

THE NORTHERNER

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Snapsheet:

NEWS

Speaker of the Kentucky House of Representatives Jody Richards (D-Bowling Green) visited NKU and spoke with the campus media. See what he said about his support for NKU and its students.

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Love and peace at NKU
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Jeff Stowers played on the NKU men's basketball team 1972-76. Read how his two sons are following in his footsteps.

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Here they are, Mr. and Miss NKU...

Are the Homecoming King and Queen elections just a glorified popularity contest? Does anyone really care who wins?

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WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



Got a mole infestation problem?

Go to this site for helpful hints on how to deal with these pesky buggers.

www.themoleman.com

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Jan. 31, 1968: Apollo 14 departs for the moon.

Feb. 1, 1790: First session of the U.S. Supreme Court held.

Feb. 3, 1994: Pres. Clinton ends Vietnam Trade Embargo.

Feb. 4, 1789: George Washington elected first President of the U.S.

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Audit of DPS reveals many problems

Report of departmental procedures yields 37 recommendations, cites poor leadership as main fault

By Forrest Berkshire
Editor in Chief

NKU's Department of Public Safety suffers from a lack of strong leadership, according to an audit of its departmental procedures released last week.

The audit contains 37 recommendations of reforms needed for DPS. The recommendations range from a better focus in its philosophy of Community Oriented Policing to cuts in personnel, such as the investigator position.

The report stated "The audit team does not have confidence in the abilities of the investigator." The current investigator is Sgt. Charlene Schweitzer, who also came under fire in the media for her handling of a rape case which occurred on campus in 1998. After reviewing investigation files they stated they "were substandard at best."

The files reviewed did not contain notes or supplemental records. One case dating back to February 2000 had investigative leads, however "the trail was so cold after nine months the likelihood of clearing this case is remote," the report

stated.

Of the other cases the on-site team noted that some investigative action was "basic only and not tactically sound." The report also states that their lack of faith in the investigator's abilities are supported by interviews with DPS officers, students and NKU staff.

The audit found the DPS "generally" in compliance with federal and state acts requiring campus crime reporting. However, the audit stated the department failed to comply on the weekends when the employee assigned to the record keeping is off-duty.

The report commended DPS for adopting a Community Oriented Policing approach to law enforcement, but stated that it had carried out the philosophy in name only.

It also stated DPS "has not done enough to attract and retain qualified professional officers." It recommended three factors to help recruitment and retention: a wage increase to bring DPS in line with other area police forces, participation in a high-risk retirement system and improved effectiveness for DPS.

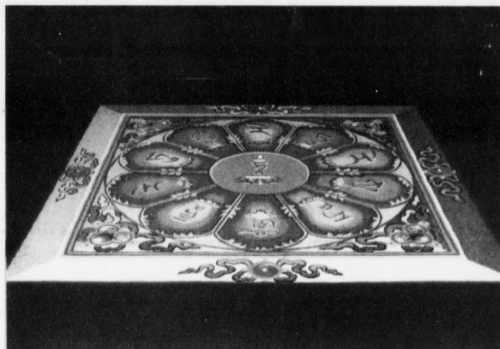
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Joe Rubin/Northern Kentucky Communications

University spokeswoman Deborah Reed presents Interim Director of DPS Jeff Butler (far left). Butler takes over for Chief Don McKenzie, who retired in the wake of an audit of DPS that blamed many of the department's problems on poor leadership.

Fruits of Their Labor



Dan Mecher/The Northerner

After hours upon hours of work and labor, the Buddhist Monks' completed mandala was on display, if only for a short period of time before it was ceremoniously destroyed.

Tuition increasing

By Sonja Domelan
Staff Writer

Northern Kentucky University has accepted a plan that will raise out-of-state tuition by only 1.8 percent, as opposed to the 5.5 percent previously proposed.

In September 1999, the board approved a 5.5 percent increase for out-of-state tuition. But after much consideration, the board decided to raise the tuition at the rate of 1.8 percent, which will make the out-of-state tuition increase by the same dollar amount as in-state tuition.

According to Gregory Stewart, associate vice president of enrollment management, the plan was approved to help in two areas. It is hoped that the plan will help retain current out-of-state students and send a message to prospective out-of-state students that NKU is sensitive to their needs.

Over the past several years, out-of-state enrollment has been slightly

declining. The Office of Student Financial Assistance has reported that out-of-state students have not been receiving enough federal aid and loans to cover their tuition and other expenses, which affected their decision whether to attend NKU or a different school with lower tuition.

"The cost of out-of-state tuition was starting to impact the enrollment of out-of-state students," bur-sar Bob Newman said.

"We hope that people enrolled will see this as an attempt to help financially," Stewart said.

Full-time out-of-state students will pay \$6,528 during the 2001-2002 academic year, which is an increase of \$120, or a 1.8 percent increase. Kentucky residents will pay \$2,280 during the next academic year, which is also an increase of \$120 or 5.5 percent. If the out-of-state tuition were raised by the 5.5 percent, as previously proposed, the dollar amount would have been three times as high.

NKU internet service connects students to potential employers

By Sarah Krutzkamp
Staff Reporter

Northern Kentucky University students preparing to graduate can open a window of opportunity for a mere \$25.

Career Connections, sponsored by the Career Development Center, is a web-based referral system that facilitates the initial contact between a student and an interested employer. The program sends the resumes of qualified students to local companies interested in filling a vacant position. The company then contacts qualified students for an interview.

The fee includes an informational booklet containing a contract for students to complete. After the contract is signed, the CDC issues the student a PIN access to register the information into a computer.

Coordinator of Graduate and Alumni Employment Marcia Miller directs the program. "This program is a great way for graduating seniors to initiate the job search," Miller said. However, she said she believes traditional job search methods are still important.

Any senior preparing to gradu-

ate during the current academic semester is eligible to participate. Miller said the program works because employers are interested in hiring Northern Kentucky University graduates because of the strong work ethic they bring to the job.

Betsy John Jennings, director of the CDC also said she believes the program is valuable because of the support it offers to a student, as compared to other web-based career sites. "Career Connections is a great way for students to get their name out there."

Career Connections also teaches the student proper conduct during the job search. A student missing a scheduled interview will be deactivated from the system. "The student can only be reactivated after they send an apology letter to the employer," Miller said.

The CDC web page offers a Career Classified link for students looking for a job after graduation. The center also has files of job openings for students looking for a job after graduation or co-op and internship.

Undeclared students can turn to the center for information on majors offered at NKU.

Does gender a king make?

By Rachel Dietz
Photo Editor

For the first time in Northern Kentucky University history, the ballot for Homecoming King will include a female candidate.

After receiving the consent of several campus officials over the past month, senior Theresa Geisen will be in the running for this year's crown.

"This was not a difficult decision," said Dean of Students Kent Kelso, who approved of Geisen's decision to run. "We are a state institution that does not discriminate on gender."

Geisen decided to run for king after she viewed the application form to be a Homecoming candidate. The form upset her because it asked for the age and sex of the applicant.

"By asking what my sex is they automatically put me into the category of wanting to run for queen, which is perceived as an inferior position to king," Geisen said. "So by virtue, by being a woman I am automatically put into an inferior category."

Geisen said she feels that an applicant's age and sex are not pertinent to a student wanting to be a Homecoming candidate.

"Do I have less school spirit than a traditional student because of my age, sex or ethnicity? I think not," Geisen said.

Geisen said one of her main goals in running for king was simply to have the applications revised to omit questions regarding the applicant's age and sex.

