

# THE NORTHERNER

Volume 29, Number 30

Independent Student Publication of Northern Kentucky University

Wednesday, April 26, 2000

## Snapshot:

### NEWS

#### YEAR IN REVIEW:

Check out the top stories that affected NKU in the 1999-2000 school year as reported in *The Northerner*. Among them was the women's basketball NCAA Division II national championship. Also, read the "best of the best" and "worst of the worst" including the most hilarious DPS report. Pages 4 and 5

## FEATURES



**A LITTLE RAIN:** Students faced mud and cold weather Thursday but were not deterred from participating in NKU's annual Rubber Raft Regatta held on Lake Inferior. Many organizations braved the waters, and the BSU won. Page 7

## SPORTS



#### TRINKLE ON TOP:

NKU softball player Jessica Trinkle uses hard work and determination to move to a top spot on the team as a freshman. She is already a starter and leadoff hitter. Trinkle is following in her father's footsteps, who also went to NKU. Page 8

## VIEWPOINTS

#### VOTERS HAVE VOICE:

Don't forget to vote in the Student Government Association elections April 26 and 27. This year, two women are running for the presidency, a seat traditionally held by men. Find out their backgrounds and choose the one who best represents you. Page 9

#### WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

##### NORSE EXPRESS:

Log on to the Norse Express section of the NKU website and check your transcript records, what you need to graduate, your financial aid status and other useful information. While it may not replace your adviser, it certainly can help prepare you for your advising sessions and can prevent any surprises when you apply for graduation. Go to [www.nku.edu](http://www.nku.edu) and click on the logo.



#### TODAY'S FORECAST

High 62  
Low 47  
Partly Cloudy



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# NKU wins in Frankfort budget battle

By Forrest Berkshire  
Managing Editor

Northern Kentucky University students and faculty gathered in the TV lounge of the University Center on April 21 to show their appreciation for area representatives that comprise the Northern Kentucky Caucus.

The Caucus is made up of senators and representatives that repre-

sent the Northern Kentucky area in Frankfort, and the event recognized their role in protecting NKU's interests during the recent session.

"We appreciate the hard work and commitment by our local legislators," Brad Hungler, chair of Team 2000, said by way of introduction.

But congratulations were all around. NKU President James

Votruba took the occasion to add that "Today is a day to celebrate the accomplishment of students," referring to Team 2000, a group of students that made several trips to Frankfort this semester to lobby for support of NKU's place in the budget.

"There was not another group of students among the Commonwealth more visible than NKU students," Votruba said.

Because of these efforts, Votruba said "Northern will be a very different place for the next generation of students." He said the most direct impact on students from this recent victory will mean NKU will be "More affordable for the students and the community."

"You represented your university very well," Rep. Jim Callahan (D-Campbell) told the students. He said they were the only ones from

the collegiate level he remembered seeing in Frankfort, and attributed that high visibility for the success of NKU.

"At any time, this could have fallen apart," he said, referring to the contentious negotiations between the Democrat controlled House and Republican dominated Senate. Several representatives during the closing days of the ses-

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## NKU rocks...



Photos by Katie Herschede

Phi Sigma Sigma held its annual Rock-a-Thon for the National Kidney Foundation Wednesday, April 19 and Thursday, April 20 for a total of 26 hours.

The National Kidney Foundation is Phi Sigma Sigma's national philanthropy and has been held for the last 20 years of existence of Northern Kentucky University's campus.

While they rocked, other students and faculty were encouraged to rock along with them. Of the \$1,000 raised by the event, more than \$250 of it was from student and faculty donations Wednesday and Thursday.

Businesses such as Meijer and Jersey Mike's contributed to the event as sponsors for prizes given away during the day totaling over \$1,000.

On Wednesday evening, while attending the student organization banquet at the Firststar Center, phi sigs rocked and also received an award for outstanding service within an organization.

After dark, the event moved to the U.C. Lounge where a Euchre tournament was held at midnight. There was free pizza and snacks for those who participated.

Many people visited and rocked, although the organization that participated the most on campus as a whole was Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. They had the most members participate. In particular, one member of Tau Kappa Epsilon, Josh Jett, rocked a total of 14 hours and won a night's stay at the Raddison hotel.

Honorable mentions were: Forrest Daily of Tau Kappa Epsilon, Emily Hastings of Theta Phi Alpha, Luke Groeschen of Alpha Tau Omega, Kristina Dillard and Patricia Record of Delta Gamma, Stephanie Kappesser of Norse Leadership Society and Rob Ours of Phi Kappa Tau.

Honorable mentions were also given to faculty member Dr. Russell Proctor and administrator Dr. Mark Shanley.



# DIVISION I dreams ON HOLD

## NKU not funded for move

By Kelly Sudzina  
Executive Editor

Over the past year, very serious research has been conducted in consideration of NKU moving from Division II to Division I, said Mark Shanley, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management.

Joan Ferrante chaired the Long-Range Planning Task Force for the athletic council that surveyed faculty, staff, students, former athletes and community members. The university hired R. Elaine Dreidman as a Division I consultant for about \$2,000 to evaluate the viability of the move.

After all the studies, the agreement was reached that NKU does not have the funds available for the necessary budget increase, and refocused on strengthening the school's current position in Division II for a possible future move.

"We are fully prepared to be opportunists. We are not setting it aside. We're simply going to do the very best that we can do in the division we're in," Shanley said. "What we hope to do is to position ourselves to have the opportunity to consider Division I later."

President James Votruba said the finan-

See DIVISION I, Page 2

## Arena or Division I first?

By Kelly Sudzina  
Executive Editor

The question of whether Northern Kentucky University will get a special events center is a lot like the age-old chicken and egg question.

Which will come first: funding for an arena so the school can consider Division I or a Division I move so the school can justify spending money on an arena?

"Some say unless we go Division I we won't get support. But some say getting the facility is a prerequisite to Division I," Mark Shanley, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, said. "We intend to proceed with the feasibility study and do all of our homework and make a reasonable decision of whether this is going to be one of our top priorities for capital investment for our next legislative session, which begins in 2002."

Part of that decision has been to make the special events center part of the proposed Master Plan for the university, which was presented on Tuesday. The Master Plan will be finalized over the summer or later and is currently subject to change. Director of Campus Planning Mary Paula Schuh said.

In the meantime, the \$120,000 feasibility study will resume sometime in May and take about 12 weeks to complete. "Once the consultants are given the go-ahead to start the study it will take about 12

weeks to complete the process and be at the point where we would have a recommendation," Schuh said.

The feasibility study is being conducted by a consultant team of three companies: Ellerbe Becket of Kansas City, Omni Architects of Lexington and Brailford and Dunlavy of Washington, D.C. A steering committee consisting of community leaders and university staff is leading the effort of the consultants.

Omni Architects is the designer of the new science center. Ellerbe Becket has not worked for the university before, but is nationally reputable in dealing with sports facilities, Schuh said.

The feasibility study will provide a schematic design, a rendering, a cost estimate, a business plan, a report on economic impact, management options and a funding/financing recommendation for the facility.

One of the specific aspects the study will look into is the program space requirement, which includes the playing floor, seats, training rooms, locker rooms, meeting rooms and office spaces. Schuh said the athletic department has outgrown its current space and would like to consolidate its offices.

The proposed site for the arena is near the other athletic facilities in the vicinity of Regents Hall. It

See ARENA, Page 2

# Boggs to leave NKU

## Says NKU is where his heart will stay

By Forrest Berkshire  
Managing Editor

The greatest lesson Student Government President Chris Boggs has learned during his five years at Northern Kentucky University can be summed up in one statement, he said.

"I have learned heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences."

This is the motto he plans to take with him as he leaves NKU for a job opportunity he said was too good to pass up.

Though this is a real opportunity for him, Boggs said he is leaving "home." "NKU is my home," he said. Growing up, he never went to the same school for more than one year at a time, and the last five years have been the longest he has ever stayed in one place. "When I come back, I'll be coming back home to visit."

Boggs said this was a combination of the school, its professors and administrators and the area that won a special place in his heart.

"I know every one of my professors," Boggs said. "And even ones I never had for class. He said some of the professors that had the greatest impact on his life were Dr. Katie Short-Thompson, Dr. Prince Brown, Dr. Michael Washington and Dr. Clinton Hewan."

He said Dr. Hewan taught him by example and said he thinks of him when he says the quote about what heroes have to do. He said Hewan

taught him by example to stand up for what he believes, even if it is the unpopular opinion sometimes. He also said Dr. Thompson will be his "all-time mentor" and Dr. Washington won him over because of the acceptance he stands for.

Two of his most memorable experiences as a student, he said, was building the 2,500 foot subway sandwich, which got into the "Guinness Book of World Records" and NKU women winning the NCAA Division II Basketball National Championship.

As SGA president and a senator Boggs said he is happy with its performance over the years. He got involved early in his college career, and credits much of his interest to former SGA president Jarney Ramsey. "I saw the opportunity to make a change," he said. To him, SGA represented the chance to make campus life better for the students at NKU. "We wanted to make SGA more focused on the students," Boggs said, speaking of the ideology that SGA set out to follow this year. "I just happened to be the head of the body, what we accomplished this year was the result of a team effort."

