the new Student Union building was included. Although the budget has passed the House, it still has to go to the Senate for approval. "I can assure you that the Senate will not approve it as it is," said Ken Ramey, vice president for Administration and Finance at NKU. Ramey said that there's no way the Senate will just pass the budget "carte blanche." He feels that there will definitely be some changes made, but he was happy to see the House pass it. "I'm very optimistic," Ramey said. "We've had assurances from the Senate that if there's any capital project, it will get in. It's pretty exciting." Ramey also said that people can expect to see a budget passed by both the House and the Senate by March 3.

It's not just the legislators at NKU President James Vorhies who were instrumental in getting the NKU arena and Student Union included in the proposed budget. NKU students were also instrumental in getting attention for the university by working in Frankfort with the rallies and meetings with legislators to make their concerns known.

Mark Shanley, vice president for Student

See RALLY, page 3

## LETTERS DETER PIRACY



KRT Campus

University of Minnesota sophomore Laurie Hahn says if she likes a song she downloads from Audiogalaxy she will go out and buy it.

## Campus file-sharing down

By STUART MACKENZIE  
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Northern Kentucky University's Office of Information and Technology reported that complaints from the Recording Industry of America Association have decreased after an accusatory letter was mistakenly sent to a large number of students.

Speaking about the RIAA network complaints against the university, Jason Allen, planning and development manager for IT, said "Of the 13, nine of them came before Dec. 1. Since then, the few that we have received doesn't seem to be focused on any one particular user, so it looks like we are starting to see a big decrease."

Director of University Housing Matt Brown agreed. "I was told the use of file-sharing programs on the network declined significantly after we sent out letters and there was an article in the paper about it," he said.

Gary Pratt, associate provost for Information Technology said the "cease and desist" letter sent Nov. 10 from University Housing and IT, which was meant for identified file sharers, had a strong effect on stopping illegal file-sharing.

When Pratt was asked why the letters were sent to all students, he said, "We had asked for the (letters) to go to specific locations. We didn't have the intent that they go everywhere; we had the intent that they go specifically to IP addresses caught."

Allen said IT planned to send

another "general kind of announcement" about ethics and downloading to students, but the warning letters were issued instead.

Pratt said that even though the letters may not have been sent to the intended users, they did bring about the intended result. "It caught us by surprise as well, but the numbers have gone down, so people are paying attention. So how it got out there is less important to me than the fact that people are listening and actually paying attention."

Besides the letters, Pratt said IT is performing sweeps of the network to log any file-sharing activity. He said IT has "basically kind of backed off" all those who were mistakenly sent letters requiring them to give their media access

control address. "We are doing scans and it showed that the actual use of the software had gone down," Pratt said. "We did get a loud scream from students who said privacy and privacy that... I didn't want to become to big brother if we could keep from doing that."

Pratt said the scans look for peer-to-peer software and log the IP address where it is coming from. "No matter how legal people say their use is, 80, 90 percent of the use is for these types of purposes," Pratt said. "But people are taking it seriously and our scans are showing that, so we don't want to be heavy handed if we don't need to."

Pratt said the data that the scans collect will not be released to the

See RIAA, page 3

## Man accused of plotting to assassinate

By FRANK DAVIES  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — A former high school valedictorian in suburban Virginia was accused Tuesday of plotting to assassinate President Bush and trying to set up an al-Qaida terrorist cell in the United States.

Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, 23, made a brief appearance in federal court in Alexandria, Va., and his lawyer, Edward MacMahon, said after the hearing that he would plead not guilty. Abu Ali was transferred to

the United States early this week from Saudi Arabia, where he'd been held without charges since June 2003.

Abu Ali, through his lawyer, said he'd been tortured during his 20 months in Saudi Arabia and offered to show U.S. Magistrate Liam O'Grady wounds on his back from whippings.

O'Grady said he might be able to do that at a hearing Thursday. "I can assure you, you will not suffer any torture or humiliation while in the marshals' custody,"



Abu Ali

O'Grady said. Saudi and U.S. officials denied the torture allegations.

A 16-page indictment of Abu Ali charged that during 2002 and 2003, while a university student in Saudi Arabia, he discussed with unidentified al-Qaida operatives plans to kill Bush and "conduct a terrorist operation in the United States."

Abu Ali and the others discussed two scenarios: "to get close enough to the president to shoot him on the street" or an attack "in which Abu

Ali would detonate a car bomb," the indictment said.

Justice Department and Secret Service officials wouldn't say if any progress was made in the alleged plot. The plot was cited as an element in one of the six counts against Abu Ali, but he wasn't specifically charged with attempting to assassinate Bush, said Bryan Sierra, a Justice Department spokesman.

"He was transferred after Saudi officials informed us they would not be charging him," Sierra said. "We have seen no evidence that he

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# policebeat

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The following reports were filed with the Northern Kentucky University Police Department between Feb. 15 and 21

## Tuesday, Feb. 15

**9:34 a.m.** Officer issued a Kentucky state citation to the driver of a vehicle illegally parked in a handicap space at Nunn Drive.

**9:45 a.m.** Subject reported the theft of a 2005 NKU parking permit from a vehicle while parked at the Kenton Drive parking garage approximately 2 weeks ago. Subject was referred to the parking office for replacement.

**10:17 a.m.** A fire alarm was received from Commonwealth Hall. Officers, Power Plant personnel and Central Campbell County Fire Department responded finding no evidence of smoke or fire. Upon investigation, it was determined that the alarm was caused by dust from a contractor working in the area. The alarm was re-set, building cleared for re-occupancy and scene cleared at 10:32 a.m. The Kentucky Fire Marshal was notified by e-mail.

**11:50 a.m.** Subject reported that a wallet was stolen from Steely Library, under investigation.

**11:55 a.m.** Subject reported that her vehicle was struck in parking lot 7 by a vehicle that left the scene. The driver of the vehicle that was struck was issued a Kentucky state citation for failure to produce an insurance card.

**4:36 p.m.** Subject reported the theft of two textbooks from Steely Library, under investigation.

**5:19 p.m.** Subject reported that his 2005 NKU parking permit was missing from his vehicle. Subject reported that the permit was last seen on Feb. 10, under investigation.

**5:39 p.m.** Subject reported the theft of three textbooks from Steely Library, under investigation.

**8:57 p.m.** Officer conducted a traffic stop at parking lot T. The driver was issued a Kentucky state citation for having an expired registration.

**10:14 p.m.** Subject reported the attempted theft of a computer from the Landrum building, under investigation.

## Wednesday, Feb. 16

**2:42 a.m.** Officer observed a vehicle traveling at an extremely slow speed on Kenton Drive. During questioning, Officer detected a strong smell of an intoxicating beverage on the subject. The driver was arrested and issued a Kentucky state citation for driving under the influence. The subject was transported and lodged in the Campbell County Jail.

**7:23 a.m.** Officer conducted a traffic stop at Parking Lot E. The driver was issued a Kentucky state citation for an expired registration and failure to produce an insurance card.

**11:23 a.m.** Officers were requested by the Hall Director for possible drugs found during an administrative search at Kentucky Hall. Residential Life advised that one person was assigned to this location. The subject was located, transported to Kentucky Hall and upon request signed a consent to search. Upon searching, marijuana stems and white powder was found. When asked, subject admitted that the white powder was cocaine. The subject was arrested and issued a Kentucky state citation for possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana. The subject was transported and lodged in the Campbell County Jail.

**4:53 p.m.** Officer conducted a traffic stop on Nunn Drive. The driver was issued a Kentucky state citation for expired registration.

**9:17 p.m.** Officer conducted a traffic stop at Johns Hill Road. The driver was issued a Kentucky state citation for speeding.

## Thursday, Feb. 17

**1:52 a.m.** Medical assistance was requested for a subject at Norn Hall. Officers and Central Campbell County Squad responded. The subject was transported to St. Luke Hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

**3:11 a.m.** Subject reported computer equipment stolen from a residence at 1000 Norn Hall, under investigation.

er equipment is missing from the Natural Science building, under investigation.

**10:53 a.m.** Subject stated that a wallet was found at Steely Library. The property owner was contacted and the item was returned later in the day.

**3:25 p.m.** Medical assistance was requested for a subject at the Albright Health Center. The university nurse was dispatched, but was unavailable. Officer located the subject, who stated that he injured a finger while playing basketball. Subject refused the offer of transportation to the hospital by squad. The subject was transported to the hospital by friends.

**5:19 p.m.** Residential Life requested an Officer respond to the University Suites. Upon arrival, Residential Life personnel stated that drug related items were found while they were cleaning a vacated room. Items were confiscated and secured in the DPS Property/Evidence room. No charges have been filed at this time.

## Friday, Feb. 18

**1:30 a.m.** Subject reported damage to a university owned vehicle at the loading dock of the Natural Science building.

**9:28 a.m.** Officer observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed on Kenton Drive. The driver was issued a Kentucky state citation for speeding.