"The application should simply ask whether you want to run for king or queen," Geisen said. "And they have



Rachel Dietz/The Northerner

Theresa Geisen is breaking tradition this year by being the first woman to run for Homecoming King.

already told me that next year that is what it will say so I've already accomplished my main goal in running."

Before handing in her application, on which she answered "N/A" to the questions of age and sex, Geisen checked the rules and regulations for Homecoming 2001 to see if it specified that a candidate for king had to be male.

Besides speaking with Kelso, Geisen also called University Attorney Sara Siebthorn to make sure there was no way that the Office of Student Life could refuse her application.

According to the Homecoming application form, each candidate was required to submit a two-page essay

with his/her application. The subject of the essay was, "If you could change one thing about NKU, what would that one thing be and why?"

Geisen wrote in her essay that she would like to change the prejudices on campus such as ageism and sexism. She said she hears people talking about gender equity on campus and how NKU is achieving it. In her opinion, it has not.

Her running has been met with mixed reactions from the other candidates.

Margo Wagner, one of the candidates for queen, said she doesn't understand why Geisen feels the elec-

See KING, Page 7

Kickin' Up Salt



Physical Plant workers drove through campus last week flinging salt to make the trek around campus a little easier. Now if they can just shorten the walk from the parking lots.

Dan Mecher/The Northerner

Speaker of Kentucky House of Representatives visits NKU

Cheryl Ritchie
Staff Writer

It is all about Northern Kentucky University, with a twist, said Rep. Jody Richards (D-Bowling Green), Kentucky House of Representatives.

Richards visited NKU Thursday and talked with WKU. His main focus was how he supports the growth of NKU and the request for a new arena.

"In 1997, changes in higher education put Kentucky in the forefront in the nation," said Richards.

Richards said he talked with past Gov. Louie B. Nunn a couple weeks ago about his views and visions on NKU, and Nunn considered his number-one accomplishment NKU's growth and development.

"I certainly favor the arena," Richards said, "I think institutions

need these buildings to have special events held."

Richards said the funding for the arena will not be available in 2001, but it may be available in 2002. Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Tony Atwater said, "I strongly agree with speaker Richards. I hope the state legislature supports us on the arena because we need it."

"I feel it is really important to have students that are involved in Team 2000, who supports NKU," said Richards. Team 2000 is a group of students who lobbied the state legislature last year to increase NKU's funding. It has been reorganized into Team 2002, with the same goal of lobbying on behalf of NKU in the 2002 Regular Session.

"We are going to continue to help NKU to provide opportunities for students who want to attend,"

Richards said.

"The House intends to work with president Votruba, faculty, students and alumni. NKU is one of the fastest growing universities. It has a lot of potential," Richards said.

"I believe that education is the answer for Kentucky. I'm excited about Kentucky and I think we are moving in the right direction," said Richards.

When asked about last year's protracted budget battle Richards said that he thought the budget that passed was good. It met the needs of NKU. Getting to it wasn't always pretty, though, he said.

"That is the way the process works. I'm sure you wouldn't even want to change the process. Everyone has to debate his or her views. You should really be concerned with the final result and final product," Richards said.

president told the officer if the same fraternity had something to do with this bench, they would handle it between the different organizations.

An officer responded to a student who said her keys were missing, her alarm clock was broken and her cell phone charger was taken in her apartment on campus. She had been in a verbal argument with one of her roommates the day before his roommates. The officer advised her to call DPS when her roommates got home. The roommates stated they did not know anything about the missing items. Officer Lynch told them to separate rooms for the night and to go to residential life in the morning regarding the living situation.

Approximately ten minutes after the talk, the roommates called and said they found the missing keys.

D.P.S. REPORTS

It seemed to be a chain reaction when the fire alarms went off last week. A young father and his two children were in the Lucas Administration building when one of the children pulled the fire alarm. The alarms in Landrum went off at the same time and were supposed to be linked to the same system.

The father told witnesses "my child did it," and left the building quickly.

In parking lot T, a green Mazda was parked in violation of the signs. An officer was getting out of his vehicle and it began to roll into the back of the Mazda. He tried to put on the brakes but was unsuccessful. The officer was issuing a parking citation when he noticed that there was a blank envelope under the windshield wiper to make it look like they already had a citation. A note was left with the citation telling the owner to contact DPS in regards

to the damage to the vehicle. There was minor damage to both vehicles. Highland Heights Police Chief Mullins arrived and took a state report.

A fraternity bench was reported missing last week. Officer Baker spoke to the president of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and said their bench was missing last year around springtime. He stated that it was a rival fraternity was responsible for a missing bench last year. They were supposed to rebuild a new bench for damage it last year.

It is unknown if the incident was done by the same fraternity. The bench is described as being brown in color and estimated at \$250.00. The

Library Director search continues Committee looking for direction for 21st Century

By Hlevani Baloyi
Managing Editor

A search committee seeks a candidate to fill the position of Associate Provost of Library Services with a theme of how to create the ideal library of the 21st century. This committee was put together to fill the position, after learning that the person who had accepted the position was involved in a car accident.

According to Pat Moynahan, chairman of the search committee, an advertisement was placed in educational publications and academic library web sites for applicant to learn of the position.

The candidate must have a masters degree in library sciences and at least five years of working experience.

"They must bring librarian administrative skill to give direction to the library in terms of services for faculty and students, have personnel

management and financial administrative skills," he said.

Moynahan said that the university is well versed in how technology, databases and books are utilized in the library; however, it is the job of the candidate to convince the committee of how these resources can be best used in the 21st century.

The search committee heard a presentation this week and will conduct two more in the next two weeks.

The first candidate for the position, Arne Almqvist, Assistant Dean of Libraries at the University of North Texas, presented his ideas to a panel of 11 committee members.

Almqvist said his main focus is to learn the needs of the students and provide the services to fulfill those needs.

"I would like to bring proactive trends to the library which will help fully enhance the product and services for non-traditional students at home as well as the regular student

body," he said.

Almqvist said he agrees that libraries should keep up with latest technological changes because more resources are a reflection of the future.

"I hope to support higher education and bring positive challenges," he said.

Almqvist said he was attracted to Kentucky for not only the position but because Northern Kentucky University is located in a smaller environment.

The search committee will meet with two more candidates in the next two weeks and evaluate their credentials and meet them on a personal level.

Moynahan said, "We hope to fill the position as soon as possible and once we have passed all the evaluation to the Provost Rogers Redding and President Votruba, they will assess our feedback and select the candidate."



Dan Mecher/The Northerner

Speaker of the Kentucky House of Representatives, Jody Richards, speaks with WKU on the future of NKU in the 2002 General Assembly. NKU's main concern is funding for the proposed Arena.

February sees several retirements DPS Chief Don McKenzie retires amid DPS shake-up

By Scott Wartman
Staff Writer

When the sun rises on Thursday, Feb. 1, Northern Kentucky University will lose four veteran staff members.

Don McKenzie, director of the Department of Public Safety, Barbara Herald, benefits manager for 27 years, Terry Hamm, a member of the labor crew for 15 years and Ray Scott, computer consultant for 15 years, all are retiring on the first of the month.

McKenzie, whose 22-year tenure with DPS has seen NKU enrollment double, said establishing a close relationship between the police and the community is his proudest accom-

plishment as DPS chief. After becoming chief in 1998, McKenzie said he feels he has oriented a community police policy.

"We got out of the car and interacted with people," McKenzie said.

Overall, McKenzie said his experience with NKU students has shown them to be a pretty law-abiding group, estimating around only 5 to 10 percent of the enrollment runs into problems with DPS.