Boggs said this year has been productive for SGA, with such accomplishments as pushing through for a later withdrawal date, setting up plans for a new student union and approval for an outdoor recreation area.

"I expect to come back in 10 years and see some real changes," he said. "This place will be totally campus

life infused."

SGA also taught him some lessons on life, he said, such as dealing with criticism. "I expected criticism, but I thought it would be constructive criticism." Some of it was, he said, but also some of it was what he termed as simply cruel in nature. He said this has taught him not to worry about what some people think of him, with a motto "What you think of me is none of my business."

"If it is constructive criticism from people I know, I need to look into it," he explained, "if it is from people I don't know, then I need to really look into it, but if it's cruel, look to my quote."

With that wisdom, Boggs will be leaving for Atlanta, Ga. for the summer for training for his new job with NetWorth, a financial consulting business. There he will be taking tests and exams much like he had to in college. After a year or so in Jackson, Miss. working with a mentor he hopes to be stationed in Baton Rouge, La., close to his home in New Orleans.

He still has to finish his education as a requirement for his new job. "I want to be an alumni of NKU," he said. He plans to try to work it out with his department chair how he can still do this. He said he wants the diploma behind his desk to be from NKU, but if it's not possible, he understands.

"I'll just wear my NKU sweatshirt on another school's campus," he said. "This is where my heart will stay."

# Training fire hurts six

## One injured firefighter was former student

By Dave Lindsay  
Staff Reporter

No one person is to blame for the training fire gone awry April 9 at 550 Johns Hill Road, owned by Northern Kentucky University. The fire injured four firefighters with second and third degree burns, Fire Marshal John Braun said.

Braun was the state fire marshal who conducted the investigation.

It was just an accident, Braun said. A lot of little things contributed to what happened that day, he said.

It is possible that a stronger hose may have prevented the firefighters' injuries. A firefighter said that different hose nozzles release different amounts of water from the hose, measured in gallons per minute (GPM). He said a higher GPM would have given the four firefighters more power over the blaze. They may have not been overcome by the heat if their nozzles had a higher rating, he said.

Braun said this is a difficult question to answer. Every fire is different and it is hard to tell afterward if that would have made a difference.

One firefighter said a person should never enter the ground floor to fight a basement fire if there is a basement door. The heat trapped in the basement creates a "chimney effect" moving the intense heat up the stairwell, he said. The firefighters were blasted by heat as they went into the stairwell. In the basement they were overcome by the heat and decided to evacuate.

Braun said some people say never go into a house on the ground floor to fight a basement fire, and some say it doesn't matter. There are different schools of thought on how to fight a fire, he said.

Braun said he was at the site after the fire. He said he looked around, but could not go into the house because the fire weakened the structure of the house too much. The house was bulldozed that afternoon

around 4 p.m.

DPS Officer Michael Nutini responded to a report of smoke in the area the day of the fire. According to his report emergency vehicles were already on the scene. He took a post directing traffic. He said everyone was running around tending to the victims and trying to put out the fire when he arrived on the scene.

The Cold Spring, Highland Heights and Wilder fire departments were setting the house on fire for training purposes.

They set small fires in the house on both Saturday April 8 and Sunday April 9 without incident. The basement fire was going to be the last training exercise of the day on Sunday.

The four-man team of Brian Teismann, Jim McCulley, Gavin Ellis and Dan Thomas was sent in to put out the fire. They were trapped by two burning doors in the kitchen at the top of the stairs. One of the firefighters broke out one of the first floor windows to get out before a rescue team was sent in to get them. Once the four men were evacuated from the house, ambulances took them to the University of Cincinnati hospital where they were treated for second and third degree burns.

The firefighters injured were:

- Cold Spring paid firefighter Brian Teismann remains hospitalized with third degree burns on his left leg after losing his boot getting out of the fire.

- Highland Heights volunteer firefighter Jim McCulley, an electrical assistant at Physical Plant at NKU. McCulley was treated for burns on his back, arms and chest. He has been released.

- Highland Heights volunteer firefighter Gavin Ellis was released after his hands and arms were treated for burns. Ellis graduated from NKU last year and worked at the NKU Fitness branch.

- Wilder paid firefighter Dan Thomas suffered burns to his hands and arms, and has been released from the hospital.

## DIVISION I: transition will not happen any time soon

From Page 1

cial increase necessary to go Division I would be between \$2 and \$2.5 million - too much for NKU at this time.

The possibility of going Division I is a longer-term goal for us. We intend to increase support for our current teams with the idea that at some future time we would be closer to being able to afford it," he said.

Dreidame's recommendations for NKU to position itself for a future Division I move are:

- Build a new athletics facility.
- Develop additional revenue streams and work toward funding at the Division II maximums.

- Fully fund both the men's and women's basketball programs with regard to scholarships and staff.

The new athletics facility is a project that is already being seriously considered. A market demand study is complete, a feasibility study is in progress and a proposal for a special events center is going to be part of NKU's preliminary Master Plan.

"We intend to take the next steps in either enlarging Regents Hall or building a new facility," Votruba said.

Funding remains the hardest obstacle to overcome. "It takes money. We've gotten by in Division II and we just can't do that in Division I," Athletic Director Jane Meier said.

Dreidame's report said NKU has "thus far been able to overachieve its funding in that it is funded near the bottom in the Great Lakes Conference, but is able to finish in the top half of the conference."

"The range of budgets in Division I go from \$40 million to \$2 million. We would be on the lower end at \$1.6 million - our budget right now."

Meier said NKU would not move into Division I without a conference affiliation because it facili-

itates scheduling. The consultant recommended the Midwest Collegiate Conference, which includes universities such as Wright State University and Butler University. It is a mix of public and private metropolitan schools from a region similar to the Great Lakes Valley Conference, NKU's Division II affiliation.

"We wouldn't want to go into Division I unless we had a conference affiliation. In that conference we would want to be funded at the average of the conference schools," Meier said. "The average budget in the Midwest Collegiate Conference is \$4 million."

NKU would have to increase its annual athletic budget by \$2.4 million to be at the average of the Midwest Collegiate Conference.

Meier said the most popular conference is probably the Ohio Valley Conference, but it has a football component and Meier said football would not be added unless it could be done without affecting general equity, which is required by the Title IX Education Amendments of 1972.

"It's more of the conference wanting us to be a member. The Ohio Valley Conference would have to change its rules to allow us in," Meier said.

In the GLVC, NKU falls far behind the other schools in scholarship allocations. The only sport offering the maximum equivalency of scholarships is basketball.

"We're still sixth or seventh in the conference in scholarship allocations," Meier said. "We would have to add at least 50 more scholarships. So you're talking \$500,000 more just in scholarships alone."

To move up to Division I, NKU would have to add a number of staff members as well. Division I requires basketball alone to have the equivalent of five full-time coaches and assistant coaches per team. NKU has the equivalent of 1.75 coach-

es and assistant coaches per team.

Right now NKU nearly meets the Division I requirement of 14 teams, with six men's teams and seven women's teams. NKU could add one sports of either gender and be compliant in that area.

NKU is not currently considering adding another sport, but Meier said track would be her recommendation if it was to add another. It is offered now as a club sport but is not declared as a sponsored sport.

The benefits of Division I are the credibility, prestige and revenue. There is a higher revenue stream because of the increased corporate sponsorships and because of conference affiliations.

However, Dreidame's report notes, "The university's philosophy has been that athletics should be an educational experience rather than an economic venture."

NKU has apparently remained true to that so far with athletes known for academic as well as athletic ability.

The women's basketball team's average GPA is 3.35 and nine out of 11 players had a GPA over 3.0, Meier said. The average GPA of the volleyball team is 3.37 and 10 out of 12 had a GPA over 3.0.

"We recruit, retain and graduate true student-athletes," Shanley said.

For now, NKU officials have decided to reaffirm the school's commitment that student athletes should have an educational experience versus an entertainment experience.

"We have the best of both worlds right now - academically and athletically," Meier said.

Shanley said, "Our goal is to be the very best and most competitive entity in Division II and in doing so remain open to the possibility of moving our affiliation to a Division I program."

## ARENA: wouldn't replace Regents

From Page 1

would not replace Regents Hall, which would still be used for practices and smaller events that would not be cost effective in the larger arena.

Shanley said there are two priority activities the new center will host: basketball and the other indoor sports NKU hosts and high school athletic regional or national tournaments. Other events the center may host include NKU commencement activities, concerts, performances and lectures.

"Ideally, in addition to the sporting events that are ours, we would want to serve the community," Schuch said.

Brailsford and Dunlavy, a facility planning firm with a special interest in convocation/arena facilities, reported in their *Convocation Center Market Study* published on Jan. 14, 1999: "The current facility, Regents Hall, does not adequately serve the needs of the Athletic Department. It cannot accommodate the growing needs of the Northern Kentucky community. Based on our preliminary analysis, we recommend an arena with approximately 5,600 seats with a limited amount of specialized seating such as luxury suites. The arena should be designed with the ability to expand at a later date."

They found that NKU has the third smallest and fifth oldest arena in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Outside events and large revenues such as concessions, facility rentals, naming rights and ad placements are limited by its size.