**10:28 a.m.** A smoke alarm was received from Steely Library, in the loggia. Officers, Physical Plant personnel and Central Campbell County Fire Department responded. Upon investigation, it was determined that the alarm was caused by smoke from a grill. The university's food service vendor, Chartwell Services, recently opened a grill area in this location and were grilling sandwiches. The Fire Department advised Chartwell that an exhaust hood needed to be installed over the grill in order to continue grilling in that area. The alarm was re-set, building cleared for re-occupancy and scene cleared at 10:41 a.m. The State Fire Marshal's Office was notified via e-mail.

**11:33 a.m.** Medical assistance was requested for a subject at Norn Hall, under investigation.

requested for a subject at the plaza between the University Center and the BEP building. Officers, the university nurse and Central Campbell County Squad responded. Subject was treated by the university nurse and refused the offer of transportation to the hospital.

## Saturday, Feb. 19

**1:16 a.m.** Officers responded to Norn Hall due to a tip received from Campbell County Dispatch Center of a female subject, possibly suicidal. Upon arrival, officers located and spoke with the subject in question. Subject stated that following a fight with her fiancée she had left campus to use an ATM machine. Subject stated that she was upset and depressed but was not suicidal. Officers advised Campbell County Dispatch that the subject was located and was doing fine.

**3:55 a.m.** Subject advised that a student had been injured approximately 15 minutes earlier at the Ceramics building. Officer responded and spoke with several other students who stated that a student had cut his hand while using a table saw. Officers were advised that prior to arrival, the subject had driven himself to the hospital for treatment.

**8:44 a.m.** Officer observed a vehicle fail to stop at a stop sign on Johns Hill Road. The driver was issued a Kentucky state citation for disregarding a stop sign and failure to produce an insurance card.

**9:04 a.m.** Officer observed a vehicle fail to stop at a stop sign at the intersection of Johns Hill Road and University Drive. The driver was issued a Kentucky state citation for disregarding a stop sign and no operator's license.

**11:35 a.m.** Subject reported a vehicle struck by another vehicle, which then left the scene. The driver of the striking vehicle was contacted by officers. No charges have been filed at this time.

**8:53 p.m.** During a traffic stop at Kenton Drive, the driver of the vehicle repeatedly relayed intentions to commit suicide upon returning home to the officer. Central Campbell County

Squad responded and the driver voluntarily agreed to be transported to St. Luke East for further evaluation and treatment.

**11:13 p.m.** Subject reported the theft of several DVD's from the University Suites, under investigation.

## Sunday, Feb. 20

**3:37 p.m.** An Ohio driver's license was recovered at parking lot R. Owner has been contacted to claim the property.

**7:29 p.m.** Medical assistance was requested for a subject at the University Suites. Officers and Central Campbell County Squad responded. Subject was transported to St. Luke for further evaluation and treatment.

**9:11 p.m.** Officer observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed Martha Layne Collins Blvd. The vehicle also failed to stop at the stop sign. The driver was issued a Kentucky state citation for disregarding a stop sign and was given a verbal warning for speeding.

**9:24 p.m.** Central Campbell County Dispatch advised they were dispatching a squad to the University Suites for medical assistance. Officers and Central Campbell County Squad responded. Subject was transported to St. Luke for further evaluation and treatment.

## Monday, Feb. 21

**1:47 a.m.** Medical assistance was requested for a subject at the University Suites. Officers and Central Campbell County Squad responded. Subject was transported to St. Luke for further evaluation and treatment.

**8:13 a.m.** Officer observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed on Nunn Drive. The driver was issued a Kentucky state citation for speeding.

**10:40 a.m.** Subject reported the theft of textbooks from the Science Center.

**11:57 a.m.** Subject reported the loss of a cellular telephone.

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## Networking is key in PR

By AMANDA DAVISON  
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Speakers from the Cincinnati chapter of the Public Relations Society of America shared their personal experiences to Northern Kentucky University students interested in public relations on Feb. 15.

NKU's student chapter of the society, PRSSA, held Meet the PRSSA Night and featured guest speakers Margot L. Benish, operations manager for Clear Channel, and Chris Kemper, public relations manager for Prothen Bank.

Both speakers stressed that networking is the most important aspect of public relations.

"To be successful in PR, you have to be willing to start at the bottom and work your way up, but the key thing is to stay involved and make connections," Benish said.

According to Tabatha Fryman, NKU chapter president, joining the Public Relations Student Society of America can help a PR student make essential job connections.

The NKU chapter is affiliated with the National PRSSA," Fryman said. "Therefore, we offer travel opportunities to conventions and assemblies for our members to gain knowledge that will be useful in the PR field after graduation. Students can easily become involved with professionals in the area and on a national level."

NKU's chapter formed in September 2004 and became officially recognized by the National PRSSA in January 2005. The organization currently has about 25 members and is coordinated by professor Zach Hart.

For more information visit the NKU PRSSA Web site at: [www.nkuprssa.org](http://www.nkuprssa.org).

## SGA

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should not be our main issue."

"I want to help out as many students as I can," Tobergta said. "I don't want to look at just one group though, and that's what I feel's being done."

Hixson said that's not the case: "I'm not trying to advance any agendas of any special interest groups."

He said that before he came into office, there was no diversity on the senate, and he identified that as a problem.

"I have made it no secret that I am trying to promote diversity on SGA," Hixson said. "I have preached it from day one, and I'm going to continue that. And other senators that are getting scared because it's not an old white boys' club anymore can call it whatever they want."

Paul Myers was another sena-

tor who did not vote on Brock's appointment and said the student senate was not given reasons why the executive board felt Brock was the most qualified and why he was chosen over the other candidates. Myers said he couldn't make a decision either way based on the information he was given.

"I seriously doubted that anyone voted against him because of his race," he said. "I think some people are too quick to pull the race card. People on SGA are politicians, and they'll use whatever they can to get their support from their constituents."

Brock said he while was disappointed with the student senate's vote, he was not surprised.

"I'm not going to stand up and say that's racism," Brock said.

"But just being a black male in America, I'm used to seeing

things like this and going through things like this."

Tobergta said he believes some senators are trying to exploit an issue that simply doesn't exist. "I look at everybody in the same way," Tobergta said. "Black, white, yellow, green, purple — I don't care what you are, I don't care what your background is. I'm going to look at you as a human being and then I'm going to make a decision."

"I'm starting to get sick of this issue of diversity and everything getting thrown out with so much fervor and dedication that it makes Student Government look like it's working for special interests."

However, Brock said his intentions are for all students, not just special interest groups.

"I'm not here just for black

students," Brock said. "I'm not here for minorities. I'm here for students in general."

"It's my opinion, and many other people's opinions, that minorities are not being represented as equally as other students on this campus. So if I'm going to serve the students, and I feel there is something lacking in one portion of the student population, I'm going to work for that student population — especially if I'm part of the same race."

As far as the vacant position is concerned, Hixson said he is unsure what will happen next. "I have half a mind to recommend Jesiah every Monday until we get two-thirds," Hixson said.

## Rally

Continued from page one

Affairs, believes that there were three reasons that NKU made out so well in the proposed budget. First, Shanley believes that the legislature included the money for the arena because it was included last year in the proposed budget.

"Secondly, students' presence in Frankfort put a human face on the process. The legislators save the students articulating their concerns," Shanley said. "I think that had material impact on legislators. I think that was powerful."

Shanley's third factor was the Bank of

Kentucky. Shanley believes that all three factors: the House reviewing their decisions about what to include in the budget, NKU students' work in Frankfort, and \$6 million dollar gift from the Bank of Kentucky "all added up to a positive outcome."

Many of the Kentucky legislators have been vocal in their support of NKU and the arena, among them Sen. Jody Richards. Hixson met with Richards while he was in Frankfort, and described him as "really warm and receptive." Richards has, in the past, commented on his willingness to vote for

NKU to get state money put in the proposed budget by Gov. Fletcher for the arena. When Hixson spoke with Richards about the budget and the arena, he felt that he was "basically preaching to the choir with (Richards)."

Overall, Hixson believes that there's still a lot of work to be done. "When we go down there, what we're doing is we're tugging on heart strings. When we leave, it doesn't change anything," Hixson said. "We need people to write letters and for the legislators to think 'If I don't support this, I won't get re-elected.'"

## RIAA

Continued from page one

RIAA unless subpoenaed by a court.

"It's all pretty much reactionary," Allen said. "We are collecting this data (and) we're coming up with some basic statistics, but when it comes to actually pursuing anything further, it's only really in reaction to the RIAA coming forth and saying, 'here is another example go find them and do something about this.'"

Pratt believes it is very unlikely that these issues would end up in court. "The (RIAA) would their letter(s) so generally to that they could hold you liable, they could make you liable, they could hold the entire university liable, but we're warning you stop it," Pratt said. "So my guess is that they probably sue out hundreds and thousands of these things, thousands probably, and the ones they pick out are the ones who are really abusing the service."