McKenzie said the future of DPS looks bright even though a replacement has not yet been named. The department has come under some criticism stemming from a Channel 9 11 report on a 1998 rape case on campus. The report alleged DPS mishandled the investigation of the case.

"Throughout the years every law enforcement agency takes its lumps," McKenzie said. "DPS will go on. Every community needs law enforcement."

As for his future, McKenzie said he plans on moving down to Louisville and playing a lot of golf.

Terry Hamm said he is also looking forward to his upcoming free time.

"I want to do what I want, when I want and where I want," Hamm said jovially.

Hamm said his departure is bittersweet and he will miss many of his co-workers.

Herald said she is morose about leaving NKU as well.

"The people here are like my family," she said.

New organization focuses on environmental issues

By Karen Andrew
Staff Writer

ECOS wants Northern Kentucky University students from all backgrounds and interests who share one concern - the environment.

ECOS (Environmentally Concerned Organization of Students) is an NKU interdisciplinary organization whose purposes include environmental awareness, education and activism.

"The club is not meant only for science majors," said ECOS president Ben Pollitt. "We want anyone interested in the environment to join."

Activities of the club include recycling, speakers on and off campus, Earth Day, formation of a new web page and fund raising.

In the Jan. 24 meeting Dr. Miriam Kannan, Biological Sciences professor and club adviser, illustrated one form of fund raising - a small tub containing

used computer cartridges.

"We get money for sending used computer and toner cartridges to a recycling company," said Kannan. She also discussed the paper-recycling program, including the yellow plastic trash cans and cardboard bins. In the works are plans to assign bins to campus organizations to adopt, be responsible for and decorate.

Also during the meeting, officers were elected: Ben Pollitt for president and Natasha Yust, vice president. Coordinator positions include Kathy Koerner and Amie Griffin, university coordinators, Keri Paddock, off-campus coordinator, and Natasha Yust, student/faculty outreach coordinator. Involved with web page formation is the other faculty advisor, Dr. Jim Luken, Biological Science professor.

Students are urged to attend the next meeting in room 534 of the Natural Sciences building at noon, Wed., Jan. 30. Pollitt said to bring your lunch and ideas.

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Buddhist Monks bring their beliefs to NKU

By Scott Wirtman
Staff Writer

Buddhist Monks blessed Northern Kentucky University with peace and prosperity last Tuesday and Wednesday by building a colorful sand mandala and ceremoniously deconstructing it.

Over a span of two days, a fastidious ticking noise pervaded the University Center lobby as seven Buddhist monks deftly sprinkled sacred powder from husks to form the sand mandala's intricate circular pattern.

The fruit of the monks' labor was a collage of weaving patterns of vibrantly colored sand. The mandala radiated hues of red, green, blue and yellow in the UC lobby.

Jamyang lama, one of the monks who is a resident at the Dagom Gaden Tensong monastery in Bloomington, Ind., said the making of a sand mandala is a positive action and, therefore, brings positive energy. Jamyang said each mandala represents a certain spiritual truth or a deity of the Buddhist religion.

The mandala made at NKU was of Tara, the female form of Buddha which Jamyang said is known for bestowing long life and healing. The mandala represented Tara by depicting her symbol in the middle with Tibetan lettering imploring her protection. Last week's mandala said "Oh Mother, liberate us from the suffering."

Not only does the mandala bring providence to NKU, Jamyang said that students can benefit from it by being exposed to different ideas.

Lots of students will be exposed to the diversity of the culture and at this young age, they need to grow spiritually and intel-

lectually," Jamyang said.

Along with Jamyang, there were six other monks who visited NKU, three of which are from the Gaden Sharste monastery in Tibet.

The monks from Tibet are on a world peace tour with the theme of "love, peace and compassion," Jamyang said.

Jamyang said the way they spread this message is by visiting places like NKU.

"To generate peace, we need to work through the grass-root level and convey the message of peace, love and compassion to the mind of every individual," Jamyang said.

The monks concluded their visit on Wednesday evening by brushing away the sand of the mandala and parceling it in small plastic envelopes to be given to those in attendance for good luck.

The incessant ticking noise of the monks at work was replaced in the UC lobby by the haunting harmonies of the Buddhist Monks chanting.

The chanting seemed to have a magnetic effect on the crowd. As the monks' voices echoed throughout the building as calmly as one would people filed in through the doors and circled around the monks to see what was going on.

Methodically, the monks calmly destroyed that which they had worked so hard on. One of the monks took a blade and crosshatched the mandala as calmly as one would cut a pizza. Then a brush was taken to each section until all that remained of the dazzling masterpiece was a heap of grey sand.

While most of the sand was given to those in attendance, the monks placed some in a ceramic jar which they were adorned with fine cloth and gold ornaments



Dan Mecher/The Northerner

Four Buddhist Monks work diligently in the University Center's Plaza making a mandala out of brightly-colored sacred powder.

and ceremoniously sprinkled the sand in Lake Inferior.

Travis French, a junior speech communication major at NKU, said he really enjoyed seeing the mandala ceremony.

"I thought it was a great experience," French said. "It was a great chance to learn about another culture and something I would have never had a chance to see."

Eleta Mihou, a senior who assisted the Office of Affirmative Action to bring the monks on campus, said she was pleased with how the event went and said many students took an interest in the monks.

Yohse said that the trip will be a good time, but it will also be a good learning experience.

"We'll benefit from the resort elements of living in the Caribbean, but we're also going to break through the facade to see how people really live there," Yohse said. "Many Americans have a false view of life in the Caribbean. It's easy for (Americans) to just see an image of the beach, but there's

In addition to living in a monastery in Indiana, Jamyang also spends time at a new Buddhist monastery in Clifton called the Gaden Sampod-Ling monastery at 541 Howell Ave. Every Thursday night, Jamyang said they hold classes on spirituality and Buddhism to the public.

Cheryl Nunez, director of Affirmative Action and Multicultural Affairs, said she was proud to be able to bring the monks on campus.

"We try to make NKU a window to the world for the community," Nunez said.

To learn more about the monks of the Bloomington, Ind. monastery and Clifton monastery visit the Web site: www.gaden.com

Black History Month Events

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, February 1

1:40-2:55 p.m.
University Center Lobby
Student Government Association Black History Month Kick-off Event.
Speaker: Rev. Harry L. White

Tuesday, February 6

7:00 p.m.
College of Arts and Sciences Lecture Series: Photographer Mary Ellen Mark Lecture and Book Signing

Wednesday, February 7

1:00 p.m.
Laudrum 506
College of Arts and Sciences Lecture Series: "I'll be my hair, men's clothing I'll put on: 'Warrior Women in Folk Songs and History'"
Guest Performer: Dr. Dianne Dugaw

2:00-2:50 p.m.