In the report, interviews with student athletes, coaches and alumni revealed inadequate seating and parking, insufficient restrooms and concessions and the need for improved quality and quantity of locker rooms, training rooms and athletic weight rooms.

The proposed arena would put NKU among only 10 percent of Division II schools that have a seating capacity of greater than 5,000. In fact, the average seat capacity in the GLVC is 2,900 seats with an average fan attendance of 1,200. The average attendance in 1997-98 for NKU was 810 fans per game according to the report.

But the report said NKU is in a fundamentally strong market with about 74,500 people between the ages of 18 and 34, the target market of the proposed events center. Although the reports conducted so far have found a need for a special events center, there must first be support before it can become reality.

"We need to demonstrate substantial community support beyond the university," Shanley said. The university may have to come up with 30 to 40 percent of the cost from community and local resources before legislators will support it, he said.

President James Votruba said the other option to consider is expanding Regents Hall, if there is not enough support for the arena.

Shanley said, "We remain excited about the possibility of a special events center."

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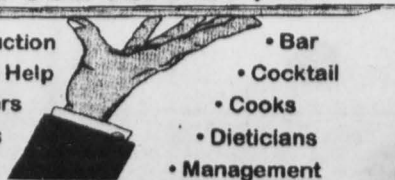
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**BUDGET: Team 2000 a factor**

From Page 1

sion worried that no agreement would be met, and that no budget for the state would be decided.

Sen. Dick Roeding (R-Boone-Kenton) said, "NKU set the standard." He said there were not many universities represented by their students this time, but that will change in the future. "Come see us again," he said.

Sen. Jack Westwood (R-Kenton) said he was sitting in the Appropriations and Revenue Committee when the "First shot was fired across our bow." He said it was not easy to win the funding, with so many other representatives fighting for their area universities. One argument he heard often, he said, was "This is not fair." He said it was a pleasure for him to explain

how it really wasn't fair, the historical under-funding of NKU, and how these recommendations would bring NKU's funding closer to fair.

After the reception, Callahan emphasized the importance of the last session. "The 2000 session was a critical year for Post Secondary Education," he said. He said now that the funding is guaranteed, it is time to look to the future, and what can be done with it.

The next project, he said, is working on getting funding for a new convocation center that can be shared with the community. Some of the representatives have already mentioned it on the House and Senate floors. "I see nothing to slow us down," Callahan said.

**NKU budget raised**By Forrest Berkshire  
Managing Editor

In the biennial budget approved by the Kentucky General Assembly this year Northern Kentucky University came out on top.

All of the original recommendations by the Council on Post Secondary Education included in Gov. Paul Patton's original budget survived, with more money being added through the process.

The most significant increase to NKU's general fund came from the benchmark recommendations, resulting in an additional \$2.8 million for next year and \$5.7 million the following year.

NKU also received \$1 million to fund the renovation of the Natural Science Building. NKU will

receive a new power plant for \$12 million, and \$6,000 for elevator upgrades, among others.

NKU also got a raise to its base funding by over \$91,000, an increase that came about after the governor's original budget.

Area representatives and NKU administrators and students were satisfied with the results from the session. President James Veituba said this funding will help to make NKU a "Very different place for the next generation of students."

Much of the credit for the funding was attributed to involved students who worked with NKU administrators to lobby for support from area legislators.

Rep. Jim Callahan (D-Campbell) said, "This is a team victory, not an individual victory."



Peter W. Zubaty/The Northerner

Rep. Jim Callahan, Sen. Katie Stine, Sen. Dick Roeding and Rep. Joe Fisher are members of the Northern Kentucky Caucus. The Caucus and the presence of NKU's Team 2000 can be attributed to the success of the budget in Frankfort.

**'STAR' student honored****National award given for civil rights involvement**By Aleashia Walton  
Staff Reporter

Northern Kentucky University senior Elea Mihou, founder of Students Together Against Racism, (STAR), won the Michael Schwerner Activist Award, a national award for civil rights involvement.

Mihou founded STAR in 1998 to raise social awareness at NKU. Since its beginning, STAR has sponsored off-campus civil rights rallies, various programs and meetings with campus police.

The Michael Schwerner Activist Award, given by the Gleitsman Foundation, is granted annually to five full-time undergraduate students in the United States for fulfilling the activism displayed by Michael Schwerner, a civil rights activist who was kidnapped and murdered in Mississippi in 1964.

This fall, Mihou will be stepping down as president of STAR. "Next year is my last year at NKU

and I think it's important to rotate leadership," Mihou said.

Although she will not hold the office of president, Mihou still plans on being an active member of STAR, and has hopes for the organization's future.

"I hope it continues to not only exist, but to grow and provide a more effective outlet for students to do social justice work, as well as for students to have a place for their awareness to grow and transform our campus community outside of the classroom experience," she said.

Mihou is currently running for Student Government Association

president as another possible outlet for campus change. "I'd like to see SGA be a better representative of the student body, voice under-represented groups and also make sure SGA is working for the needs of the student."



Elea Mihou

Mihou has a double major in International Studies and Anthropology. Mihou is an SGA senator and chair for the grievance and affirmative action committee. Mihou participates in a variety of NKU student activist groups, such as Common Ground, United Students Against Sweat Shops, Student Anthropology Association and others.

**NKU to keep Napster**By Aleashia Walton  
Staff Reporter

Universities throughout the United States have banned Napster, a popular music download site, because it slows down Internet processes. But the website isn't causing problems for Northern Kentucky University.

Roger Schuster, associate director of network services from the department of Information Technology at NKU, said, "Napster has not been a problem for us because we have recently upgraded the network backbone on campus."

The Napster Internet site has its own free software, which allows users to search for music that is on the computer of another person using that same software, making every computer a potential server.

Bandwidth, which determines how fast information goes to the network, gets clogged and slows down when too many people use the Napster software to download music at the same time. Many of these music files downloaded, called MP3s, violate copyright and are illegal.

"Should bandwidth become a problem, we may have to look at how to limit this type of thing, but only if it is causing problems for more academic type use of our network," Schuster said.

Thus far, NKU has not banned Napster, or any other websites. "The university does not block any web pages because we have a commitment to academic freedom," Schuster said.

The University of Cincinnati and Miami University have both banned Napster from their servers because of bandwidth problems.

According to Greg Hand, spokesman for UC, "Use of this program significantly slowed down the Internet connections from the university. In general, we try to provide open access, but this program and its high-volume exchange of large files was interfering with students' ability to conduct necessary work, like research and homework."

"We had a big slowdown for a day or two. Now that it has been blocked, it's not a problem," Hand said.

Miami experienced similar problems to that of UC. Richard Little, spokesman for Miami said, "It's simply an issue of students downloading MP3s off the Internet in such quantity that it severely slowed down our system at times, at up most of our bandwidth that we use and thus interfered with instructional and other academic activities."

"One problem also seems to be that via Napster, students often just play songs over and over again—almost like using the Napster system as a radio," Little said.

Little said the Miami server only blocks web pages "if they get in the way of what the system was designed and meant for, which is education."

"Content of the files was never the issue in our case. It is bandwidth. Academic freedom has nothing to do with it, and students are benefited if their instructional needs are given the first and highest priority in Internet traffic," Little said.

The software developer Napster, Inc. has recently made changes to the program to prevent future bans on the Napster Internet site. Indiana University has agreed to try out the updated Napster software and has already made it available for public use.

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## Best of the best

### Best Special Section:

Wednesday, Dec. 8, 1999

2000

Our tribute to the millennium, titled *Northern Lights*, won an honorable mention at the Kentucky Intercollegiate Press Association last February for Best Special Section. It included reviews, projections for the future and even a Q&A with NKU President James Votruba.

### Best DPS Report:

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2000

DPS responded to Steely Library due to a report of third degree criminal mischief because one of the toilets had been damaged. According to the report, the toilet was nearly broken in half. It was thought the damage was likely caused by someone standing on it and jumping up and down or using some type of tool. Physical Plant advised that they turn the water off and put out of order signs on the stall and bathroom door.

### Runner-up DPS Report:

Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2000

DPS responded to the Fine Arts Center after receiving a report that a female had walked through the glass panel of the exit door. She had a one inch cut above her eye. The victim also said that she fell on her right wrist and she thought it was broken. Cold Spring Life Squad transporter her from the scene to St Elizabeth Medical Center.

## Worst of the worst

### Worst typo

Wednesday, Aug. 25, 1999

In a house ad calling for *Northerner* employees, we noted that there were *payed* positions still available. It looks like we should've hired another copy editor instead!

### Worst outline

NKU student Chris McNay reads beside the Tri Beta butterfly garden. "It's quiet," said McNay. "It's nice."

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 1999

The photo indicated by the outline depicted all plants and no people. Several people asked us if McNay was supposed to be hiding in the bushes!

## It is the size that matters

### Longest headline:

Listerman rallies the Norse to victory after the sluggish start against St. Joseph's College

Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2000

### Shortest Story:

Black comedy tour kicks off homecoming

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2000

Tired of sitting home Friday nights? Well, put on your party clothes because the Black Comedy Tour is coming to NKU Friday, Feb. 11. The tour will feature "Friday's" A.J. Johnson, and BET's Comic View's Lavelle Crawford, and Chocolate.