Pratt said IT is not searching out students who use file-sharing software until after the RIAA registers a complaint against them. "I am not going to be proactive on any of that because the use of the software is not illegal," Pratt said. "What I do though, is if I get an RIAA

complaint in that doesn't have an IP address tied to, but says date and time. I can look at my scan and say 'Yes we can show that took place and we know where that took place.' We are doing that to provide us that missing link from the RIAA that doesn't have the IP address or MAC address on it."

Besides the scans, IT is also planning a "doghouse" program to be put in there, at the beginning of each semester, students register their IP and MAC addresses. "In the future, you will instantly be able to tell who (each) computer is registered too."

Pratt said the "doghouse" would also help protect the user as well as the university. He said the program would live on to every student who lives on campus and registers a computer. When they log on, all they would have access to is a form that makes them go through and verify they have virus software, explains the system and log the student's MAC address. Once this is completed, the student has complete access to the campus network.

Allen said the reason the warning letters asked students for their MAC addresses was to

help them build proof to show that the student and the university had taken steps to stop downloading after the complaint. "We were going to have a document trail. The RIAA gives us (students') IP addresses, we connected it to this MAC address and then confirmed it with the user," he said.

"We've found the IP and the MAC, and we've watched them clean it up and made sure everything was legitimate after everything and we all signed it and everything's good. In that way, if they (the RIAA) ever come back and say, 'What did you do,' we can pull the paper out and say, 'We've followed a procedure, you're there witness to it.' We confirmed the equipment they are using matched what RIAA sent us and hopefully (it) will help benefit the student. . . and benefit us, as well, for liability, to show we are taking this seriously."

Pratt also said IT hopes to install new hardware in the dorms to improve Internet speed for students and allow IT to narrow down IP addresses to actual ports, and not hubs of 16 possible computers.

As far as the students who have RIAA complaints, IT has

not taken any action against them since the mass mailing of warning letters. They plan to continue this practice unless the RIAA complaints increase.

"I have not received any feedback from the Office of Information and Technology about who they have identified as being involved," Brown said. "The arrangement we had with information Technology was that they really are the ones who monitor the network and network and activity. If they identify a student who they believe is involved, then our office will adjudicate that student. I would say the range of possible consequences really revolved around their network access and then being denied access to the network."

Dean of Students Kent Kelso said that if the complaints continue there will be actions taken by the Dean of Students' Office. "At this point everyone should be well aware they should not be doing this any longer, so there will be consequences."

Pratt said he contacted the RIAA and told them about the measures the university is taking to eliminate the problem. He said they never responded. "My guess is that we are proba-

## Abu Ali

Continued from page one

was tortured or mistreated."

U.S. officials said the Abu Ali case showed al-Qaida's continuing drive to strike the United States. The indictment said Abu Ali, who's a U.S. citizen, intended to become a key planner much like Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"After the devastating terrorist attack and murders of September 11, the defendant turned his back on America and joined the cause of al-Qaida," U.S. Attorney Paul McNulty said. "He now stands charged with some of the most serious offenses our nation can bring."

The U.S. government also was under pressure to bring Abu Ali back to the United States. Last year, his family filed a suit in federal court seeking his return.

Justice Department lawyers argued in December that Abu Ali should have no access to U.S. courts and that the suit should be dismissed. But U.S. District Judge John Bates said there was circumstantial evidence that the United States orchestrated his capture and that Abu Ali "has been tor-

tured with the knowledge of the United States."

A spokesman for the Saudi Embassy, Nail al Jubeir, called the torture allegation "baseless."

Al Jubeir didn't say why Abu Ali wasn't charged in Saudi Arabia or why he was returned to the United States. "He was a really great kid, moderate in his views and not an extremist," said Mahdi Bray, the executive director of the Muslim American Society.

Bray said he got to know Abu Ali at the mosque at the Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center in Falls Church. He said Abu Ali was a valedictorian at the Islamic Saudi Academy, a bilingual school in Alexandria.

Abu Ali also was charged with receiving training in weapons and document forgery.

He was arrested in 2003 with about 18 other men one month after al-Qaida attacked residential compounds in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, killing 25 people.

If convicted on all counts, Abu Ali could face a maximum of 80 years in prison.

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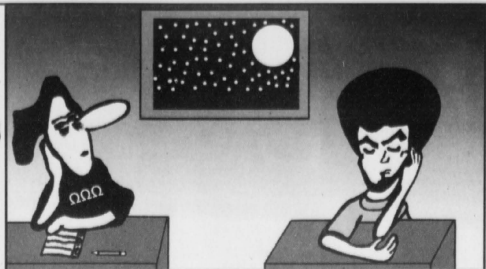
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by Ricky Glore and Josh Blair

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## cryptograph by Mitchell Cahill

This week's quote is a social comment by Mark Twain.

"CWRNR MNR FREHFR IWE BCNXPCHK  
QRFNXGR CWRABRHGRB ES RMPW  
MVQ GRNRK RMCMOHR, QNXVZMOHR,  
MVQ BAEZMOHR IWXPW WMB XV MVK  
IMK MPUDXNRQ M BWMQK NRFCM-  
CXEV. CWRK FMK CWXB FNXP NR  
WRMHCW. MVQ WRMHCW XB MHH  
CWRK TRC SEN XC. WEI BCNMVTR XC  
XB. XC XB HXZR FMKXVT EDC KEDN  
IWEHR SENCVR SEN M PEI CWMC WMB  
TEVR QNK."

Hint: E = O

Last week's answer:

"JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A BLACK MAN/ JUST BECAUSE HE IS WHITE/ DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO HATE HIM/ IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO FIGHT/ IT DOESN'T MAKE IT ALL RIGHT"

## crossword

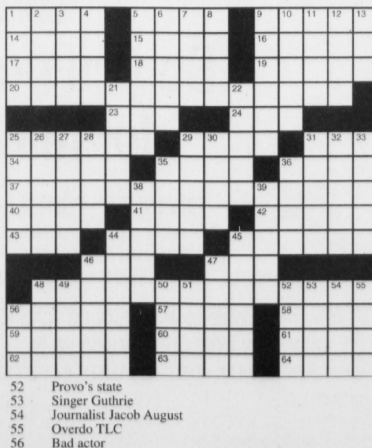
"The Daily Crossword" Edited by Wayne Robert Williams (KRT)

- ACROSS
- 1 Increase
  - 5 Wound growth
  - 9 Primary
  - 14 Comic Johnson
  - 15 Sea eagle
  - 16 Ms. Rogers St. Johns
  - 17 Cake finisher
  - 18 Top-rated
  - 19 Two-legged support
  - 20 Stunned in Chicago?
  - 23 Do something
  - 24 Solidify
  - 25 Speak with many digressions
- 29 New York nine
- 31 Glove-box item
  - 34 Nymph in Greek myth
  - 35 Tex-Mex item
  - 36 Medal of Honor recipient
  - 37 Stunned at Scrabble?
  - 40 — qua non
  - 41 Follow closely
  - 42 Track events
  - 43 Author of "The Daughter of Time"
  - 44 Poet Teasdale
  - 45 Element 53
  - 46 Family girl
  - 47 Dancer Miller

- DOWN
- 1 Gallop or trot
  - 2 Keystone site
  - 3 Roman way
  - 4 Roman tyrant
  - 5 Spirit-raising occasion?
  - 6 Tenant farm in Scotland
  - 7 — Domini
  - 8 Pilsener or porter
  - 9 Moral tales
  - 10 Dimwit
  - 11 Collection biz
  - 12 Sty fare
  - 13 Small amount
  - 21 Ralph — Emerson
  - 22 Financier John Jacob
  - 25 Cook in an oven
  - 26 Bandleader Shaw
  - 27 First president of the AFL-CIO
  - 28 Make a bundle
  - 29 Crime syndicate
  - 30 Environmental sci.
  - 31 Thanks, Jacques
  - 32 Tennyson's "Enoch —"
  - 33 Marshall's band
  - 35 Russian ruler
  - 36 Lew of tennis
  - 38 Secret supply
  - 39 Incorrect
  - 40 Official seal
  - 44 Be a parasite
  - 45 Urbane
  - 46 At a later time
  - 47 Castro's isla
  - 48 In a little while
  - 50 United force
  - 51 Killer whale

### LAST WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

A	G	O	G	M	A	S	S	P	R	O	W	L
L	O	G	E	O	V	E	N	R	U	P	E	E
B	U	R	N	I	N	G	A	L	O	R	I	E
S	T	E	R	N	O	T	R	I	B	E	S	
E	G	G	S	E	L	A	M					
T	S	P	E	R	O	S	A	B	O	U	N	D
A	T	O	P	A	L	E	E	L	U	N	A	R
C	O	N	S	U	M	I	N	G	D	E	S	I
K	A	Z	A	N	D	A	R	E	E	T	E	S
S	T	I	L	T	S	T	E	M	P	E	S	S
M	A	C	K		T	O	L	E				
A	A	A	P	O	N	D	L	A	R	V	A	E
D	I	S	A	P	E	A	R	I	N	G	A	C
I	R	A	T	E	E	L	I	S	O	S	H	A
T	Y	P	E	D		S	I	G	H	T	E	E



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



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represent the opinions of the  
administration, faculty or the  
student body.