Administrative Center 506
Poetry Reading by Frank X. Walker, author of "Affiliachia"

Thursday, February 8

3:00 p.m.
Laudrum 506
Military History Lecture Series: "Myths, Misrepresentations, and Misconceptions: Samori and Resistance to Colonial Conquest in West Africa 1881-1898"

Friday, February 9

11:00-11:50 a.m.
BEP 200
Black History Month Keynote Address: Speaker: The Honorable Cole Fields, Louisiana State Senator

Tuesday, February 13

12:15-1:30 p.m.
BEP 200
Black History Month Keynote Address: "Workers and Race in U.S. History: Three Dramas"
Speaker: David Roediger

Tuesday, February 20

10:50 a.m.-12:05 p.m.
University Center Ballroom
Panel Discussion: Making it in Business: An African-American Perspective

Wednesday, February 21

6:00-7:30 p.m.
University Center Ballroom
Black History Month Dinner: "Leadership for Changing Times"
Speaker: Charles Whitehead

Friday, February 23

7:00-9:00 p.m.
None Commen 117
"Un-Doin' Racism Workshop"

Saturday, February 24

9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
None Commen 117
"Un-Doin' Racism Workshop"

Sunday, February 25

1:00-5:00 p.m.
None Commen 117
"Un-Doin' Racism Workshop"

Wednesday, February 28

3:00-5:00 p.m.
University Center 108
College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Workshop:
"Afro-centric Pedagogy and Classroom Instruction: An Exploration of the Affective Domain"

Visit Barbados through CCSA

By James Proffitt
Assistant Features Editor

Have you ever read a story on King Arthur, and then wished you could walk around Camelot to see what it's like? Many Northern Kentucky University students this summer have a similar kind of opportunity this summer.

The Cooperative Center for Study Abroad (CCSA) is an organization that includes 23 different universities throughout the United States, and gives students an opportunity to

study throughout the world. This summer, among other trips, the CCSA will be offering a course in Contemporary Afro-Caribbean Literature, which will include a 19-day trip to Barbados, NKU's own Dr. Kristine Yohse will be teaching the course.

"We will be doing a combo of reading, experiencing, visiting sights and learning about the places where the stories came from," Yohse said. "It'll be a really good chance for students to get an inside view on the literature. By living there, and seeing, and learning unique elements of Barbados,

students will be able to better understand the literature, and that's the whole point (of the trip)," she continued.

Yohse said that the trip will be a good time, but it will also be a good learning experience.

"We'll benefit from the resort elements of living in the Caribbean, but we're also going to break through the facade to see how people really live there," Yohse said. "Many Americans have a false view of life in the Caribbean. It's easy for (Americans) to just see an image of the beach, but there's

what we see in the media. I want to get beyond the stereotype in this course. In this course, I want to go behind the scenes, and learn the reality. And we'll learn more of the reality and history through the sights we'll see."

Other trips to Barbados will study social work, nursing and allied health sciences, and political science. The trips are worth three credit hours, and will cost \$2,495. The application deadline is March 1, and the trips will start on June 7, and run through June 25.

NKU students looking for employment may want to consider investigating positions at Erlanger, Florence and Turfway. Wilder indicated it was not currently hiring but that more employees would be needed in the spring and particularly the summer. Turfway, however, confirmed it was looking for good workers. "Yes [we are hiring] but we've been hiring for the past two months [so positions are limited]...and actually I would appreciate some college kids in here because we have midnight shows on the weekends and none of the high school kids can work them. When summer comes we will definitely be hiring even more."

New cinema offers cheaper ticket prices

By Jenny Plelsen
Staff Writer

December 22 marked the grand opening of the Great Escape 14 cinema in Wilder with its stadium seating, Dolby digital surround sound and competitive admission prices.

The Great Escape 14 shows first-run movies with admission prices ranging from \$5.00 for all shows before 6 p.m. and \$7.50 for adults, \$6.50 for students with I.D., and \$5.00 for children and seniors after 6 p.m. By contrast Florence Cinema and Showcase Cinemas Erlanger charge \$8.25 for adults and \$5.50 for children and seniors after 6 p.m. and matinees are \$5.50. The Danbury Dollar Cinemas Turfway offers second run movies for \$2.50 for

all shows. The Great Escape 14 is the only Northern Kentucky cinema to offer student rates.

Since its opening, The Great Escape 14 cinema has had very good business. "I think that it has a lot to do with the area because Campbell County and parts of Kenton County have no entertainment complexes at all," said Connie Walter, theatre manager of Great Escape 14. Walter also attributed the cinema's success to the fact that Northern Kentucky University was located so near. "[NKU] students only have a five minute drive and when they get out of school they can come right here. I've noticed that [students do that] a lot and they love it. I have heard [nothing but] good things about the stadium seating, the free refills, [and] the digital sound," Walter said.

The Great Escape 14 also offers a centralized game room, the Gamescape, that consists of two floors and is host to skeeball machines, sit-down racing games, and most notably a mechanized fortune teller that will read fortunes for a few quarters. Gamers can also play various games to earn tickets which can be used toward candy and small prizes.

Comparing food and drink prices at all four Northern Kentucky cinemas was interesting since they varied by only 25 to 50 cents from one another. National Amusements owns both the Florence and Showcase Erlanger cinemas so their prices were the same and happened to be the most expensive. For a large drink one would pay \$3.25 and for a large popcorn \$4.75. The Danbury Dollar Cinemas

Turfway offers a large drink for \$3.25 and a large popcorn for \$4.50 whereas the Great Escape 14 charges only \$2.83 for a large drink and \$4.01 for a large popcorn.

However, the Great Escape 14's prices can be deceptive since they do not include sales tax like the other three cinemas. When sales tax is included a large drink is really \$3.00 and a large popcorn is \$4.25.

Unlike Florence and Erlanger, Wilder offers one free refill on all popcorn and drink sizes including slushies and Turfway offers free refills only on large drinks and large popcorns.

When inquiring whether business has been affected by the opening of the new cinema in Wilder, Turfway's assistant manager Amy Harris said, "Not at

Pete's Poetry Corner is looking for NKU students' poems. All submissions should be e-mailed to northerner@nku.edu

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Pete's Poetry Corner

It was one of those days
a long time ago
I dismissed you
and discounted you
and for what?
Coolness' sake?
But eventually you stop fighting
it's much easier to pick the right
battles
the problem was
I wasn't fighting the war against
you or what I thought I was
I would look across the lines of
battle
and notice
By golly, those faces look eerily

similar to mine
and in those happenstance encounters
when we talked
it sounded strangely like
they believed in the same things I
did
but I am a hard-headed sot
it took me a while to realize
that those folks were fighting
the same war I was
I just had no clue who the real
enemy was

By Peter W. Zubaty

A new Homecoming tradition recommended

By Dan Mecher

News Editor

It reminds me of an old *Saved by the Bell* episode. The lovable buffoon Screech, brilliantly portrayed by actor Dustin Diamond, wises a tear by his eye as he struts delicately across the stage after winning the Ms. Bayside Beauty Pageant.

Okay, maybe I just watched too much television as a child.

However, with senior Theresa Geisen's entry into this year's Homecoming King race, I just can't help but wonder if our little university is on the verge of a similar Kodak moment.

Conceding against what she seems to perceive as a sexist and male-dominated institution, Geisen has entered herself into NKU Homecoming history as the first female to go head-to-head with the male candidates for the crown. Congratulations and good luck, I suppose, Ms. Geisen.

I must admit that I have deliberately paid no attention to the Homecoming Elections in the past, and I feel as though I'm committing an act of self-betrayal by writing this piece. My motives could not be more sincere, though, I assure you. Please listen, Ms. Geisen, as I implore you to drop out of this contest.

You seem to be a very well-rounded person. You are vice president of Common Ground, vice president of Phi Alpha Theta, president of the school's feminist group, and student coordinator for the Music Concert. You also speak out for what you believe. There are few things more admirable than defending one's principles. Why must you taint your fine history at NKU by participating in the Homecoming Election, one of the silliest college traditions ever established?

The origin of the Homecoming ritual dates back to long before anyone in modern times remembers, and is still a mystery to this day. Historians at the Department of Homecoming Research have been working diligently for some time now in the efforts to figure out why they have been assigned to such a ridiculous assignment. Further studies have revealed a high level of boredom among the historians.