Freshman Cornelia Crook said, "this comedy show is a much needed break for me. It will be nice to just sit back and have a good laugh."

The long anticipated show will begin at 8 p.m. in Regents Hall Feb. 11. The cost of a ticket ranges from \$5 for students (with an ID) and \$10 for general admission. Tickets can be purchased at the Office of Student Life from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Immediately following, the Black Women's Organization will be hosting an after party at the UC Grill until 2 a.m. "Remember," said Angel Chichester, the program's director, "the show is for everyone, so come out and prepare to have a good time."

Yes, folks, that is the whole thing!

# Top Stories of '99-'00

1

## Norse prove last year was no fluke

By Kelly Sudzina

Wednesday,  
April 5, 2000

The women's basketball team won Northern Kentucky University's first national championship in any sport March 25, 2000.

At the beginning of the 1999-2000 season, Northern Kentucky University's women's basketball Coach Nancy Winstel said, "I want people to come out and watch us play. I want them to know that last year was not a fluke."

Apparently it wasn't a fluke. Not only did the Norse return to the Final Four at Pine Bluff, Ark., they brought the NCAA Division II National Championship trophy home with them.

In a question and answer column for *The Northerner* Basketball Preview last November, Sports Editor Bruce Reller asked Winstel, "How hard is it for you to replace six players that are gone from last year's squad?"

Her response was, "It's tough. Five of them played since they were freshmen without missing a beat. We are experiencing some growing pains."

This time maybe pain is pleasure. The 1998-99 team had five players that had played since they were freshmen. This year's team had seven players that have played at NKU since they were freshmen—and four of them still are. Winstel may not have anticipated early on that this year's team would be even better than last year's, even though there were so many young players.

In fact, the only senior on the team, Lisa Geiman, is a soccer player turned basketball player. She

joined late in December to add depth when injuries occurred.

We at *The Northerner* wanted to give everyone a chance to look back on some of the most important games and moments that marked this year's season.

One of the Norse's early losses was to Bellarmine on Jan. 8. The week after that the Norse beat the University of Missouri-St. Louis in a reverse-reflection of the Bellarmine game. That and the Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville game in February were surprisingly easy victories by the Norse against two of their more competitive Great Lakes Valley Conference opponents. The game against St. Joseph's College marked sophomore All-American Michelle Cottrell's 1,000th point. Junior Michele Tuchfarber had scored her 1,000th point on Jan. 31 against Kentucky Wesleyan.

Winstel earned the title of IKON/WBCA Division II National Coach of the Year and learned of it at about the time she was coaching her girls to prepare for the Elite Eight.

In the first game of the Elite Eight, NKU faced the College of St. Rose (N.Y.), ranked Number One in the nation, and defeated them and Western Washington the next day. They went on to defeat North Dakota State University by nine points in overtime to win the national championship.



Kelly Sudzina/*The Northerner*  
Julie Cowens carried home the Division II National Championship trophy after the win in Pine Bluff, Ark.

2

## Tuition changes ahead

By Forrest Berkshire

Wednesday,  
Aug. 25, 1999

Managing Editor Forrest Berkshire did a series of stories at the beginning of this school year regarding the increase of student tuition. His series, combined with several articles by other writers, provided a comprehensive look at the increase in tuition, what it will be spent for, and how the university budgets its money. Many of the stories targeted the progress of President Votruba's Invest in Success program. Tuition was the subject of the most news articles this year, averaging nearly one per week!

This is the first in a series of articles covering funding at Northern Kentucky University. The administration is currently proposing its plans to the Regents on the future of tuition, which greatly rests in the hands of the Kentucky General Assembly.

Northern Kentucky University's tuition will rise next year; the question is, how high?

Earlier this year the Council on Post Secondary Education, Gov. Paul Patton's task force on edu-

cation reform, gave Kentucky's universities the authority to set their own tuition rates.

"What we're trying to do is decentralize the management decision making to the individual universities," Ken Walker, vice president of the council said.

NKU's Board of Regents will meet today. The administration will present two drastically different possible outcomes.

The worst case scenario is a proposal that will raise tuition rates by the highest rate ever, accord-

ing to NKU President Dr. James Votruba, in an effort to become more competitive with other universities. Administration officials were reluctant to release any numbers on how high that hike may be, until after they have met with the Regents.

The best case scenario would be a slight raise, similar to the rate every year.

According to Votruba, the decision ultimately rests in the hands of the Kentucky General Assembly.

3

## Science building groundbreaking

By Jason Crisler

Wednesday,  
Nov. 17, 1999

Even Gov. Paul Patton flew into NKU to be a part of the groundbreaking of the new natural science building in November. The building will cost an estimated \$38 million, making it the most expensive building built at a public Kentucky university with state funds. The new natural science building, which is expected to be completed in 2002, will have a tunnel system that will run between buildings.



Jason Crisler/*The Northerner*  
Ground was broke for the new natural science building by NKU President James C. Votruba and Gov. Paul Patton.

On Nov. 11, 1999, a new chapter was written in Northern Kentucky University's history.

The chill in the air and dark sky couldn't ruin the day for President James C. Votruba. "It may be overcast and it may be cold, but there's not been a better day at Northern Kentucky University in a long time," he said.

On this date at about 3:30 p.m. the ground-breaking for the new Natural Science Building took place.

Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton arrived by helicopter, which landed on NKU's soccer field.

Patton, Votruba and various administrators from biological science, chemistry, physics and geology each dug shovel-fuls of dirt from the ground with gold-colored shovels.

Votruba spoke about Patton, who made the construction of the new natural science building possible by giving NKU \$38 million. "There is no governor in this country who has done more to advance post-secondary education than Paul Patton," he said.

Patton said the new natural science building coincided with his higher education agenda.

4

## Construction causes changes

By Diane Cockerell

Wednesday,  
Dec. 8, 1999

The first detours on campus occurred during the re-routing due to construction of the parking garage. According to Director of the Budget Gerald Hunter, it was necessary to build the garage before the new natural science building to provide adequate parking because the natural science building would take up a parking lot. Mary Paula Schuh, director of Campus Planning, said weather and changes in plans delayed the opening slightly. The parking garage opened officially March 20.

The ground in front of the Natural Science Building at Northern Kentucky University is full of wooden stakes.

Chain-link fencing surrounds parking lot D, part of parking lot C and the

grassy area between the two lots where a bulldozer is moving dirt. Big changes are about to occur at NKU.

On Monday Nov. 29 at 7 a.m., University Drive re-opened and Noun

Drive closed in preparation for construction of the university's new \$38 million natural science building.

The new facility will be built between parking lots C and D across from Landrum Hall and the current

Natural Science Building. Mary Paula Schuh, director of NKU Campus Planning, said an atrium and walkway will be created between the three buildings—it will be full of trees, shrubs and perennials.

# Norse Hall slips

By Rick Amburgey

Less than ten years after construction, Physical Plant noticed that the floor of Norse Hall in the Residential Village appeared to be slipping away from its foundation. The university hired Monarch Construction, the same company building the new natural science building, to assess the danger and make corrections. Monarch added supports. A spokesperson for Monarch Construction told The Northerner that the supports were sufficient. Dean of Students Bill Lamb said the supports were put in to be on the safe side.

Physical Plant recently discovered that there were some spots in Norse Hall where the floors seem to be slipping away from the structure.

Bill Lamb, dean of students, said supports have been placed underneath the areas that were thought to be weak to be on the safe side.

"We don't think there's any danger... If we thought there was any immediate danger, we would do much, much more," he said.

Lamb said there is no certainty about the cause of the problem or what kind of solution will be deemed necessary. He said all they can do at this point is speculate. Lamb believes that weather over the course of time may have played a role in the situation.

# Future of student groups

By Forrest Berkshire

A Supreme Court case questioned whether it was constitutional for all students to pay student fees which would be distributed to organizations students might not agree with ideologically. Although the case did not involve NKU, it did question the future of student organizations at NKU.

CENSORED

Photo Illustration by Kelly Sudzina

# 25 students fired, rehired

By Jeffrey B. Williams

Twenty-five of the 27 lab assistants in the ATS computer lab were fired two weeks before Christmas due to budget cuts. Speculation by officials indicated the budget cuts may have been related to the additional expenses incurred by Y2K preparation. Gary Pratt, Chief Information Officer, said he did not know about the situation.

Academic Technology and Services (ATS) rehired 25 of the 27 Northern Kentucky University students one week after Director Michael Thompson fired them.

Thompson fired the students in order to streamline the department's budget and recoup the costs of upgrading equipment and installing Y2K readiness precautions across campus.

All the students fired Dec. 9 were offered back their jobs but two students declined the reinstatement.

Most of the students will return to work the first week of spring semester.

Shawn Eddington, one of eight student workers not fired, said he did not like the way the department treated his co-workers and, after the students were rehired, there was some scapegoating initiated inside the department.

"Thursday morning as students came to work they were told they would be laid off starting Friday. They were saying it came from the vice-

provost's office," Eddington said.

Eddington said Thompson began taking responsibility for the firings after the decision was made to rehire the students.

Thompson said, "I personally made that decision. It was my call, my error."