# viewpoints Letters to the editor

## Lack of skill or lack of material?

Dear Editor,  
At the risk of sounding puritanical, allow me to criticize

The Northerner's recent publishing of the article, "Sex guide gives thorough details," purportedly "reported" by Aleta Shaffner in the Feb. 9 edition.

The ethical issues of placing an article with no artistic merit in the Arts & Entertainment section of the paper is a battle that I'm not even going to begin to take up. The idea of peddling a sex manual in a university paper is also seriously disturbing.

However, what troubles me the most is the lack of English 101-level writing in a section filled with literature. For me, the writing doesn't have to be complex to make a good article, maybe just a short, easy-to-read piece about a novel on the bestseller list, a reporter could even review a book on tape, just to make it easier for those

writer/reviewer types who simply can't find the time to sit down and read a novel without a bare-chested Greek on the cover or brightly-colored illustrations affixed to the pages within.

Well, what the readers got on Feb. 9 is an article extolling the virtues of 740-page sex manuals that seemed to be written by someone who scanned through the massive tome looking for diagrams. Aside from the graphic sex-talk, I encountered language that even our beloved president's most ardent speechwriters wouldn't touch, including the utterly incomprehensible description, "With an assuage-like connotation..."

So, the question remains, why is schlock like this printed? Is there absolutely nothing else to print? Or perhaps the obvious defects in these reviews are overlooked in order to implement a sufficiently easy enough to draw in readers. At any rate, if all that matters to the paper is drawing in a reading public, then I recommend a new front page story

every week, perhaps something along the lines of a full-page ad for DeJa Vu, humorously reported by the fictitious Hugh Jorgan.

Alton Boxer  
Sophomore, music performance

## Student opinions critical to curriculum

Dear Editor,

This university expresses shared governance as a major asset in this university's progress. However over the past few weeks this hasn't been the case. University students have been disenfranchised from the university's growth process. An ad hoc committee was established to address the concerns of students who have been unsatisfied with the Race and Gender courses and want to implement an American Pluralism course into the curriculum.

In an attempt to suppress the university community's (students') concerns and thoughts, members of the American

Pluralism Committee have implied that students are not able to vote on the committee due to policies written in the faculty handbook. These claims are highly false, and the faculty handbook states nothing to that nature. However it is true that if a committee chair would like to not include students in their committee they don't have to. Students are disturbed because universities are using power as an oppressive tool to keep the university community's voices from being heard.

Students are the foundation of this university and those around the world. We have the right to know what is taking place in the community in which we live, and we should be able to participate in our community's changes with equal voices - especially on ad hoc committees about American Pluralism.

NACP, Northern Kentucky  
Collegiate Branch

## editorialnote

# Eating habits questionable

The "freshman fifteen" is a phenomenon that has baffled scientists for years. Why do students get so fat once they enter college? Is it their environment? Is it their diet? Is it the fact that darn rock 'n' roll music? I think I have discovered the cause of the problem.

Like all great global issues, many factors are coming into play. I have narrowed them down and plan to expose them to the masses.

First and foremost, the dreadful meal plan for on-campus students is to blame. The meal plan, while good for them, leaves you with no choice but to pack the food away. For those of you not familiar with the concept of the meal plan, you

pay a sum of money at the beginning of the semester and receive a ration of meals you can get per week. The problem with this is they have two levels. The cheaper level is the Olsen twin diet. For only \$50 a week you can have three square crackers a day.

The other plan stuffs you like Thanksgiving turkey. For only \$60 a week you can dip all of the Whoppers in chocolate you want. I call this the Kirsty Alley plan.

As if the meal plan wasn't enough to bring food to the classroom. God forbid you can't go 45 minutes without stuffing your face with tortois. I don't mind, but some people get

ridiculous. It is a bit hard to learn when your neighbor is setting up a salad bar. Ranch dressing on my notebook is counter-productive.

As if you weren't stuffed from the meal plan or the classroom Golden Rod, then on-campus activities are going to get you.

College is a time for young minds to interact with other young minds. There is no better way to do so than to join a campus club. On any given day, you can find a campus club meeting, and at every meeting you can also find pizza. Pizza is a staple of all on-campus meetings.

When you hear the words "free pizza" you will find a horde of college students. It doesn't matter what the club, pizza and free-loading students are quite fond of each other. Catholics at the Baptist Student Union?

Doesn't matter - \$1 lunch. Men at Women's Empowerment? If there is free pizza you better believe it, sister. Republicans at F College Democrats meeting? Who cares? Double the pizza.

So now that the truth is out there, don't let the "freshman fifteen" get you. Run, do your push ups and put the cheese-cake down. Visit an athletic center more than your taste buds visit a chocolate center of a Three Musketeers. If you don't watch out, when graduation comes around they might have to roll you up to get your diploma. Watch your weight 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](mailto:stantonm@nku.edu).

# Iran must cease nuclear plans

The relative peace in the Middle East between the Jews and Muslims may be short-lived. Iran rejected a EU demand to stop building a heavy-water nuclear reactor, and warned the United States Feb. 13 "not to play with fire" by repeatedly threatening Tehran. A nuclear Iran would pose immediate danger to Israel and would pose a serious threat to United States security.

Heavy and light-water reactors can be used to create uranium, but getting weapons-grade material from a light-water

reactor is far more difficult. The fact that Iran refuses to give up its facilities and seems bent on possessing nuclear weapons makes our mission in Iraq appear all the more urgent.

Iran is not the most stable country in the world. The government states one thing and people believe another. How can we not end badly? Where does that leave our Israeli allies? With no alternative, I say. If Iran does indeed build a nuclear weapons program, which some think is still four years away, Israel

would have no choice but to stop them. How? By destroying the reactors, thus removing nuclear capability from their hands.

Israel and Iran do not have the most civil relationship. If the Iranian leaders did possess nuclear weapons and felt as if they were going to be removed from power, what is stopping them from launching a missile and taking out Tel Aviv? In their mind, what have they to lose?

The question is, what do we do about it? Do all of Europe to continue trying to talk them down? I say yes. We have a bad reputation in the world, and quite frankly they are scared of us invading them. If the EU can talk them

down from their suicidal plan, perhaps we can all be saved from another major conflict in the Middle East. If not, I doubt it will be the U.S. who makes the first strike against them.

The UN seems to have lost all ability to act on anything. We have our hands tied in Iraq. So we cannot strike first, the EU cannot, and the UN will not. Who else is left to stop them? Israel. Israel has to strike first; a nuclear Iran is not an option for them. It helps us all if diplomacy fails.

Steve Funaro is a senior history major and a member of the College Republicans at NKU. You can contact Steve at [SFunaro@gmail.com](mailto:SFunaro@gmail.com).

# Steroid use tarnishes past, present

BY JOHN FOLEY  
Staff Writer  
[northerner@nku.edu](mailto:northerner@nku.edu)

During the last few years, steroids have infected their way into our vernacular. What used to be reserved for the football and weightlifting training rooms has now soiled the national pastime. The integrity of the game - or what's left of it - is at risk.

Using illegal substances to achieve an unfair advantage is more than cheating. It erases the memories of all past performers. A new book accuses many current and former players of routinely using the drugs. If they didn't participate they have no recourse. How do you prove something you haven't done? The answer is simple. You can't. Doubt on every player's and coach's minds. A great year and the

critics attribute it to steroids. Players under the influence of illegal drugs diminish the accomplishments of great players such as Babe Ruth, Hank Aaron, Josh Gibson, Willie Mays and Mickey Mantle. Or they deserve to have their extraordinary feats reduced to meaningless stats because of players using illegal substances? It's a shame that such great players are reduced to minimal roles. Who will remember these players a generation from now, when steroid induced records have overshadowed the men who achieved legendary status from hard work and natural ability?

Injections have replaced hard work as the foundation for success. Why would somebody work endless hours on their craft, when a minute with the needle can give instant results? Pete Rose was banned from

baseball's Hall of Fame for betting on baseball while managing the Cincinnati Reds. They said it hurt the integrity of the game. How many games were determined by his betting? Maybe he left a pitcher in too long or benched a star player and a game was won or lost because of this oversight. A player on steroids can determine a game at any given moment. They are capable of feats a mere mortal could not obtain.

Pete Rose worked tirelessly to become the greatest singles hitter the game has ever known. Many of today's players cheat the system and the fans by injecting themselves with steroids. It was a thrill to see Pete play the game; he was real, a testament to hard work and dedication to his skill. The players using steroids are artificial and a testament to chemistry.

Steroids are more than a sports problem. Finding a way to cheat a detection test is fraud. Athletes who use them destroy the sport that they wish to excel in. How can we reconcile the past with the present? The players of the past earned their accolades. They were dedicated to their craft and achieved immortality.