Winning the crown appears to be a no easy task. From what I understand, victory requires the candidate to spread himself as thinly as possible over the course of his time at NKU.

Judging from the other candidates'

records that hang on display in the University Center lobby, one must have at least 5,000 extra-curricular and community involvement activities under his belt to have a fighting chance in the race. To accomplish this a student would have needed to participate in 83 activities per week for four semesters. Even if the candidate can manage this, he still has to muster the energy to smile at the interview committee.

Of course, none of this even matters if the candidate does not gain enough votes from the student body to become one of the five finalists who go before the committee.

Before even entering the contest, candidates should first ask themselves a series of questions: "How many friends do I have?", they should consider "Are they too lazy to vote? How many acquaintances can I make before election day?" Their decision to run should be based on the answers they come up with.

Take me, for example. Logically, with my total of about three friends (one of which being imaginary), I definitely should not enter the race. Moreover, I would most likely lose more friends than I would gain by running.

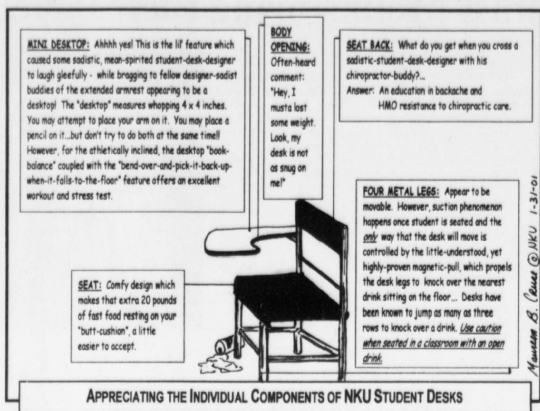
Surely, Ms. Geisen has thought all the way through her decision, so it is unlikely that my words will have any effect on her. However, perhaps I can suggest a few changes that could make the Homecoming race less of a sham and more interesting.

While sitting at my desk for the past 30 seconds, I have developed a detailed plan for alterations of the tradition.

First-off, the candidates will be anonymous, turning the election into something resembling the gameshow classic, *Let's Make a Deal*. A brown paper bag must be worn over the head of each candidate during the weeks preceding the election. The only contact with the public that candidates will be allowed will be in the form of a one-sentence essay response to the question, "What is the point of having a Homecoming King?" The essays will be posted in the University Center.

Five finalists will be elected by the students, and only then will their identities be revealed. Immediately following, the ultimate winner will be decided by a no-holds-barred game of Trivial Pursuit.

Anyone who thinks I'm on to something, please send feedback. Just so there is no confusion, all of the above can be applied to the election for Homecoming Queen.



Perhaps not in our lifetime, but equality an obtainable goal

By Rick Amburgey
Special Projects Editor

It's been 33 years since Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

As a nation, we made strides to achieve equality for African-Americans and other minorities during that time. But how far have we really come?

In spite of efforts to move forward, it seems issues such as racism, racially-motivated protests and police brutality provide stumbling blocks all too frequently.

Dr. Michael Washington, director of Afro-American Studies at Northern Kentucky University, has encountered some of these problems first-hand.

Washington said he was arrested during his freshman year in college by the Montgomery (Ohio) police department for assaulting an athlete at the Sycamore High School. However, he said the athlete told police Washington didn't assault him.

"It happened like this: I was walking down the hallway because it let me see clearly there was racism in the criminal justice department," Washington said.

Washington said that incident motivated him to become a college professor so he would not "have to be subjected to that type of intimidation on a daily basis."

Although Washington has become a successful professional, he said his problems with racial prejudice had not ended. He said he has been pulled over by police seven times since he has been at NKU. He was pulled over once coming to work and twice leaving work.

"Once, after teaching an evening class and leaving my office, a newly-hired campus police officer demanded I show my ID as if an African-American could not have an office on this campus," he said.

He recounted one incident in the late 1980s when he was pulled over for allegedly running a traffic light in Cincinnati. He said that officer put a gun in his face.

I was saddened to hear about these injustices. I knew we lived in an imperfect world, but I suppose I thought we had progressed farther.

Washington said to look at where we are now requires that we look at where we have come from.

According to Washington, racism can be traced back to birth of the nation, because the Constitution "condoned treating people of color as non-human beings and certainly non-citizens."

"Hence, racism was built into the fabric of the political, social, and economic structure of the United States," he said.

African-Americans were not granted the right to vote until the 15th amendment was passed, nearly a century after the Constitution

was originally ratified.

The struggle for equality continued throughout the next century with Plessy v. Ferguson, Jim Crow laws, anti-equality protests and the civil rights movements.

Therefore, for more than two centuries, minorities in this "free" country have borne the heavy weights of oppression on their shoulders.

The effects of the last two centuries cannot be easily forgotten. I do believe we are putting the right foot forward, however.

Most of the people I have met at NKU are very open-minded. It is a very positive sign that organizations such as Students Together Against Racism are so popular and well-respected.

Such trends send the message that we, as a generation, are more accepting of the equality of all human beings than the generations that preceded us.

In order to make further progress, we need to change society's way of thinking. The key to doing that is to continue sending the message that we accept everyone as equals.

Changing tradition is not an easy task and will continue to take time.

I am sure I will not live to see a world of total equality. I have doubts that my children will. If our children follow our footsteps, I truly believe that total equality is an obtainable goal.

Just remember Rome wasn't built in a day, either.

NORTH POLL

What do you think of a female running for Homecoming King?

James Murphy
Information BFA
Fr. Thomas

"I think it's great. Traditionally king denotes a hierarchy over queen, that is the gender role we play into. It is nice to see someone break out of these gender roles in society."

Kimberly Sorrentino
History
Rustelville

"I feel it is retarded because the concept of king and queen has been around throughout history and it is a part of peoples culture."

Greg Eubank
Undeclared
Independence

"I think it's ridiculous because the concept of king and queen has been around throughout history and it is a part of peoples culture."



Adil Insaah
Information Systems
Cincinnati

"I don't agree with it because girls should be in the same group as other girls and boys with other boys."

Julie Stratton
Theatre
Highland Heights

"I understand the feminist point of view but there is no difference in the role of Homecoming king and queen."

Annie Morgan
Graphic Design
New Richmond

"I don't agree with her because just because you have a title (Queen) doesn't show what you are capable of."

THE NORTHERNER

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Stowers family pipeline to NKU hoops

By Jason R. Crisler
Production Manager

For many sons, beating their fathers one-on-one on the families' driveway basketball hoop was quite an accomplishment.

Most didn't have to play against someone who scored 1,410 points in their college career, led the Norse men's team to its first winning season, and is a member of NKU's Hall of Fame.

Sophomore point guard Brenden Stowers and his younger brother and future teammate Jordan Stowers, a senior at Simon Kenton High School, grew up doing just this against their father Jeff Stowers.

The similarities between the three of them is evident when one first meets them.

They look you in the eye, give a firm handshake and smile. All three enter a room and slide smoothly into their chairs.

All three are soft spoken. Their

words roll off their tongues with the same ease and grace that they display moving through a room.

Jeff, a graduate of Covington Latin High School, played for the Norse from 1972-76 and was inducted into the NKU Hall of Fame in 1999.

Yet stats and recognition wasn't his motivation. "It was a team player," he said. "I had a role and did it."

Jeff said he was surprised by his induction.

He didn't put up gaudy numbers in his career. Despite being

eighteen all-time in points scored and ninth in career points per game, averaging 14.8, he was one of the first three men's basketball players inducted.