Gary Pratt, hired Nov. 1 as the new Chief Information Officer over ATS, said he has been pushing departments to streamline costs and he is in the process of reorganizing the section's budget.

# Dean Lamb steps down

By Rick Amburgey

Dean of Students Bill Lamb resigned from his position after 18 years to take a job with the Career Development Center. Lamb said the new job would allow him to work more closely with students on a positive level and would allow him to spend more time at home with his family. Lamb took a pay cut, but Martha Malloy, director of Human Resources, would not disclose the amount of the pay cut. Lamb was also adviser to Student Government Association.

Bill Lamb, who has been Dean of Students at Northern Kentucky University for 18 years, is resigning his position to take a job at the Career Development Center.

"I don't see it as stepping down. It is an opportunity to work more closely with students," Lamb said.

Lamb said he has enjoyed being Dean of Students.

"But there are a lot of things

[about being Dean of Students] that are not enjoyable," he said.

Lamb said the reason he became involved with the profession to begin with was because he enjoyed working with students.

He said as Dean of Students his interaction with students was more disciplinary and his new position would allow him to interact with students on a more positive level.

# Access denied pending lawsuit

By Rick Amburgey

A letter sent by Dean of Students Bill Lamb informed computer science major Michael Vaughan that the university was revoking his computer privileges pending an investigation. DPS is still investigating Vaughan regarding bragging about hacking and "direct e-mail communications that could be construed as veiled threats of extortion." Vaughan believes these allegations may have been brought against him partly a series of e-mails sent to NKU administrators concerning safety of the computer system.

Access to Northern Kentucky University computer labs and NKU e-mail by junior computer science major Michael Vaughan has been suspended pending review of allegations about his computer use.

According to a Feb. 24, 2000 letter sent to Vaughan from Dean of Students Bill Lamb, these allegations include "Bragging about your success regarding 'hacking' and your subsequent ability to acquire confidential information" and "using language in direct e-mail communication to NKU computing staff which

can be construed as containing veiled threats of extortion."

The Department of Public Safety is investigating the allegations, said Director Don McKenzie.

# Title IX ball is rolling

By Kelly Sudzina

Last summer women's golf was added to NKU's list of sponsored sports, making this university the most Title IX compliant school in Kentucky. This means NKU has the most gender equity in sports of all other schools in the state.

Northern Kentucky University is now more than up to par where women's sports are concerned.

This summer NKU became the most Title IX compliant school in Kentucky with the addition of the women's golf program, according to Jane Meier, director of intercollegiate athletics.

"I am so pleased to say that we're leading the pack in terms of gender equity," President James Votruba said. "This is something that your mothers and your grandmothers never had the opportunity to do."

Women's golf marks the seventh women's athletic program out of 13 total athletic programs.

"It offers another extra-curricular opportunity. Most of the student athletes are from Northern Kentucky or the surrounding area and it's a popular sport," Meier said. "Because of the LPGA and the success that they have started to get, there will be more girls interested in golf."

Votruba said adding women's golf benefits NKU in several ways. "From a gen-

der equity perspective, it makes us closer to our goal," he said. Besides that, it will aid in the ability to recruit students and it will also allow women to compete in golf on an intercollegiate level as long as they field enough team members to meet NCAA compliance.

Meier said \$11,000 from student fees will be dedicated to the sport and fund raising for scholarships would round out the \$18,000 total cost of the program, depending on the number of players. "It will be approximately what it is for the men's, which is \$18,000 annually. It will be phased in gradually."

Scholarships will start out slowly and be comparable to the other individual sports such as cross country or tennis. Currently \$5,000 is set aside for women's golf and will go to more than one individual.

Title IX stems from a 1972 Supreme Court ruling that declared there must be gender equity in education. Under the law, NKU must give equal opportunities and resources to both men's and women's athletic programs.

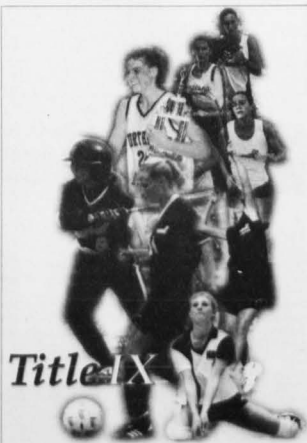


Photo Illustration by Kelly Sudzina



Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2000



Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2000



Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2000



Wednesday, April 12, 2000



Wednesday, January 27, 1999



Wednesday, Aug. 25, 1999

## Some Of Our Other Faves

Most useful special section: Wednesday, March 29, 2000



Our special section called Career Connections contained useful advice for everyone from job-hunting graduates and first-year freshmen.

Most ridiculous story: NKU student recovers 800 pound chair Wednesday, Oct. 6, 1999

NKU art major Jenny Miller found local artist Allene May's 800 pound chair while attending a party. Miller first heard about the chair during a presentation in Kevin Booher's art concepts class and happened to notice it while at a party in Over-the-Rhine. The artwork had been stolen from May's Covington studio in January of 1998.

Funniest headline:

## Spoiled



Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2000

This headline did go with the column it identified, but the assistant sports editor meant to change it since, at a glance, it looked like it said HE was spoiled! 'Oops!'

Subject of the most letters to the editor: Church vs. State

This story about the Baptist Student Union on campus garnered six letters to the editor.

Subject of the most front page photos: Katherine Meyer

We still don't know how it happened. She must have been in the right place at the right (or wrong) time!

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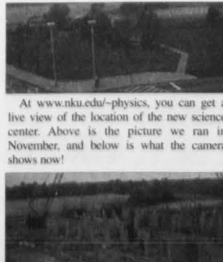
Call 572-5260 to be a staff reporter.

Baxter is Managing Editor Forrest Berkshire's lovable puppy and the "official" mascot of The Northerner.

Website of the year

Live science cam

Wednesday, November 24, 1999



At www.nku.edu/~physics, you can get a live view of the location of the new science center. Above is the picture we ran in November, and below is what the camera shows now!

# Program builds international relationships

By Cindy Folsom  
Staff Reporter

What would you have done to spend your spring break in Mexico? How about fill eggshells with confetti, or paint a local community center? That's exactly what nine Northern Kentucky University students and three faculty members did.

The 12 were participants from the university's Alternative Spring Break program. The program was co-sponsored by the Office of International Programs, the Latin Awareness Group, the YMCA International Committee of Greater Cincinnati and the Mexico City YMCA.

The trip was initiated to allow par-

ticipants a chance to do community service and learn about Mexican culture, said Dr. Kristin Pfabe, faculty participant from the Mathematics and Computer Science Department.

The students spent the majority of the week assisting the Naculpan Community Development Center prepare for a festival called "Kermesse," a celebration to raise money for the neighborhood. NKU member activities included making Jell-O, painting banners and filling eggshells with confetti to be broken on the people's heads during the festival.

The group's other official volunteer job included painting an "Ayudantia" which was a village learning assistance center to be used for children's tutoring services in a small community in Santo Domingo.

Melanie Grindle, student participant, said she really felt her involvement made a difference.

"I really don't think the community center would have been painted otherwise," Grindle said.

However, the entire trip was not all work, they did have time to enjoy some sites. The same day the 12 painted the community center, they had the opportunity to visit a YMCA

camp in the city of Tepoztlan, which is surrounded by mountains and ancient ruins. Another day the group not only visited the Teotihuacan pyramid, they also got to climb it.

Other group members said they also enjoyed some of the simpler aspects of Mexican life, like dancing in the town square. Spanish major Chris Welch said one of his favorite parts of the trip was dining in a "Chocolat e," a hot chocolate bar where he enjoyed freshly ground hot chocolate. The majority of the group agreed the best part of the trip was the close relationships they developed with the host families who housed them during their stays.

Grindle said her host family was wonderful.

"They provided me with everything I needed and took me anywhere I needed to go," Grindle said.

"They even were careful not to serve any dairy products because of my milk allergy."

Welch also recalls how close he grew to his host family through a conversation he had with his host sister Annalu Carrillo.

"I made a comment saying 'your family' and she corrected me and said 'our family,'" Welch said.

Although everyone couldn't say



Photo Contributed  
Melanie Grindle, Jessica McQuarry, Chris Welch, Chris Allgeier, Annie Ramsdale, Angela Johnson, and Mark Lewis joined YMCA leader Sandra Orozco (seated), in Mexico.

everything they wanted because of the language barrier, they managed to get things across pretty well, said Alisa Dies.

One of the things the group had the hardest time saying was goodbye.

"There were lots of tears at the airport," said Pfabe. Many of the stu-

dents said they have continued to keep in touch with the host families via e-mail, and they plan on returning next year.

Anyone interested in taking an alternate spring break of this kind next year can contact Professor Steve Wilkinson at wilkinson@nku.edu for details.



Photo Contributed  
NKU students during their spring break assisted staff with a food distribution program at a community center in Mexico.

## Vince Gill releases 'Key' sequel

By Rick Amburgey  
News Editor

Country music superstar Vince Gill's latest release, "Let's Make Sure We Kiss Goodbye" could easily be considered a sequel to his last CD, "The Key."

Although the CDs are very different, each song is autobiographical because Gill wrote or co-wrote all 12 songs on the album.

"The Key" was written when Gill was going through a divorce and the death of his father. Most of the songs on "The Key" are depressing.