Many of today's players are dedicated to injections and stealing from the past. They have stolen immortality from the past and replaced it with artificially enhanced records. Those records will fall with each new generation and new advances in chemistry. We will no longer marvel at past accomplishments but wait anxiously for new and improved ways to cheat the heroes of their place in history.

## STAFF EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

Wednesday  
Feb. 23, 2005  
NKU Issue 7

Compiled by Nicole Jones  
Do you think the NKU rallies in Frankfort make a difference?

Courtney Steer  
Freshman, psychology  
"I don't know."

Brian Carpenter  
Junior, physical education

"No, I believe they feel we are a small school and see us as little people in a big world."

Megan Eason  
Sophomore, art

"No, I'm not involved in any of that, so no."

Christina Martinez  
Senior, Spanish and speech communications

"When they went down to Frankfort this year they didn't receive any training on lobbying, and their intentions were good, but they didn't make the most of their resources."

Joseph Szylowski  
Freshman, journalism

"Yeah, I think it does because of the whole idea of showing the effort rather than sending an e-mail."

Mark Hawkins  
Freshman, marketing

"Any time that a school shows that they support, it makes some type of difference."

## campuscalendar

## wednesday

• Chakri Booker Lecture in BEP 200 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

## thursday

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

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

• Black History Month Lecture with speaker J. Herman Blake, Ph.D. in UC Budig Theatre from 1:40 to 2:55 p.m.

• NKU Band Concert in Graves Hall at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$3.

• Success to Starting a Secretly Small Business in BEP 461 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

## friday

• Black History Month Celebration in Graves Hall at 12:30 p.m.

## saturday

• Women's Basketball vs. University of Missouri - St. Louis at 1 p.m. in Regents Hall

• Men's Basketball vs. University of Missouri - St. Louis at 3:15 p.m. in Regents Hall

• Twelfth annual Northern Kentucky History Day in UC from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## sunday

• Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers in AST 254 from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

• Baseball at Ashland University at noon

## monday

• Books are fun fair in UC from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## tuesday

• Books are fun fair in UC from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• Grad Finale Spring '05 in the UC Bookstore from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• Weight Watchers in CRC at noon

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

## Risks of alcohol studied through free screening

Experts plan to 'raise awareness' by surveying students' drinking

By JUSTIN ROBERTS

Reporter  
robertsj@nku.edu

The Health, Counseling, and Prevention service of Northern Kentucky University is offering help with alcohol awareness, in an effort to promote wellness on campus.

NKU will host Alcohol Screen Day Wednesday, Feb. 23, in the University Center lobby.

"This is a national event," said Karen Bolte, a counselor at the Health, Counseling, and Prevention service. "This event is put on to collect information about college students' drinking habits." The screens tell us which demographics are at the highest risk of alcohol abuse.

"It also gives us a chance to find out how much students are drinking and to tell students what the risks of drinking are."

NKU's athletic teams play an important role in the Alcohol Screen Day because they are required to attend the session.

"It's mandatory for NKU's athletic teams to get screened," Bolte said. "At NKU, we are unique because we include athletes in the screening. The NCAA actually did an article about how we screen our athletes and encourage other schools to follow suit."

"I think it sets a good example," said Todd Asalon, NKU head baseball coach. "It's good for the educational aspect for the athletes as well as the students."

"There are a lot of temptations for kids out there these days, and a better understanding of a problem is the best way to prevent one."

Student Life contributed in making the event more entertaining by bringing in a guest speaker.

Alcohol Screen Day will be capped off with a performance by educational comedian Wendell Fox, who will perform at the Budig Theater in the University Center at noon and again at 7:30 p.m.

Fox's performance is about how alcoholism has become a national catastrophe, she offers thoughts and ideas about the problem by using her own life experiences where she was raised in an alcoholic environment.

Free alcohol screens will be available from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The screens will be confidential and all participants will have the opportunity to meet with a mental health professional for results and feedback.

"Our goal is to provide a fun social setting where we can raise awareness about the risks of drinking," Bolte said. Student life and athletics are co-sponsoring the event.

## Northernlife

## Strong acting, theme make 'Bat Boy' soar

By AMY EHREITER

Features Editor  
ehreiter@nku.edu

Tabloids exploited him, townspeople shunned him and Northern Kentucky University embraced him. Bat Boy moved from the print media and onto NKU's stage Feb. 17 with "Bat Boy: The Musical," directed by Samuel J. Zachary.

This musical began by giving the audience a window into a small town in West Virginia during the first discovery of Bat Boy, played by Brian Balley.

In an abandoned cave, probing ways of the town startled the creature. Siblings Rick, played by Aaron LaVigne; Ruthie, played by Denise Devlin; and Ron Taylor, played by Justin Adams, found their way into a dark cave with a unique stage entrance.

After the initial sighting of Bat Boy, the creature attacked Ruthie and is captured soon after.

To contrast the violent opening, the entire cast sang the catchy "Hold Me, Bat Boy" while performing a parody-filled dance sequence.

The group emulated the cliché "Peanuts" dance scenes as well as a dance segment from the music video "Thriller," by Michael Jackson.

After the high-energy ensemble performance, the plot began abruptly with the captured Bat Boy being dropped like a stray into the veterinarian home of Thomas Parker, played by John West.

Thomas returned home from a hunting expedition to find the creature caged in his living room.

Prepared to put the creature out of his misery, Thomas was interrupted by his wife's begging to spare the child's life. By promising to rekindle the love in their marriage, Meredith saved Bat Boy's life.

The bat child brought turmoil to Thomas' life by tearing him between his obligation to the townspeople and his desire for his wife's love. Once Thomas realized he could use Bat Boy to his advantage, he began a downward spiral into insanity.

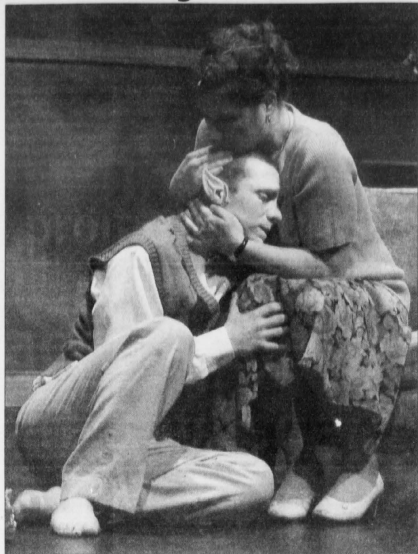
It is in this scene, the audience first saw the trouble in the Parker marriage—the lack of mutual love.

With a history of portraying unstable characters, West was able to believably become the psychologically disturbed veterinarian.

The first twist in the plot was when the savage Bat Boy transformed into his civilized character Edgar and learned to walk, speak in full sentences, sing and dance all in one scene.

Besides the chaotic from Bat Boy to Edgar, the theme town meetings also added tension to the first act. Every scene in the first act with the cross-dressing ensemble was unruly yet humorous.

Act two unfolded the emotional turmoil of the tormented creature and his desperate attempt to fit in with society.



Amy Ehrnreiter / Photographer

Sarah Drake comforts the newest member of her family, a civilized Bat Boy.

Hiding his urge for blood, Edgar tries to become a part of society by attending the social event of the season—the revival. Deception, jealousy, a crumbling marriage, a forbidden love and murders comprise the second half of this production, concluding with a tragic twist.

The closing scene probes the audience to find and love Bat Boy—the emotionally deepest part of the production.

The production attempts to portray things on stage that would have been performed better on the silver screen than the stage such as the flashback, bestiality segments and death scenes—which were all unbelievable portions of the production. Despite these obstacles, the rules were performed with dignity by the cast.

The gray-scaled sets, along with enormous bat wings framing the stage, not only prepared the audience for the mood of the musical, but also allowed the bright colored costumes worn by the characters to be more visible.

In the beginning of the production, Bat Boy is clothed in a gray cloth and is isn't until the boy learns manners and English that he is clothed similar to the rest of the cast. This directional decision also added to the overall monotonous mood.

Despite stage challenges, gender blurs and vocal stretches, the actors performed professionally—at one point while dressed in donated Halloween costumes and fornicating in the wilderness.

"Bat Boy: The Musical" runs Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. until Feb. 27 in Corbett Theatre.

Student tickets are \$6.

## Soul food promotes culture

By AMY EHREITER

Features Editor  
ehreiter@nku.edu

A table set with mashed potatoes, corn pudding, fried okra, greens and fried chicken filled the University Center with a friendly atmosphere Feb. 17.

The annual Soul Food Fest welcomed about 150 guests to sit at the round tables, eat, laugh and learn.

"It's like coming home," said Kenisha P. Walton, coordinator for the African American Student Association.

The event, sponsored by AASA and Black United Students, provided students with a home cooked meal.

"In the black family, Sunday dinner was a huge thing (where) everyone got together over soul food," Walton said. "The soul food concept comes from African slaves back when we were not allowed to have the staples of soul food."