Jason R. Crisler/The Northerner
Jeff (left), Brenden (middle) and Jordan Stowers are the past, present and future of NKU basketball.

Jeff said he did the intangibles. He also led the Norse to a 17-9 record his senior year.

Mate Hils, NKU's basketball coach from 1971-80 said that Jeff was as talented over a span of time, especially since the Southern Indiana loss and the Norse are the defending NCAA Division II National Champions. "We have a really competitive group," he said.

As I reflect on this team, I realize that they are not a "one-man" show. The Norse are the defending NCAA Division II National Champions. They have won 39 of their last 41 games overall and have won 54 of their 159 career games. NKU is also 15-2 overall and 9-2 in the GLVC this season.

NKU sophomore Bridget Flanagan has definitely stepped up in place of Tuchfarber (when she was out in the starting lineup. Sophomore Amy Mobley is a force at both ends of the floor. Of course, junior Michelle Cottrell is a daily scoring threat.

There is no doubt in my mind that this team can beat anybody even if they only had five healthy players that could play. Injuries have not slowed down the Norse in the past, and I don't believe it will slow them down now.

I think coach Winstel summed it up best, "You just have to knock on wood."

der with two road wins this past week. The Norse, second in the conference with a 9-2 record, beat Quincy University Thursday and the University of Missouri-St. Louis Saturday.

NKU first defeated Quincy 76-64 as junior Carl Mitchell racked up 22 points and nine rebounds to help lead to the Norse win. Junior Craig Sanders added 17 points in the game.

The Norse, who are now 10-1 lifetime against the Hawks, made 12 three-pointers in the game. Brian Lawton made four of them for 21 points.

NKU, ranked No. 3 in the Division II poll and No. 3 in the Great Lakes Region, led by five at the half and never looked back in pulling out the victory.

The Norse then hooked up with UMSL as NKU beat them by a score of 78-66.

Sanders scored 18 points, and NKU senior Todd Clark came away with 17 points in the team's win. Also, Norse guard Craig Conley contributed 14 points and 10 rebounds in the win.

NKU improved to 18-2 and 9-2 in the GLVC with the two road wins.

ented a player as any one that ever played at NKU.

"He had quickness, smoothness and uncanny moves around the basket," he said.

Hils said that during a game in which NKU was playing Xavier University of Marquette University and the University of Dayton watching.

Hils said that the scouts asked him who Jeff was because he was the best player they had seen all year. "Here

was two scouts from Division I schools saying that a player from a Division II school was the best they'd seen all year," he said.

Mary Stowers, Jordan and Brenden's mother, was a cheerleader at NKU when Jeff played there.

"They get their athletic ability from her," Jeff said. "She'll tell you that."

Head men's basketball coach Ken Shields said that she still resembles a cheerleader today screaming from the stands.

"She gives us pep-talks before our games," Brenden said.

Mary also looks in the paper to see how many points opposing players score and gives her sons scouting reports, he said.

The support and advice of their parents is evident in Brenden's and Jordan's actions on and off the court.

On the court they are unselfish, almost to a fault.

Brenden, who has played as well as anyone for the Norse in recent weeks, had a huge game for NKU against rival Kentucky Wesleyan at Regents Hall last week. He scored 16 points, handed out six assists, all while going 12 for 12 from the free-throw line. For

the season, he is averaging 7.5 points a game and is second on the team with 40 assists.

Brenden hasn't demonstrated all of his scoring abilities this season because this year's Norse squad is very deep.

Lake his father, who worried more about winning than personal accolades, Brenden is fine with that. He said that NKU has "too many weapons" to worry about his own stats.

Shields said that Brenden is an all-purpose guard. He is just as capable of scoring 20 points as dishing out 10 assists. Later, Shields said, Brenden has "gotten better and taken it to another level."

Brenden jokes with his father about surpassing him on the all-time scoring list.

"1,400 isn't a problem," Jeff said. He said when he played, players couldn't get in "easy two with a dunk and there was no three-point line. It

See STOWERS, Page 7

Will injuries affect the Norse?

By Bruce A. Reher, Jr.
Sports Editor

Is there a doctor in the house?

That is the question that the NKU women's basketball team has been asking all season. The Norse have suffered numerous injuries this season. The week following Christmas was the only time this season that the Norse have had all of their players injury-free.

I have decided to look at some of the injuries that are surrounding the team and how they might affect the Norse.

One of the major injuries is the one NKU senior guard Michele Tuchfarber suffered. Tuchfarber is one of the leading three-point shooters in the GLVC, and she is currently No. 7 in NKU history in overall scoring.

Tuchfarber had been out the last four games (through the Ky. Wesleyan match) with a sprained ankle. Tuchfarber is getting better and should be back playing real soon. NKU coach Nancy Winstel said.

How about a lot sooner than expected? Yes, Tuchfarber finally got back on the court for Thursday's game against Quincy. For Norse fans, that should be a sigh of relief.

Last week, junior guard Suzie Smith injured her shoulder in the game against Kentucky Wesleyan. Winstel said that Smith was okay after that and has continued practicing. Then, a few days later, Smith slipped on some ice. "That was more scary for her than getting hit on the shoulder," Winstel said. "It's not keeping her out of anything."

Winstel said freshman Emily Phillips re-dislocated her shoulder last week but is still practicing with the team while recovering in the process. Winstel said that since it is the future season, some of the players are getting colds.

Despite the injuries and the team not being healthy all the time, NKU has been able to get back to work with the players they have.

Winstel said her team has continued to work hard and has really improved

This Week in NKU Sports

Women's basketball suffers second loss of the year

The NKU women's basketball team had senior guard Michele Tuchfarber back in the lineup against Quincy University Thursday.

It wasn't enough, however, as the Norse lost its second game of the year, both coming in the GLVC, 72-69.

Tuchfarber came away with five points and contributed three assists.

NKU was 9-0 against Quincy before Thursday's match-up, and the Norse were riding a four-game winning streak and were ranked No. 4 in Division II.

NKU built a seven-point halftime lead, 40-33, and seemed in control. The Norse went ice cold in the second half, shooting 31 percent from the field as the Lady Hawks made the comeback.

"You have to give Quincy credit," NKU coach Nancy Winstel said. "They played harder than we did. They deserve to win."

Quincy shot 52 percent from the field in the second half and made 28 of

36 free throws, including 4 for 4 in the final two minutes of the game on for one to clinching a three point victory.

"People think we just need to show up and we can beat teams by 30. Our conference is tough," Winstel said. "It's not a cake walk. We have to be ready to play if we expect to be successful."

NKU junior forward Michelle Cottrell had a game-high 24 points and 13 rebounds for the Norse. Cottrell also moved to No. 4 on NKU's all-time scoring list with 1,484 points.

Sophomore Amy Mobley dropped in 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. NKU got back on the winning side again as it beat the University of Missouri-St. Louis 75-53 Saturday.

Tuchfarber was a big contributor in her second game back after her injury, scoring 22 points in the Norse win.

NKU is 15-2 on the year and 9-2 in the GLVC.

NKU men continue dominating play

The NKU men's basketball team continued climbing up the GLVC ladder

NKU dance team receives ninth place finish at Nationals in Orlando

By Aaron Stamm
Staff Writer

The long hours of practice, the excitement of the halftime performances and the feeling of unity between each other are all factors that describe the 2001 version of the NKU dance team.

The team recently finished 9th place in the dance open division of the 2001 College Cheerleading & Dance Team National Championship in Orlando, FL.

The team boarded a plane Jan. 9 for the competition which was held from January 11-13 at the Walt Disney Resort Complex.