However, Gill wrote the songs on "Let's Make Sure We Kiss Goodbye" while he was dating pop singer Amy Grant, whom he married last month. Gill even dedicated the album to Grant.

Grant co-wrote "When I Look Into Your Heart" and "Look What Love's Revolving" with Gill and she duets with him on "When I Look Into Your Heart."

All the songs except for "Hey God" are love songs. Gill, who is an avid golfer, wrote and dedicated "Hey God" to the memory of his friend, late golfer Payne Stewart.

The first single from the album is the title track. The song serves as a reminder to kiss your loved one before you leave because you never

know if you will live to see them again.

The songs contained on "Let's Make Sure We Kiss Goodbye" are not the typical songs you would expect from a mainstream country artist. The song "Baby Please Don't Go" even has a swing-type feel to it.

The most mainstream country song on the album is "That Friend of Mine," which features Gill's teenage daughter, Jenny, doing harmony vocals.

Other noteworthy songs on the record were "For The Last Time" and "The Luckiest Guy in the World."

"For The Last Time" looks at love from the aspect of a guy who knows that he will never be lonely again. The chorus sings: "How did you know I was waiting/ How did you know you were saving me/ Oh, what a gift to leave it all behind/ Lonely has known me for the last time."

"The Luckiest Guy in the World" is a guy realizing how lucky he is to be loved by someone that he is in love with.

Although 11 of the 12 songs are about love, they are so different, both musically and lyrical-



ly, that it does not feel like you are listening to the same song over and over.

Gill's lyrics are as powerful on this album as they have been on past albums. The lyrics are very simple, but they provoke an emotional reaction from the listener.

Gill announced that he plans to spend the year 2000 writing songs and he does not plan to be tour this year.

## Summer will bring a variety of concerts to area students

By Dave Lindsay  
Staff Reporter

This summer offers a wide array of concerts for the music lovers among the Northern Kentucky University community.

The two most popular concerts held at Riverbend last year are returning this year, parrot-heads will be satisfied, classic rock fans will have choices and big hair band or heavy metal fans will be glad to know there are several concerts in store for them this summer also.

Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon" and "The Wall," will be at Riverbend July 9.

The comeback king Santana will play Riverbend Aug. 12. Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band will be playing the Firststar Center April 30.

### Heavy Metal and Big Hair

Poison, Cinderella and Slaughter play Riverbend June 20.

Ozzfest is back to Riverbend this year Aug. 8. Riverbend brings Motley Crue, Megadeth and Anthrax to Cincinnati Aug. 27.

Punk rockers Goldfinger will come to Bogart's May 1.

The Bloodhound Gang will be "doing it like they do it on the Discovery Channel" at Bogart's May 6.

According to their website Pearl Jam will be playing a visit to Cincinnati on Aug. 20, however none of the major venues around have claimed them yet.

According to the Firststar Center's website all tickets must be purchased at the box office on or before the day of the show.

### Most Popular Last Year

The Dave Matthews Band will be playing June 26 and 27. Jimmy Buffet is playing two shows as well, but the Aug. 19 show is already sold out. There are still tickets available for the Aug. 17 show.

### Rock and Roll

Kiss will be performing at Riverbend with Ted Nugent and Skid Row on May 22.

Roger Waters, the soul behind

### Buckskin Bev's Roadhouse

Steaks, Ribs, Chops, & Seafood

**Opening for Lunch starting May 1st**  
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## LOSE 20 POUNDS IN TWO WEEKS!

Famous U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team Diet

During the non-snow off season the U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team members used the "Ski Team" diet to lose 20 pounds in two weeks. That's right - 20 pounds in 14 days! The basis of the diet is chemical food action and was devised by a famous Colorado physician especially for the U.S. Ski Team. Normal energy is maintained (very important) while reducing. You keep "full" - no starvation - because the diet is designed that way. It's a diet that is easy to follow whether you work, travel or stay at home (For men too!)

This is, honestly, a fantastically successful diet. If it weren't, the U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team wouldn't be permitted to use it! Right? So, give yourself the same break the U.S. Ski team gets. Lose weight the scientific, proven way. Even if you've tried all the other diets, you owe it to yourself to try the U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team Diet. That is, if you really do want to lose 20 pounds in two weeks. Order today! (Eat this out as a reminder.)

Send only \$8.95 + add. 50 cents RUSH service to: MIDWEST ASSOCIATES, 3318 S. Glenstone, Suite 308, Springfield, MO 65804. Don't order unless you expect to lose 20 pounds in two weeks! Because that's what the Ski Team Diet will do.

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**BUFFALO WILD WINGS**  
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# New program brings authors to campus

Novel 'The Color of Water' by James McBride will be read by all incoming NKU freshmen

By Scott Wartman  
Assistant Features Editor

When reading a novel, most people don't get a chance to talk to the author directly afterwards, but that is exactly the chance next semester's incoming freshmen will have with Northern Kentucky University's new program, the Book Connection.

The Book Connection is a program instituted by the Office of First Year Programs, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of Enrollment Management.

With the Book Connection, each freshman will receive a book written by a contemporary author and the author will be invited to campus to talk to the students about the book.

For the inaugural year of the program,

NKU has commissioned author James McBride to give a talk concerning his bestselling book, "The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother" on September 13.

The book will be given to each freshman at Transitions this spring to read during the summer.

Fran Zaniello, director of First Year Programs who first proposed the idea for the Book Connection, said McBride's book was picked this year because the novel is very easy to read and covers many social issues.

"The book will take our freshmen to different places and cultures," Zaniello said. "It will introduce them to new experiences."

As incentive for students to read the book, Zaniello said that 100 level courses such as English 101, English 151 and

University 101 are encouraged to include the book in the class's curriculums.

In addition, the day following McBride's on-campus speech, he will return to campus and talk to students individually about the book.

Programs like the Book Connection are not unique to NKU and Zaniello said such programs can be beneficial to young students who are adjusting to changes into college life.

Zaniello said giving all freshmen the same novel to read provides a sense of unity.

"I want the program to do two things," Zaniello said. "I want it to develop a sense of community and to form a kind of identification for the students."

John Alberti, an English professor and one of the co-founders of the program, echoes the comments of Zaniello.

"Students can identify themselves by what book they all read freshman year," said Alberti. "Next semester's freshman can all say they were the 'Color of Water' group."

Dr. Judith Bechtel, another English professor who is also co-founder of the venture, said support for the program has been unanimous and the Book Connection will be continued for years to come.

"This [The Book Connection] will create intellectual unity," Bechtel said. "It is the best thing students could be offered, rather than just a T-Shirt."

Alberti also said students will get something far more valuable than just a book. "I want the Book Connection to get as many students as possible to start reading serious books as a lifelong habit," Alberti said. "This is something they can take beyond school."



Photo Contributed  
James McBride will participate in the NKU Book Connection program.

## "On budget and on time"



Melissa Riggs/The Northerner

Nothing's fishy at the new natural science center construction site except the site supervisor. He loves to fish and hangs the traditional American symbol for work has stopped: "Gone fishing."

## Tradition lives at NKU

By Melanie Dawn Brooks  
Staff Writer

The people were wet, they were muddy and they were cold, but most everyone left smiling. The general consensus was that Northern Kentucky University's second annual Rubber Raft Regatta was a success.

Eight organizations — Student Government Association (SGA), the Baptist Student Union, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Alpha Tau Omega, Delta Gamma, Norse Leadership Society, Delta Zeta and the Recreation Life Guards sponsored 13 teams to compete in a relay race across NKU's Lake Inferior.

Each team was made up of three members. The team with the best time won the grand prize of \$50 NKU Bookstore gift certificates for each of its members.

Other prizes were given for game categories within the rally. Large NKU mugs filled with miniature candy were given to participants who decided to collect as many of the orange ping-pong balls that were thrown into the lake instead of trying for the best crossing time.

Chris Boggs, president of SGA, said the Rubber Raft Regatta was an event that he hoped would continue. "We would like to make it into an annual tradition," Boggs said. "The members of last year's student government started it and we promised to keep it going."

The idea of starting a new NKU tradition was the impetus behind the rally.

"We are a fairly young university, and we would like to have more campus traditions," said Kara Clark, SGA vice president of public relations. "We put this



Jeff McCurry/The Northerner

Students paddled and pulled their rafts across Lake Inferior during NKU's traditional Rubber Raft Regatta.

event together as a way to help the university out with the Rites of Spring," said Clark.

Clark said this year's event had new rafts that had bottoms. They also had oars. The goal was to make them more like real boats. But the participants still decided to take the rafts and swim across, she said.

Contestants came prepared to race in various forms. Some were barefoot and wearing shorts and T-shirts, while others wore jeans, long sleeve shirts and gym shoes.

Dean of Students Bill Lamb and representatives of various Greek organizations came out to support the contestants.

The sound of cheers and words of support came streaming from the grassy knoll around Lake Inferior.

Students stood waiting with towels and more words of encouragement for their friends, even if some were on opposing teams.

After all teams raced and participants were able to relax, the times were totaled.

With a time of 2 minutes and 56 seconds, the Baptist Student Union Team #1 took the grand prize.

The Recreation Lifeguard team came in second place, and the Delta Gamma/TKE team came in third place.