From this history come the greens, macaroni and cheese and a lot of fried foods, according to Walton.

"We usually stick with the same menu every year," she said.

Hall Director Carmen Myrick returned to the event along with her famous macaroni and cheese.

"One year, I made at least four pans of macaroni and

cheese," Myrick said. "A lot of students miss their parent's home cooked meals, so it's a nice way to just be home together and have unity and a family bond."

Although this event has occurred every semester for the past several years, a few changes were made this year. Since the primary event coordinator for AASA, Rhonda Sneed, is currently on maternity leave, Walton planned the event solo.

Rather than cook all of the dishes for the festival, as Sneed has done in the past, AASA had foods such as mashed potatoes, fried chicken, yams and greens catered by the university's food provider, Chartwells.

"I wouldn't say (the change) is an upgrade, because we miss Rhonda and her food, but Chartwells did a fabulous job," Walton said.

To begin the event, the entire attendance sang the Black National Anthem. Afterward, junior Harin Ellis and sophomore Katya Stewart provided the spoken-word readings for the evening with original poetry selections.

The singing and poetry reading served not only for entertainment but also to educate the crowd on black culture.

Relating the event to the university, Walton said, "This campus is starving for diversity and multiculturalism... (the event's) attendance really speaks to that."



Amy Ehrnreiter / Photographer

Faculty members are first in line at the annual Soul Food Fest.

# Concert series aims to diversify

By Justin Roberts

Reporter  
robertsju@nku.edu

Northern Kentucky University Department of Music will welcome three ethnic musical acts to perform at their upcoming concert series.

The inaugural Multicultural Fine Arts Concert Series will feature the African drumming and dance ensemble Azaguno in Greaves Concert Hall Wednesday, Feb. 23.

"We're doing this to internationalize and diversify this campus," said Kurt Sander, chairperson of the Department of Music.

"Greaves is a very live hall. It projects sound very well and is an especially good hall for African music. Azaguno is kind of like an African version of Stomp," Sander said. "It will look and sound great there."

Azaguno will start off the series with their ensemble of drummers and dancers. Paschal Yao Younge, who is currently a faculty member at both West Virginia University and the University of Ghana, leads the group, which is composed of WVU alumni and student musicians.

The ensemble uses drum, voice, dance, and other visual art forms to represent the African experience in world history.

The second group, Brave Old World, performs March 26 at 8 p.m., and will feature Eastern-European derived klezmer music. Klezmer music originated in the villages and ghettos of Eastern Europe, and features Jewish singers that perform at festive events such as weddings.

As traditional as the group sounds they have "the finesse of classical music and the vitality of jazz," according to their Web site.



Photo provided by NKU Dept. of Music

Paschal Younge directs Azaguno, an African drumming and dance group.

The final act, tabla player Sandip Burman, will perform April 16 at 7:30 p.m. His accompanied Indian drum performance is both auditory and visual. "His rhythmic elements are quite complex, and he gets a lot of unique sounds out of the drum," Sander said.

"By bringing Azaguno, Brave Old World and Sandip Burman to NKU, we are showing the community we are committed to promoting multiculturalism on campus and beyond," said Nicole Hamilton, coordinator of NKU's Department of Music.

"This concert series is unique and ambitious, and it's

proof that the music department is establishing itself as an integral part of the local arts community. Not only are the concerts educational, they are also going to be very exciting, fun shows."

Tickets for the events can be purchased at the NKU Theatre Box Office. Ticket packages that include tickets for all three of the concerts of the inaugural season, will be sold for \$30 to the general public, \$20 to senior citizens and NKU students and faculty.

Individual tickets are \$7 to \$10 for Azaguno, \$10 to \$15 for Brave Old World and \$7 to \$10 for Sandip Burman.

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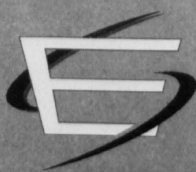
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Sports Scene

# NHL cancels season, creates mess

With last week's press conference by National Hockey League commissioner Gary Bettman, the NHL became the first professional sports league in history to cancel an entire season. Man, what a mess this has created for the league.

A majority of professional sports fans could probably care less about the disappearance of the NHL this year, but many hockey fans, especially in Canada, do care. The NHL looked very stupid for holding a press conference Feb. 19 to try and "un-cancel" the season, then the two sides between the owners and players didn't make any progress and the season remained canceled.

This lockout has made commissioner Bettman and the NHL player's union head Bob Goodenow look bad. A hockey fan who passed away recently in Ottawa, Canada, requested in his obituary to say that Bettman and Goodenow were a bunch of "skunks" for what they have done to the NHL this year.

Another ridiculous part of this deal was that the player's union, which vowed to never accept a salary cap, came out a couple of days before the press conference and said that they would accept a salary cap. The final figures before the season was canceled showed that the NHL owners wanted the salary cap to be around \$42 million and the player's union wanted the cap to be around \$49 million. It's sad that these two groups couldn't negotiate a deal when they've come this close in the collective bargaining process.

Hockey has never really been a sport to watch on TV, it has always been a sport to see live at an arena. ESPN recently reported that the programming airing on ESPN 2 to replace the NHL games were getting ratings around 0.4 percent, which is a horrible rating. However, the NHL games on ESPN 2 were getting ratings of half that number.

The NBC network is a big loser as a result of the NHL season cancellation. Last year NBC signed a contract with the league to have NHL games carried on their network. Now they lose the millions of dollars they were slated to make this season, and who knows what will happen for next year's hockey season.

Some have said that the NHL made a mistake by expanding into non-traditional hockey cities such as Miami, Nashville, Atlanta and Columbus. The people working for the Columbus Blue Jackets would definitely disagree with this statement because ESPN recently published an article stating that a Blue Jackets game at Nationwide Arena was the highest for the stadium experience in all of sports.

The NHL season was canceled five months after the lockout began. It is still unclear when – and if – games will resume next season.

Matt Steffen is the Sports Editor for The Northerner. You can e-mail him at [MSteffen2@gmail.com](mailto:MSteffen2@gmail.com)

# non-sports

## Norse spit weekend series



Blue I Photographer

Mike Kelsey scored 27 points in the victory for the Norse against Lewis.

## Win clinches spot in GLVC tournament

KENOSHA, Wis. - Tyrone Deacon scored 14 points and grabbed nine rebounds as Wisconsin-Parkside posted a 70-63 win over Northern Kentucky University on Feb. 17. Kyle Clark and Brad Ferstenlen each had 13 points for Wisconsin-Parkside (8-17 overall, 5-13 Great Lakes Valley Conference), which held off a late NKU rally to snap a six-game losing streak.

In the first half, NKU cut the Ranger lead to four, 24-20, with a basket by Pat Cary. Wisconsin-Parkside responded with an 18-4 run to take a 42-24 lead. The Rangers held off a 46-27 halftime margin by shooting 60.7 percent from the field.

"If we would have had energy in the first half, we could have gone in the locker room down six or down four and then we win this game," said NKU head coach Dave Bezold. NKU rallied and pulled within 61-59 with 3:35 left in the game when Derek Smith made one of two free throws. Ferstenlen, however, hit a 3-pointer to extend Wisconsin-Parkside's lead to 64-59 and the Rangers held on despite missing seven consecutive free throws in the stretch.

Mike Kelsey and Courtney Ferguson each scored 11 points to lead NKU, which dropped to 10-13 overall, 6-11 in the GLVC. Pat Cary added 10 points for the Norse.

Kelsey now has 1,484 career points and needs only 12 points to pass Paul Claxton for ninth place in Norse history.

Mark Hawkins came off the bench to score eight points for NKU, which lost the rebounding battle by a 37-29 margin. The Norse also managed only 16.7 percent shooting behind the three-point line.

"Mark Hawkins and Travis Rasso have gotten better every day because they come to practice and work," said Bezold.

ROMEOVILLE, Ill. - Mike Kelsey scored 21 of his 27 points in the second half Feb. 19 as Northern Kentucky University defeated Lewis, 72-66, at the Neil Carey Arena.

Pat Cary added 18 points and eight rebounds for NKU, which clinched a berth in the upcoming Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament. The Norse improved to 11-13 overall, 7-11 in the GLVC.

Cary scored 11 points in the first half as NKU forged a 32-32 tie at the break. After Lewis took a 44-43 lead on a jumper by Steve Turner, NKU responded with an 8-0 run to take a 51-44 advantage on a three-pointer by Kelsey with 11:25 left in the game.

NKU led the remainder of the game and converted 13 of its 17 free throws in the second half to pick up the road victory. Lewis closed within 69-66 with 13 seconds left on a tip-in basket by Brandon Hunter, but Cary made one of two free throws to give NKU a 70-66 lead with 12 seconds remaining.

Kelsey then stole a pass and was fouled, and he sealed the win by sinking two free throws with three seconds left. The senior guard made four three-pointers in the game and also had three steals.