This was the first time in NKU history that the dance team has ever advanced to the Nationals finals.

NKU had to qualify in the preliminary round to advance to the final 21 of the event. NKU then finished ninth out of 21 in the finals.

Dance team sponsor Jennifer Benke said she feels her team met all the goals they set out for. "Our first goal is always to support NKU and lead a positive spirit squad. Our goal for Nationals was to make the finals and compete very well," she said.

Senior captain Shanna Hunt said she felt the preparation for the competition was worth the work.

"Practice, Practice and Practice. From 8 a.m. practices to dancing the home games, we practice our routine over and over. We nailed it. For the whole month of December we put in a



Photo contributed
The NKU dance team poses in front of its trophy after finishing 9th at the College Cheerleading & Dance Team National Championship.

average of six to 12 hours a week in practicing abet work and lots of dancing," she said.

To prepare for competition, the team participated in halftime entertainment for the NKU basketball teams.

Benke said she feels the team is still improving in the spring season. "I see the improvement in this team each week. They strive to get better and better everyday," she said.

While in Florida, the girls spent four days relaxing and enjoying themselves.

Hunt said she feels the trip was a good experience. "Florida was a great experience for all the girls on the team. It was stressful but we enjoyed visiting the parks in Walt Disney. We are a

close-knit group of young girls and always have a good time out together." The team has more competitions and events other than the national event.

The team participates in many high school and college exhibitions during the season.

Last summer, the girls placed first at the University Dance Association Camp at Indiana University.

Senior captain Jenny McCann said she feels the improvement from the camp to competition was very successful.

"Our team consists of many diverse individuals with different degrees of dancing background. As a whole, we

See DANCE, Page 7

Intramural basketball has got underway

By Aaron Stamm
Staff Writer

The bouncing of the ball, the cheer of the fans and the sweat of the players are all factors that describe the first week of intramural basketball at NKU.

On Sunday, Jan. 21, the season kicked off with exciting play all day long. The Norse played their first game against S.K.G. and won 86-50. The Norse went off very well.

"No real problems to report on the first day. Everyone seems to be in the right place for the first week," he said.

The Monday and Thursday night leagues also started this week and according to Henry, all the leagues went very well.

Scores from Monday Night League - Jan. 22, 2001

Noodles Garage	58	Mustangs	55
Lakers	84	And 1	83
Who Cares	44	3rd Floor	28
S.K.G.	70	Tornado	61
Jets	86	500 Club	48
Baptist Student Union	64	G-Nitty	47
Chico Bail Bonds	59	B-Team	26

CAMPUS RECREATION

ADDITIONAL TOURNAMENT

Singles & Doubles

Last Day to Enter:
Wed. Feb 7

Play will be on Tues. Feb. 13

For Sign-up or information stop by Campus Recreation AHC 104 or call 572-5197

Campus Recreation

INDOOR SOCCER

Men, Women, and Co-Rec Leagues Forming

Play Begins
Tuesday, Feb. 13

Captain's Meeting:
Tues. Feb. 6 @ 4PM



Last Day to enter
League:
Mon.
Feb. 5

For Sign-up or information stop by Campus Recreation AHC 104 or call 572-5197

Homecoming 2001

Saturday, February 3-

Saturday, February 10

Saturday, February 3

RJE Urban Comedy Cabaret Tour, Greaves Hall 8pm

Monday, February 5

APB Think Fast UC Café, 12pm

Banners for banner contest UC, 12pm

Window paintings UC, 12pm

Tuesday, February 6

Student Organization Rally UC Lobby, 10-12pm

Wednesday, February 7

APB Ultimate Video UC Café, 10-2pm, \$1/video

Student Organization Rally, UC Lobby 10-2pm

80's Band UC Café 10-2pm

All winners for contests will be announced

Thursday, February 8

Black and Gold Day Everyone *Wear Black and Gold*

Presidential Tea AC 8th floor lobby, 3pm

Women's Basketball Game 5pm

Men's Basketball Game, directly following Women's game

Coke a Cola 3 pt. Shoot out at Half Time of Men's game

Friday, February 9

Alumni Banquet Airport Marriott 7pm

Homecoming Dance \$5

DVD player Giveaway

Saturday, February 10

Women's Homecoming Basketball Game, 2pm

Men's Homecoming Basketball Game, 4:15pm

Crowning of King and Queen, 4:45pm (halftime of men's game)

Young Alumni Society Post-game Party and Reception, UC Ballroom (Alumni, faculty, and staff only)

BIAS FROM THE PAST

1960

1970


1980

1990

2000

From Page 5

g



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Bush slow to act in California crisis

By Tom Ramm
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) President Bush plans a new White House post to monitor international economic problems that could affect U.S. interests, hoping to avoid being blindsided by financial crises like the Mexican, Russian and Asian meltdowns of the 1990s.

In his first week in office, he found himself suddenly tested by looming financial turmoil in the world's sixth-largest economy. Yet it would have flown under the radar of that new White House office because the crisis is in California.

Bush has tread carefully, tentatively extending directives to keep power flowing, considering easing some air pollution restrictions on power plants and seeking limited energy help from Mexico.

But he finds himself torn between a desire for federal intervention on what he sees as a California problem and any president's desire to avert an economic catastrophe.

Energy woes in the nation's most populous state already have triggered a financial crisis.

California's utilities are caught in a crunch between soaring fuel prices and a state law that holds down the prices to consumers.

The state's two investor-owned utilities are facing bankruptcy. Rolling blackouts temporarily have shut down many small and energy-intensive businesses, forcing thousands of layoffs. Some dairy farmers are dumping milk because they lack the power to process it. Delays have hit fuel pipelines and ATMs.

Intel Corp., the world's largest manufacturer of computer chips, announced it no longer would expand its plans or build new ones in the state until the electricity problems are resolved.

Economists say the crisis easily

could ripple through the rest of the nation if left unchecked, undermining consumer and investor confidence. Electric costs are rising across much of the West.

"It could turn a soft landing into a recession," said David Wyes, chief financial economist for Standard and Poor's DRI, an economic forecasting outfit.

In one of his first acts as president, Bush extended until Feb. 7 the directives put in place by the Clinton administration to force power suppliers to keep shipping electricity to California's debt-ridden utilities. He made it clear he did so reluctantly and would not issue further extensions.

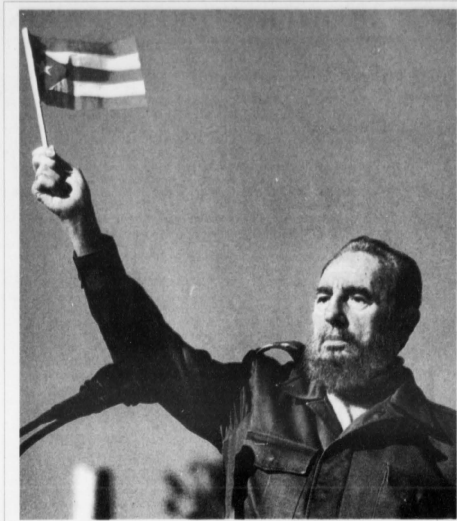
Bush is caught in a cross fire: California interests are pressuring him to do more to keep power flowing while neighboring Western states, concerned about their own energy needs, are urging him to do less.

Thus far, neither Bush nor Congress seems anxious to address the immediate problems facing California or discuss a possible federal bailout.