## Campus Calendar

### Wednesday, April 26:

- Students Together Against Racism 5:30 p.m. UC 303.

### Thursday, April 27:

- Women in Transition 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m. UC 232.
- AA meeting 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. UC 232.
- "The Royal Family" 8 p.m. Corbett Theatre.

### Friday, April 28:

- "The Royal Family" 8 p.m. Corbett Theatre.

### Monday, May 1:

- Survivors Support Group 3 p.m.-4 p.m. UC 232.
- Co-ed Golf League sign-up begins. Call Dan Henry at 572-5728.

### Tuesday, May 2:

- Common Ground 3 p.m. UC 303.
- AA Meeting 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. UC 232.
- Faculty Staff Fitness Group 4:45 p.m.-5:45 p.m. AHC.
- "The Royal Family" 8 p.m. Corbett Theatre.
- "Bicycle Touring for Fun and Fitness" 7-9 p.m. Call Community Education Center at (859) 392-2400.
- "Sport Rappelling" 7-9:30 p.m. Through May 30. Call Community Education Center at (859) 392-2400.

### Wednesday, May 3:

- Yoga. 12 p.m. AHC.
- Student Government Elections. 9 a.m.-6:15 p.m. UC Lobby and Norse Commons.



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## The Northerner Athletes of the Year



Photo by Anna Weaver

### Michelle Cottrell

All-American Cottrell had a year of milestones. Besides being a key part of the team that won NKU's first national championship, she scored her 1,000th point on Feb. 17.

Other nominations considered for female athlete of the year were: Tabatha Smith, Betsy Moore, Jamie O'Hara and Jenny Jeremiah.



Photo by Kelly Sudzina

### Craig Sanders

Sanders led the Norse in scoring and helped lead the team to a 27-6 record. He also won the award in 1999.

Other nominations considered for male athlete of the year were: Joe Resing, Aaron McDowell, Kyle Pfetzer and Scott Stark.

## Trinkle top hitter for Norse

By Bruce Reller  
Sports Editor

When an athlete works hard and shows team effort, positive results are almost sure to come of it. That can be said for NKU freshman Jessica Trinkle.

Trinkle, an outfielder for the NKU softball team, made her way into the starting lineup as the leadoff hitter by working as hard as she possibly could for the ballclub.

"I busted my butt off to be a starter," she said. "I've proved myself with my speed and all. I've given 100 percent on everything on the field."

Trinkle has used her hard work and determination in becoming one of the top hitters on the team. She is among the top five on the team in hits, runs scored and batting average.

"Nine out of 10 times, she gets the ball down," said NKU teammate Nikki Molinaro. "As a leadoff hitter, her objective is to get on base. She really does her job."

Trinkle is also a team player and believes that teamwork is a number one priority for a winning ballclub.

"In order to be successful, you got to have teamwork," she said. "If you don't work as a team, you will fall apart. It makes us how good we are."

With teamwork, it must involve all the players on the team. Trinkle has been able to make that concept work by having a good relationship with the other players on the softball team.

"We work hard with each other, and we like each other," she said. "They are a fun group of people to be around."

Molinaro added, "She's in the ropes, and she is adjusting well as a freshman."

Besides softball, Trinkle, who played at Colerain High School in Cincinnati has other hobbies she likes to do in her spare time.

She likes to spend time with her family, which is one of the main reasons she came to NKU.

"My dad graduated from here and played baseball here," she said. "I wanted to be closer to home. I like to spend time with my family and friends. I also like going to my brother's sporting events."



Kelly Sudzina/The Northerner

Freshman Jessica Trinkle is among the top five on NKU's softball team in hits, runs scored and batting average.

## Best and worst of 1999-2000 NKU sports

By Bruce Reller  
Sports Editor

### BASEBALL

**Best**-Lenny Bays threw a no-hitter. Kyle Pfetzer set and NKU record for strikeouts in a game, and head coach Bill Aker earned his 800th career coaching win.

**Worst**-Despite a 20-win season, the Norse failed to make it to the GLVC tournament.

### SOFTBALL

**Best**-The Norse clinched a berth in the upcoming GLVC Tournament for the first time since the early '90s.

**Worst**-NKU won more games on the road than at home.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

**Best**-NKU advanced to the GLVC tournament and made it to the semifinals of the Great Lakes Regional tournament.

**Worst**-The Norse lost to Kentucky Wesleyan all three times they played.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

**Best**-The Norse won the first ever NCAA Division II National Championship in NKU athletics. Michelle Cottrell and Michele Tuchfarber earned many honors throughout the year.

**Worst**-NKU lost to Bellarmine in early January at home before its big winning streak that led to the national title.

### MEN'S SOCCER

**Best**-NKU won six of its first eight games to start the season.

**Worst**-The Norse, however, finished with an 8-10-1 record and failed to make it to the GLVC tournament.

### WOMEN'S SOCCER

**Best**-NKU won its second consecutive GLVC title and made it to the NCAA Division II Final Four in only its third season of existence. Betsy Moore and Tricia Ruark also earned All-GLVC and All-Region honors.

**Worst**-NKU was shut out in the Final Four by Franklin Pierce.

### MEN'S TENNIS

**Best**-NKU went 9-9 in the regular season as it entered the GLVC Tournament.

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

**Best**-Jamie O'Hara once again earned All-GLVC honors, and the Norse won the GLVC tournament.

### VOLLEYBALL

**Best**-Jenny Jeremiah and Jessica Buroker earned All-GLVC and All-Region honors. NKU eventually went to the NCAA Division II Final Four before losing.

**Worst**-Liz Lamping sat out most of the season with an injury.

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WILL NOT SOON FORGET YOU!!!**  
*We bid you farewell and good luck!*

*...Not to say, a few of the professors aren't  
going to try real hard to forget some of us!!!*

**GRADUATION 2000**



## Accurate representation lacking

By Forrest Berkshire  
Managing Editor

The talk around Northern Kentucky University is all praise for our area legislators and the new budget that will put us on the road to competing on a level playing field with other state universities.

This praise is warranted from our perspective. Although the true praise belongs to Gov. Paul Patton for giving NKU a high priority in his original budget, our local legislators do fight hard to keep it there in a contentious session. There is some worrying if our representatives could ever agree, or if they would end without a budget at all.

This was an especially difficult task, considering the slash and burn tactics employed on the most progressive budget this state has ever seen by the Republican-dominated senate.

Somehow NKU emerged unscathed from the slashers' knives, but many others were not so fortunate.

Many a victim was hacked from the budget and left bloody and hurt on the Kentucky Senate floor. The ghosts of over 400 community programs will haunt the capital halls for the next two years, with no memorial to commemorate their brutal end.

One particular ghost that should haunt every Republican senator's dreams who voted against it represents over one million working fami-

lies in the Commonwealth. Patton's original budget proposal called for a tax cut on families making less than \$75,000 per year. This measure would have removed the poorest 200,000 families completely from the tax rolls. These are the families that need help the most if they are to take advantage of the growing economy and escape the burden of poverty.

Patton's proposal would have also included a slight increase for the highest wage earners. I emphasize slight.

I am left confused, after seeing this information, where the Republicans are coming from. I thought their battle cry was tax cuts. That is what I hear them talk so much about. Yet they vote down a measure that would significantly cut taxes.

Though it probably never had a snowball's chance in hell, the gas tax was another issue murdered in the state capital. This was partly due to bad timing, when the ridiculously low gas prices Americans have become accustomed to skyrocketed. We Americans love our cars, and cheap gas. We'll kill for cheap gas. Don't believe me? That's what our last war was about in case you don't know the whole story.

But I digress. The point is this modest increase in gas taxes would have funded a program to pave roads in less developed counties. One victim was Caldwell County, in which only 15 percent of its roads are

paved. Now I ask you, in a county where the vast majority of roads are gravel, how is it to develop? With no infrastructure, the county cannot grow, and its inhabitants cannot take advantage of the much-touted economy that is supposedly benefiting all.

Under Patton's proposal, in the course of several years, over 80 percent of this rural western Kentucky county's roads would have been paved, thus vastly improving the residents' quality of life and allowing industry to be introduced.

But no, a whole county's welfare is not as important as the inconvenience of consumers paying a few cents more on the gallon while filling their gas tanks.

I hope you are beginning to see a pattern here. Our lawmakers are elected representatives. Yet with the strong-arm tactics the Republicans demonstrated in the Senate this year, many people went without an accurate representation.

If you are wondering how this affects you, the student, just look at the facts. I'll bet a nickel I can count the number of students that make over \$75,000 a year on my fingers. This means that the tax relief in Patton's original budget would have helped the vast majority of students on this campus, probably for several years even after they graduate. Yet our area is dominated by these so-called representatives whose top priority seems to be the select few in the highest tax bracket.

## She's Got her Act together

By Anna Weaver  
Editor in Chief

You've seen the signs all over campus. Kara Clark's are simple and eye-catching, some stating, "Clark for President."

The other candidate for Student Government Association president, Elea Mihou, takes a different approach. One of hers reads "The Right President is Out There" over a picture of FBI agents Mulder and Scully.

The two candidates come from different areas of Northern Kentucky University, but their goals are the same: to win the SGA presidency.