Kelsey now ranks eighth in NKU history with 1,511 career points. He moved past both Paul Claxton and Craig Conley to be the Norse all-time scoring list Saturday and needs only 23 points to pass Shawn Scott (1,533 points) for seventh place.

Courtney Ferguson added 10 points for NKU, while teammate Sean Rowland dished out 10 assists. Kevin Reinhardt finished with eight points for the Norse, who shot 57.9 percent from the field in the second half.

NKU held Anthony Scala - who scored 32 points in the Norse earlier this season in Regents Hall during a Lewis victory - to just six points. Turner had 21 points and six rebounds for Lewis, which fell to 5-13 overall, 10-15 in the GLVC. NKU will return home to play Quincy at 7:45 p.m. Feb. 24.

*\*Article by Sports Information*

# Lady Norse lose at away games

KENOSHA, Wis. - Sammy Kromm scored 22 points as Wisconsin-Parkside posted a 76-56 win over Northern Kentucky University Feb. 17 at DeSimone Gymnasium.

Cary Weir added 15 points and 12 rebounds as the Rangers improved to 19-9 overall, 13-5 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Mackenzie Heise finished with 14 points for Wisconsin-Parkside, which posted its largest margin of victory ever against NKU.

Wisconsin-Parkside built a 13-point lead early in the first half, but NKU rallied and pulled with 32-31. The Rangers, however, used an 11-0 run to end the half and held a 43-31 advantage at the break.

"I felt like we struggled the whole first half," said NKU head coach Nancy Winstel. "They are a very good team. They shot the ball off the dribble very well against us."

In the second half, NKU could not get within 11 points and the Rangers coasted to the win. NKU still leads the all-time series with Wisconsin-Parkside 19-3.

"Good teams battle this time of year, and we just didn't battle today," Winstel said.

Karyn Creager led NKU (14-10 overall, 11-6 GLVC) with 15 points. Creager's school-record

consecutive made free-throw streak ended at 27 when she missed the second of two free throws with 6:11 left in the game. Connie Myers added 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Norse, who were out-rebounded by a 39-25 margin.

ROMEOVILLE, Ill. - Shante Glenn scored 10 of her 17 points late in the second half Feb. 19 as Lewis held off NKU, 69-61, at the Neil Carey Arena.

NKU rallied from a 14-point deficit in the second half to tie the game at 49-49 when Brittany Winner drained a three-point shot with 8:11 remaining. Brittany Diener responded with a three-pointer to give Lewis a 52-49 edge, but Karyn Creager countered by making a three-pointer with 6:48 left to tie the score at 52-52.

Glenn took over at that point, scoring eight of Lewis' 10 points to give the Flyers a 62-56 lead. Her driving layup with 3:47 remaining capped the Lewis' surge, as she added another basket with 1:19 left to give Lewis a 67-56 advantage.

Mary Moskal added 15 points and nine rebounds for Lewis, which improved to 16-9 overall, 13-5 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Glenn, who scored 12 points in the second half, added five rebounds as the Flyers

defeated NKU at home for the second straight season.

Lewis - which bolted out to a 12-0 lead five minutes into the game - shot 46.6 percent from the field and forced NKU into 16 turnovers. Darce Schmidt added 11 points for Lewis, which is now 5-35 all-time against NKU.

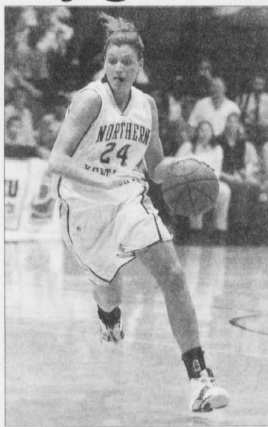
Connie Myers led NKU (14-11 overall, 11-7 GLVC) with 20 points, and she finished 10-for-10 at the free-throw line. Karmen Graham added 11 points for the Norse, who shot just 31.6 percent from the field.

Creager, Elizabeth Burrows and Angela Heath each scored 10 points for NKU, which is tied with Indianapolis for fifth place in the GLVC standings. The Norse entered the week ranked ninth in the NCAA II Great Lakes Region poll, and the top eight teams in those ratings will advance to the NCAA Division II Tournament.

NKU will play host to GLVC-leading Quincy (18-7, 15-3 GLVC) at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 24 in Regents Hall. The Norse will close out the regular season at 1 p.m. Feb. 26 with a home game against Missouri-St. Louis.

NKU has clinched a berth in the GLVC Tournament, which begins March 4 at Evansville, Ind.

*\*Article by Sports Information*



Blue I Photographer

Karyn Creager had 15 points in the loss to Wisconsin-Parkside.

# Norse softball team prepares for season

By KYLE BROWN  
Reporter  
[northern@nku.edu](mailto:northern@nku.edu)

The Northern Kentucky University softball team enters the 2005 season with high expectations, ranked fifth nationally in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association's Division II preseason poll.

The Norse will try to build on a record year for the softball team after making it to the final eight of the NCAA Division II Tournament.

Every member of last year's team returns, and two-time Great Lakes Valley Conference Coach of the Year Kathy Stewart raises the expectations her team faces.

"Being ranked fifth in the nation, the biggest expectation is to win," Stewart said. "The whole team has high expectations; our seniors have been to the NCAA Tournament every year and have gone farther every year."

"The players have a bit of a bad taste in their mouths following the NCAA Tournament."

The team opened its season playing in the North Alabama Tournament Feb. 11-12, winning all four games.

"On Friday, the team didn't have the intensity I would have liked," Stewart said. "But the most important thing is we won. In fairness to the girls, it was their first time outside, and they were better on Saturday."

Pitching will be a major asset to the Norse this season. All-American Kristal Lewallen returns, as does senior Emily Breitholtz. Both of the pitchers should break the record for career wins this season.

Last season, Lewallen set new school records with 31 wins, 311 strikeouts, and a 0.27 ERA. Breitholtz finished last season with a 16-2 record and a 1.0 ERA.

The Norse feature a powerful offense this season to go along with its pitching. Senior outfielder Stephanie Leimbach holds the career record with 106 runs

scored at the beginning of the season and broke the school record for his in the second game of the season against Delta State. Last season, Leimbach set a school single-season record with 75 hits.

Also returning is senior Angie Lindeman. Lindeman is the career record holder with 119 RBIs at NKU and has the second highest career batting average and is in the top five all-time in home runs. Lindeman was the rebounder for the Norse last season, leading the team with four home runs and 50 RBIs.

Junior Ricki Rothbauer returns after a single-season record of 46 runs scored and tying the single season record with eight triples.

"The fact that so many record-holders return is not just good for Stewart."

"It's a credit to the players," Stewart said. "It really shows how good the players are. You want players to break records, and it really speaks to the play-

er's ability."

Also returning for the Norse are seniors Sara Becker and Megan Owens, juniors Kara Lorenz, Heather Cotter and Rachel Nagel, and sophomores Becky Napier and Jeni Schamp. NKU also signed freshman Jamie Patton, Michelle Logan and Sarah King, who was recruited as a freshman has made an impact playing right field this season. Her home run against North Alabama provided the only run in a 1-0 Norse win.

The Norse will face top competition throughout this season. They face a Kennesaw team ranked second nationally, and this marks the first time Kennesaw has made an impact playing right field this season. Her home run against North Alabama provided the only run in a 1-0 Norse win.

In the GLVC, the Norse will face Lewis - another nationally ranked team, as well as tough competition from St. Edwardsville, Southern Indiana and Wisconsin Parkside.

"The league is going to be really hard," Stewart said. "There's good parity in the conference."

The team will play Kentucky Wesleyan March 19 to open up the conference and home schedule.



## hotseat



with John Rasp

In this week's issue, John interviews Megan Owens. Megan is the catcher for this year's Norse softball team.

**John Rasp:** Which NKU softball player would most probably take you out at the plate?  
**Megan Owens:** Probably Kara (Lorenz).

**JR:** If you were to pitch in a game, which NKU player would you strikeout?  
**MO:** I would probably strikeout Krystal (Lewallen). I don't know if she would be able to hit me.

**JR:** Who's the biggest NKU rival?  
**MO:** I would probably say Lewis because we played them like six times last year.

**JR:** Do you ever talk to the batters when you are behind the plate?  
**MO:** I talk loud to the pitchers and it kind of gets on the batters' nerves.

**JR:** Do you ever talk to the umpires?  
**MO:** Sometimes they miss a lot of pitches, so I have to let them know that the pitch was supposed to move across the plate.

**JR:** Who would you say has the best nickname on the team?  
**MO:** Bob (Emily Breitholtz).

**JR:** If you weren't playing catcher, which position would you want to play?  
**MO:** I used to be an infielder, but now that I've caught I don't think I could play infield any more because I would probably try to block it instead of field it.

**JR:** Which player usually gets into the most trouble in practice?  
**MO:** I think Bob (Emily Breitholtz) because when she is in a good mood she will not stop

talking. She even will say that she's going to get in trouble.