Yet Bush must also keep an eye on the potential threat to the nation's overall economy. "This will become a more debilitating economic problem if blackouts grow in size and are longer. The confidence of consumers across the country could be undermined as California's sorrows begin to weigh in on us all," said economist Mark Zandy of Economy.com, a West Chester, Pa., forecasting firm.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Bush characterized California's crisis as "a warning sign about what could happen if our nation does not have a concerted effort to explore and bring more energy into the country."

Right now, Bush does not want to consider a more ambitious federal role in helping California.



(AP Photo/Cristobal Herrera)

Cuban leader Fidel Castro waves the Cuban colors as he addresses more than 200,000 people gathered at a rally in San Jose de Las Lajas, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of the capital Havana, Cuba, Saturday Jan. 27, 2001. Castro said Saturday that his government will keep a close eye on the new administration of President Bush, insisting that he will not judge it beforehand but noting that millions of Cuban citizens are trained to handle firearms.

Refugees increase in Congo

By Henry Wasswa
Associated Press Writer

RWEBISENGO, Uganda (AP) The tears streamed down Mary Kabasinga's face as she



Congolese refugees sit with their children in the Ugandan village of Rwebisingo, located 240 miles west of the capital of Kampala, Thursday, Jan. 25, 2001. Fighting between the Hema and Lendu tribes in northeastern Congo, has forced more than 6,000 Congolese to flee to neighboring Uganda in the last two weeks.

recalled watching her father being hacked to death in northeastern Congo.

"It was early in the morning, and there were many men wielding spears, bows and guns," said Kabasinga, cradling her crying baby. "They fired several times, but I managed to escape with my mother and my baby."

Kabasinga, 20, is one of more than 6,000 Congolese forced to flee from murderous tribal clashes that have left hundreds dead - some beheaded and others burned to death.

The latest clashes between Lendu and Hema tribesmen began Jan. 9. In the past decade, the two communities have periodically fought over land in the fertile, northern corner of Congo, turning the area into yet another battleground in Africa's third-largest country. Congo is already in the midst of a 2 1/2-year civil war that has drawn in armies from five African countries.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that the civil war and tribal clashes have forced more than 2 million Congolese to flee their homes.

Kabasinga, her bare feet caked in mud, said the Lendu attackers struck her Hema village on Jan. 22 and killed her father and others. She fled with 30 others to Rwebisingo, 25 miles from the border between Uganda and Congo.

Police estimate there are more than 2,500 refugees in Rwebisingo, 240 miles west of the capital, Kampala. Most managed to escape with a few belongings, including food mattresses and cooking pots.

The UNHCR's blue plastic sheeting used for makeshift shelters signals the creation of yet another African refugee camp. The agency says

Dems suffered most from discarded ballots

AP Wire Service

WASHINGTON (AP) Florida voters whose ballots were found invalid because they punched more than one presidential candidate's name were three times more likely to have included Al Gore as one of their choices as George W. Bush, according to a ballot analysis by The Washington Post.

The Post reviewed computerized records for 2.7 million votes in eight of Florida's largest counties. While both the former vice president and the new president may have lost votes intended for them, Democratic voters may have been significantly more likely to have their ballots thrown out, the Post reported in its Saturday edition.

Gore was among those chosen on 46,000 of the invalid ballots, while Bush's name was punched on 17,000. Republicans argued that on the discarded ballots, it is impossible to know who the voter wanted to select.

Bush won Florida by 537 votes out of about 6 million cast, giving him the state's 25 electoral votes and thus the national election.

The Post said there were also indications that Democrats were more adversely affected by Palm Beach County's infamous "butterfly ballot," which listed presidential candidates on both the left and right sides.

The study found that the 8,000 Palm Beach voters whose ballots were discarded because they voted for Gore and another presidential candidate listed near Gore's name, voted at a rate of 10 to 1 Democratic in the U.S. Senate race. Palm Beach County is heavily Democratic.

Energy Deregulation possible for parts of Ky

By Nancy Zuckerbrod
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) Electric deregulation opponents in the Tennessee Valley are pointing to the California energy crisis as a reason to maintain the status quo at home.

"Any momentum that special interests may have had in convincing Washington to revamp the Tennessee Valley Authority into a private utility, I would say is dead on arrival right now," said Anthony Haynes, who recently resigned as deputy administrator of the Agriculture Department's Rural Utilities Service. The agency offers low-interest loans to rural utilities who buy TVA wholesale power.

Haynes is among those who believe Tennessee Valley rural customers, who receive relatively low rates and reliable service, would be harmed by deregulation.

TVA, the country's largest public power producer, serves nearly 8 million people through 159 municipal distributors and electric cooperatives in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Virginia and North Carolina.

The 67-year-old utility cannot sell power outside its seven-state region as mandated by the federal government. While that limits TVA's reach, it also makes it harder for other utilities to sell power inside the region.

Deregulation would likely lift those restrictions. Investor-owned utilities have lobbied for the change, arguing increased competition would lower prices.

California passed a deregulation law four years ago, which many people blame for its current power problems. Utilities there are near bankruptcy, because they have to pay high wholesale energy costs while operating under low retail rate caps imposed by the law. The state also is experiencing an energy shortage due to rapid growth and limited plant construction.

"It has given people a picture of what can happen and has given

them reason to more seriously consider what deregulation might do," TVA board director Skila Harris said. "It's been hard for people to imagine the downside of deregulation, because so much emphasis has been on the upside."

But Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., who supports TVA deregulation, says California's troubles have nothing to do with the Tennessee Valley.

Bunning vowed to push for TVA restructuring in this Congress and said he found an ally in Sen. Zell Miller, D-Ga.

Miller said he grew up revering TVA, which brought electricity to the rural South, but now believes its wholesale rates are too high and that the agency doesn't pay enough attention to the region's recreational needs.

Whether changes will be made to TVA remain to be seen. Chairman Craven Crowell is stepping down in April, and President Bush will appoint a new board member.

Only Congress can deregulate TVA. A House subcommittee passed a deregulation bill in the last Congress that would have introduced competition in the valley. A Senate panel debated but failed to pass similar legislation.

Deregulation proponents hoped those efforts would be advanced in this Congress but now sound less optimistic.

Some California Democrats are talking about creating a state electric authority much like TVA. California Republicans view that as an outdated intrusion into the private sector.

President Bush has expressed support for electric deregulation, but the issue is not strictly partisan. In the Tennessee Valley, some Republicans are among the biggest supporters of leaving the public utility intact.

Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-Ky., said his constituents were calling for a go-slow approach to TVA deregulation. "They have not determined what our benefit would be," Whitfield said.

Bush affirms strong ties to Israel

AP Wire Service

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush called Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak on Saturday to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to the Jewish nation and express the belief that "a secure Israel" is a key element of Middle East peace. White House officials said.

The two leaders spoke for seven minutes at what was described as "an introductory call" initiated by Bush.

President Bush reaffirmed the close relationship with Israel and his desire for peace in the region based on a secure Israel," said Mary Ellen Countryman, a spokeswoman for the president's National Security Council.

Barak is seeking re-election in national elections on Feb. 6 but trails hawkish challenger Ariel Sharon.

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Egypt concluded Saturday without any agreement, leaving further peace efforts to a planned meeting between Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Officials on both sides said the leaders may meet this week in Europe in a last-minute effort to forge a peace deal, but it was highly doubtful they would be able to overcome wide gaps on the toughest issues.



(AP Photo/Mohamed Zayani)

A Palestinian, brandishing a gun and holding a poster of the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, marches Saturday, Sept. 30, 2000, in the El-Ah-Helweh refugee camp in southern Lebanon, in protest against the violence between Palestinians and Israeli troops in Israel.