In a powerful position traditionally held by men, it is refreshing to see two highly qualified women running for president.

Clark, currently vice president of public relations, is completing her third year on SGA and participated in Team 2000, which lobbied in Frankfurt to bring funding to NKU. Among her goals are service to students and more faculty support.

Mihou has experience on SGA

also, as a senator and chair of the grievance and affirmative action committee. Among her goals are to diversify SGA and bring a more accurate representation of students. Her first orders of business would be to find out what students really want from SGA.

Both the candidates are involved in other organizations on campus, giving them a wide range of student perspectives.

Clark, a Delta Gamma sorority member, is, among others, a member of Norse Leadership Society, the Speech Communications Club, Peers Educating Peers and Team 2000.

Mihou, founder of "Organization of the Year" recipient Students Together Against Racism, is a member of Common Ground, Latin American Awareness Group, Student Anthropology Association and United Nations Against Sweatshops.

Both of the candidates have had their fingers in a lot of pies. But more importantly, both of these students have been working since they were freshmen to improve NKU. These women are leaders and committed to

getting things done.

But the most important thing for students to do is vote this Wednesday or Thursday for their SGA representatives. I'm sick and tired of NKU being labeled an apathetic campus because some students act like they live in that silly box that sits on our the plaza.

We can whine and moan for the next seven months about having to choose between tweed-dee and tweedle-dum for the national presidency, but we can't whine about our local choice. You've got the opportunity to decide which candidate for SGA president best represents your interest and vote for that candidate.

There is no projected winner in this election, and every vote counts. Traditionally involved students, including fraternity and sorority members and residential students, vote for the presidency. Hey, I know I'm not one to let anyone else but myself decide my fate. Why should you?

And remember - if you don't vote, don't complain.

## Thank you from Coach Winstel

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Northern Kentucky University women's basketball team, I would like to thank *The Northerner* for all your great coverage of our team this season!

Your sports editor Bruce Reller and assistant sports editor Jason Crisler have done a great job sharing our season with the students, staff and faculty here at

Northern.

The pictures that you have had in the paper, particularly of our national championship, will give us a lifetime of memories.

We would also like to take this time to thank all of the fans who have come to see us play this season, and who have supported us throughout the year. WE LOVE YOU!!!

In addition to this, we would like to give a special thanks to our

Student Government Association

President Chris Boggs for his support during the season. Chris, thanks for coming to Pine Bluff, Ark., for cheering for us and thanks for working to make NKU even better. You're the GREATEST!!!!

Sincerely, Nancy Winstel and the NKU women's basketball team, Division II NCAA National Champions

## Banned website not just for entertainment

By Rick Amburgey  
News Editor

Over 200 colleges across the country have decided to ban students from using Napster, a site that allows users to download MP3 music files for free.

The reason given is apparently the files are so large it slows down the university's network. Roger Schuster, manager in Academic Computing, said it does not currently have a problem with Napster, but would ban such programs before removing any academic-oriented programs.

But one thing that is not calculated in the equation is Napster isn't only used as an entertainment device. Take me for example. I am a songwriter. In the past, the music business was a very hard business to break into because success and failure of a

potential artist laid in the hands of a few hot-shots at the record labels.

The Internet has provided us with the technology to put the music business back where it belongs - in the hands of the listeners.

The way it does this is simple: It allows artists to put samples of their material online for people to hear. If the listener likes it, they can then buy the complete album.

Napster is a wonderful tool for doing this. I can upload the MP3 of one of my songs and millions of users a day have the opportunity to hear the song for free.

As a country music songwriter, the college age group is the target audience of the songs that I write. By having 200 universities nationwide ban the use of Napster, it limits the number of possible consumers.

In my eyes, this is a form of censorship. I know I am not the only person that finds themselves in this situation. How many college students do you think are involved with bands? There is a lot, just on NKU's campus alone.

One could say that I could create a webpage and put my material there. However, in order to listen to it, a person would have to use an MP3 player to listen to the material.

For example, some of my songs are located on my publisher's webpage at [www.westat.net](http://www.westat.net). However, a user must use a RealAudio Player to play the songs.

My brilliant solution: I don't have one. Maybe universities should add more memory to the computer network. NKU has done it, so why can't other schools?

## NORTH POLL

### What are your plans for this summer?

Angie McCall  
Elementary Education  
Ashland

"I'm going home to work at the Marathon Ashland petroleum refinery and going on vacation to Jamaica."



Forest Daily  
Criminal Justice  
Union

"Working and summer school."



Jared Rump  
Construction Management  
Williamstown

"I will be joining the Air Force."



Amy Zerhusen

Undeclared  
Ryndland Lakes  
"Travelling, relaxing and working."



Brent Rowland

Undeclared  
Burlington  
"Working to pay off debts."



Jen Plunkett

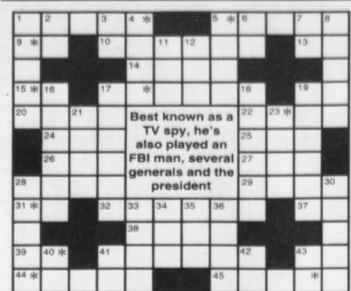
Accounting  
Hillsboro, Ohio  
"Working at Fifth Third bank and spending time with my friends and family."

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# -TV-CHALLENGE



The identity of the featured celebrity is found within the answers in the puzzle. In order to take the TV Challenge, unscramble the letters noted with asterisks within the puzzle.

- ACROSS
1. Family feud host

5. I Love Lucy role

9. Casebook; '48-'49 documentary series

10. Role on Happy Days

13. Word in the title of Kevin Poliak's sitcom

14. Shanna or Robert

15. Initials for McBeal's portrayer

17. With 32 Across, star of a sitcom (2)

19. Mark Sloan or Mark Greene; abbr.

20. Laugh-in regular

22. Works in the garden

24. Word with school or fly

25. Mary... Summers

26. Suffix for critic or real

27. Howard

28. Choir member

29. Diagnostic tests; for short

31. Step-step connector

32. See 17 Across

37. Urug's location

38. One of three for Columbus

39. Word in the title of Rena Sofer's series

41. Ivonne Coll's *The Bold and the Beautiful* role

43. Tiger's mate

44. 1957 hit song for Debbie Reynolds

45. Beaver Cleaver's pal
6. The House (95-'98)

7. Addressa McMichol's monogram

8. The Wonder (88-'93)

11. The...; '94 Kevin Spacey movie

12. Suffix for grump or bump

16. Law

17. Me...; '85 Holland Taylor series

18. Larry Finkelstein's daughter

19. Christopher of *Profiler*

21. ...57th; '85-'89 newsmagazine series

23. About... approximately

28. It's... Time (1966-67)

30. Rose Marie's role on *The Dick Van Dyke Show*

33. Teachers (1982-83)

34. Olivia Newton-John's age

35. Murder...; 60 Peter Falk film

36. Tooth's partner, in phrase

40. Zed Walton, to John

41. Time to see *Today*; abbr.

42. Monogram for Hawkeye's portrayer

43. Setting for *Evening Shade*; abbr.
- DOWN

1. Role on *The Addams Family*

2. ...Your Way; '53-'54 Bud Collyer quiz show

3. ...a Big Girl Now (80-'81)

4. Holliman or Hines

5. Two... Together; '61 James Stewart film
- Best known as a TV spy, he's also played an FBI man, several generals and the president
- © TVData Features Syndicate

# HOROSCOPE

By C.C. Clark - eTVData Features Syndicate

- April 23 - April 29, 2000
- Aries (March 21 - April 20)**  
There is something you really want to buy, but you may want to hold off a bit. There's a good chance you'll find it later at a cheaper price.
- Taurus (April 21 - May 20)**  
It doesn't seem possible, but life is about to get more hectic. Whatever comes your way, don't take yourself too seriously.
- Gemini (May 21 - June 20)**  
Sometimes Geminis become too self-involved. Find a way to give more time to your family and community.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 20)**  
You want to hide under the covers when life gets too crazy. Take a new approach: Eat healthy and get lots of exercise.
- Leo (July 21 - Aug. 21)**  
If you've been feeling a little under the weather, it may be stress-related. Learn to delegate at work.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 22)**  
You may be asked to take on new assignments at work or more responsibility at home. As long as you organize your time, everything should be fine.
- Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)**  
Check your bills and accounts carefully for errors. You may find a mistake in your favor. Make time to catch up on paperwork.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 22)**  
A friend or relative may need your help. A new romance or friendship is on the way. Keep an open mind when you meet new people.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 23 - Dec. 20)**  
A co-worker may be jealous of all the attention you are getting. Keep the lines of communication open at work and home.
- Capricorn (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19)**  
Your lack of energy could be due to poor diet and negative attitude. It is important for you to take better care of your body and spirit.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**  
There is no reason for you to take anyone's abuse. Do what is best for you. A friend may offer assistance.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)**  
Your social calendar may be fuller than usual. Take advantage of your popularity and have a little fun.
- Born this week:**

April 23 - Valerie Bertinelli

April 24 - Barbara Streisand

April 25 - Hank Azaria

April 26 - Carol Burnett

April 27 - Jack Klugman

April 28 - Ann-Margret

April 29 - Michelle Pfeiffer

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