**JR:** Which NKU pitcher could you take yard?  
**MO:** Bob (Emily Breitholtz). And she knows it.

**JR:** Which NKU player would most likely get tossed from a game?  
**MO:** Sarah Newland.

**JR:** What team do you most want to beat this year?  
**MO:** I would say Kennesaw or Shippensburg because they are both ranked ahead of us nationally. We were supposed to play Kennesaw a couple years ago but it got rained out. We beat Shippensburg last year in Florida, but it was a really close game.



Blue I Photographer

Megan Owens is in her last year as catcher for Norse softball.

## Gordon wins Daytona 500

By Don Middleton  
Staff Writer  
northerner@nku.edu

The Daytona 500 is the elusive race in NASCAR Nextel Cup series racing. The gates open at 7 a.m. and already fans flock towards the new "FanZone" complete with palm trees, cobblestone walks with benches, picnic areas and a Bistro overlooking a full stage. Fans also try to catch a glimpse of their favorite NASCAR driver during the pre-race festivities. Drivers are busy signing autographs for their fans, giving tours and answering any questions that their sponsors might have.

After a weekend of festivities and more than seven hours after the gates opened, the green flag dropped at the 47th Daytona 500. Veteran drivers, Mark Martin and Rusty Wallace were making their

final attempts to win this single race that has eluded them throughout their great careers.

Those lucky enough to be one of the fans to have a ticket to one of the millions watching from home were able to witness one of the most exciting finishes in Daytona 500 history. There were four lead changes in the last nine laps, including a late run by defending champion, Dale Earnhardt Jr., who came from 30th to first place with four laps to go. His lead was sweet but short as Jeff Gordon passed him with three laps to go and held off a surging Kurt Busch to win his third Daytona 500. Busch, Earnhardt Jr., Riggs and Johnson rounded out the top five.

Gordon joined Richard Petty, Cale Yarborough, Bobby Allison, Cale Jarrett with three or more Daytona victories. Mark Martin and Rusty Wallace finished sixth and tenth, respectively, in their final race at Daytona.

## Iverson edges Wade for MVP

By MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM  
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

DENVER — It went about like Shaquille O'Neal predicted.

In the days before the All-Star Game, the Miami Heat center and Eastern Conference All-Star starter said the game would be about flash early, substance later. The players want to entertain, he said, but if the game was winding down and the score was close, they would play to win.

That's what happened Feb. 20. The crowning of the first three quarters, led by O'Neal, eventually gave way to reasonably competitive basketball, sparked by Heat guard Dwyane Wade.

Wade scored 10 points in the fourth quarter to help the Heat pull away to a 125-115 victory at the Pepsi Center.

In the end, not many will remember an insignificant detail like the score. Instead, they'll talk about O'Neal's in-game cellphone call to rapper P. Diddy, actor Chris Tucker dancing with the mascots or how the world's best basketball players put on a show.

But once the West pulled to within 110-105 in the fourth quarter, there was less slapstick and more basketball as the East secured the victory. Like O'Neal,

Spurs forward Tim Duncan, a seven-time All Star, figured that's the way it would go.

"It's more about fun and having a good time, and putting on a show early on," Duncan said. "In the last six or eight minutes it gets competitive and people really take it seriously."

Wade, playing in his first All-Star Game, led the way. O'Neal had urged Wade to go for the Most Valuable Player award if there was an opportunity for him to do it, and he made a case with his fourth-quarter performance.

Wade, coming off the bench, finished with 14 points but the MVP award went to Philadelphia guard Allen Iverson, who scored 15 points for the East. O'Neal, a 13-time All-Star, had 12 points and six rebounds.

Wade threw down a reverse dunk on a breakaway in the fourth quarter and a soaring slam in the fourth but otherwise didn't get too many chances to show off his athleticism. O'Neal got his share of dunks, including one over Houston center Yao Ming, but mostly joked around.

O'Neal had said that was the same thing he did in last season's All-Star Game and somehow "became the first player to win the All-Star MVP by clowning around." There were lots of laughs in this game, too.

Even Duncan, whose image is that of a stern-faced stoic, got in on the fun. He mock-argued with officials and at one point told West guard Steve Nash to give him the ball so he could play the point.

Duncan might as well, since this wasn't serious basketball for the most part. The preparation wasn't extensive and the intensity wasn't high, though sometimes it was hard to tell watching East coach Stan Van Gundy pace the sideline and bark out instructions.

The biggest concern for the coaches might have been making sure every star got his chance to shine.

"We know that this is a players' show here," West coach Gregg Popovich said. "We want to just stay out of the way and let them have a good time, let them play, let the fans enjoy them, let them enjoy each other. So the one thing we can do is try and get (them) minutes so that everybody gets to participate."

Defense, of course, was lax. Never was that clearer than when East guard Vince Carter dribbled the length of the court, threw the ball off the backboard and slammed home a dunk as the West stood around.

Maybe like everyone else, they wanted to sit back and watch the fun.

## What's your scholarship?

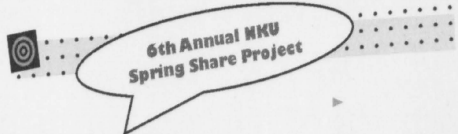


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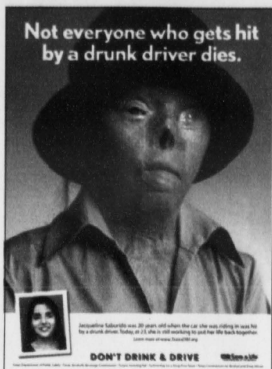
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# reallife

## BEER: THE TRUE COSTS

By Karen L. Bolte, MSW, CSW

NKU Health, Counseling, and Prevention Services



Availability of cheap beer contributes to risk factors for college students across the United States. While cheap beer may be a boon to the pockets of our students, the money factor does not prove to be the end of the story.

An article in the Journal of Studies on Alcohol, "Surveying the Damage: A Review of Research on Consequences of Alcohol Misuse in College Populations" (H. Wesley Perkins, Ph.D.) informs readers about the impact of drinking among the college population over the last two decades. ([www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/reports/Journal/perkins.aspx](http://www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/reports/Journal/perkins.aspx)).

While drinking alcoholic beverages is a personal choice, and in and of itself is not the culprit (or for that matter the cost of beer); when how, and why we drink — our drinking choices are some of the determining factors for risk. A wide spectrum of knowledge and information enhances a student's ability to make a sound decision before drinking.

Keep yourself safe and learn all you can about drinking safely. The following are some of the facts. I've also included NKU facts from NKU 2003 CORE Survey (info available in Health, Counseling and Prevention Office).

DAMAGE TO SELF	JOURNAL OF STUDIES ON ALCOHOL	NKU 2003 CORE SURVEY
Academic impairment	Risky drinking behavior may be the cause of or an important contributing factor in many different academic, emotional, physical, social and legal problems experienced by undergraduates. Indeed, the picture of extensive harm to at least a significant minority of students on most campuses is clearly supported by the research. Nationally - 24% missed a class; 22% forgot where they were or what they did, 47% had nausea or vomiting, 18% unplanned sex, 35.5% binge drink	23.2% missed class due to drinking
Blackouts		31.9% reported memory loss
Personal injuries and death		15.0% been hurt or injured
Short & long term physical illnesses		58.4% got nauseated or vomited
Unintended and unprotected sexual activity		2.7% taken advantage of sexually
Suicide		9 attempted, 7.1 thought about suicide
Sexual coercion/rape victimization		54.7% reported binge drinking
Impaired driving		39.3% driven under the influence
Legal repercussions		56.2% some form of public misconduct
Impaired athletic performance		79.1% consumed alcohol in past year
Damage to Other People		
Property damage and vandalism	While the research reviewed above makes clear the broad extent of damage that some students inflict on themselves as a result of their drinking, many consequences of student drinking are simultaneously or specifically inflicted on other people. Residents of local neighborhoods and campus visitors as well as college students, faculty and staff members may suffer as a result of individual students' heavy drinking. Core Survey national results 1998: 8% admit damaging property, 21% unwanted sexual advance, 43% experienced interruption in study or sleep, 44% taken care of a drunk student	15.0% messed up living space
Fights and interpersonal violence		10.8% insulted, traumatized
Sexual violence		4.4% traumatized (e.g. date rape)
Hate-related incidents		7.9% hateful language communications e.g.-email
Noise disturbances		15.0% interrupted studying
		7.1% feel unsafe at school
Institutional Costs		23% took care of drunk student
Property damage	Student drinking can also deleteriously affect the institutional well-being of colleges and universities. Property damage report by students due to drinking certainly includes campus property that is vandalized or destroyed by intoxicated students in residence halls and public restrooms or at campus concerts and athletic events, much of which will be a cost to the institution as a whole. ("...more than half of administrators at schools with high drinking levels reported "moderate" or "major" problems with damage to campus property")	Not included in the CORE Survey
Student attrition		
Loss of perceived academic rigor		
Poor "town-gown" relations		
Added time demands and emotional strain on staff		