

The Talon Journal

December 2004

A student publication of Northwest University

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**Kindle the fire of hospitality in the hall
and the fire of charity in the heart.**



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Lend a hand or spend a dollar to support local charities helping those in need this Christmas

Finals Survival Tips

BY RACHEL HOPKINS
Reporter

Late nights, caffeine overdoses, frequent library visits, and stress like you have never experienced – all are part of the one week of our lives that brings college students around the world so much closer. If you have not already guessed it, I am talking about finals week! Yes, it is almost here. Final exams have suddenly crept upon us with no turning back. But remember, in a couple weeks it will all be over. Finished. Complete. Done. So, how does a college student survive? How do we keep sane and still ace our exams and final projects? I am sorry to say that recharging your Starbucks card is not enough to get you through. I have compiled a list of helpful hints from past experience and internet articles that may help lift some of the burden that you may be facing.

1. Find a place to study: try to get away from as many distractions as possible.
2. Set goals for the study session: ask yourself, "What do I want to accomplish?"
3. Take breaks: give your brain a rest and take a walk, get something to eat, call a friend or just relax. For every hour that you study, you need at least a ten minute break.
4. Form study groups: this is especially helpful when you are studying for a cumulative final.
5. Eat healthy: stay away from carbohydrates because they can make you sleepy.
6. Drink water - hydrate your body and your brain.
7. Exercise: this allows oxygen to flow to your brain by getting some movement in your body. You will also be more alert.
8. Sleep: believe it or not, you do need it. Try to get at least 7-8 hours sleep nightly so that you do not experience exhaustion and eventually burn out.
9. Pray: ask God for help. Spend time with Him as you are finishing up the semester. Remember the passage in Philippians 4:13, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Finish well and finish strong, because in Him you can do anything.

Coffee shops open late for studying:

Starbucks 85th Street

Lobby open until 10:00p.m.
Drive-thru open 24 hours
University Village
University District/Seattle
Sunday-Thursday
Open until 12:00a.m.
Friday & Saturday
Open until 1:00a.m.

Triple J's

Downtown Kirkland
Sunday-Thursday
Open 6:00a.m.-11:00p.m.
Friday & Saturday
Open until 12:00a.m.

Seattle's Best Coffee
Downtown Kirkland
Open until 9:00p.m.

ALUMNI FOCUS

Adventures in Politics



BY JUSTIN PIKE
Contributing Writer and Alum
Dear to the Talon's Heart

Carrying the Call—Into Politics.

As a proud member of the class of 2004, I recall this slogan well. This most recent graduating class was quite a diverse group. Many will probably go into the ministry some day. Others will turn into the next Donald Trump. Still others are mired in unemployment, unsure of what to do while they pull the student loan bills out of the weekly mail. The coveted bachelor's degree sits on the wall, a tribute to ambition.

On the other hand, there are a small number of people at Northwest College who would probably describe themselves as "political junkies." Being political is more than just a quirk—it can be a calling. I've been political all my life. When I was six I urged little kids to tell their parents to vote for Bush (senior). When I was eighteen, I went from canning green beans and corn one year to working for the Oregon State GOP the next. I voted for Dubya twice, and I would a third time. Not only are my parents Republicans, but my grandparents and great-grandparents were "red state people" too. So in sum, it's no surprise that I have always felt called to follow Christ's call into the murky world of politics. In February 2004, when graduation approached, I wrote to every campaign I could think of. My initiative paid off. I was honored to serve as a campaign aide to U.S. Rep. George Nethercutt (R-Spokane) in his recent bid for the U.S. Senate.

Political campaigns tend to enjoy a shadowy reputation in our society today, probably because politicians have such a bum rap. This is not entirely undeserved. After all, campaigns are downright nasty at times, particularly when emotions flare up. So in light of all the misperceptions people (especially Christians) have about politics, I have decided to share what I learned from my campaign days. I hope these insights can point my upcoming political junkie protégés in the right direction. Here are Justin's Seven Political Secrets (in some cases, these are not secrets, but it just sounds catchy).

1. Having a Christian Faith Matters. Many Christians avoid getting involved in politics because they are afraid of letting their Christianity get tainted by "the system." They fear spiritual contamination and prefer living in what has been called a "Christian bubble." On the other hand, there are some Christians who get so involved in politics that they equate party affiliation with getting into heaven, and assume that every

position the GOP advocates is gospel, instead of opinion.

I can safely say that I did not compromise my Christian faith while working in politics. One simply has to use common sense, as in any other job. There are many devout Christians in public service today, including President Bush, many in his Cabinet, Congressmen and Congresswomen, Senators, and state legislators here in Washington.

So we are not alone. With this in mind, one will face challenges in the workplace. Politics is not for the timid. The job can be hazardous to one's health. For instance, I had a pro-gay rights protestor tell me he wished I would go and die in Iraq. He spat in my face and threatened to beat me up. It took everything in me to not pop this guy in the nose. The important thing is to keep everything in perspective. If you don't remember where you've been in life, you won't know where you're going.

2. Power is Seductive. Lord Acton once said, "absolute power corrupts absolutely." Many in the political world are very conscious of the power and prestige their positions may bring. Some are certainly in politics because they enjoy controlling others. People can become mere pawns in a bigger campaign strategy. Whenever protecting your own position becomes more important than making a difference, oppression results. It is the same way in politics. I witnessed firsthand how some treated their jobs as just that. These folks are not concerned about changing the world. Instead, they are consumed by a desire to cover their own behinds and pad their resumes.

To his credit, Congressman Nethercutt seemed to avoid this power disease. He always seemed humble, someone who had a clear vision for the state and thought we could do better. He took time to personally thank each volunteer. That is the right attitude.

3. Campaigns are a Spin Contest. Bill O'Reilly has a show on Fox News he has dubbed the "No-Spin Zone." If only politics was that easy, Bill. During a campaign, what happens is an all-out spin war. A general rule of thumb is that the truth lies somewhere in between. Each side puts out their own dirt and slams the other, responding to new attacks while lobbing more bombshells at the opponent. The problem with all this spin is that it is often misleading, if not lies.

Working in politics, it becomes easy to confuse Patty Murray with the Antichrist—if one buys the spin. The truth

is the best weapon against falling into the "us versus them" mentality that sometimes rules campaigns. This is why politicians perceived as being honest and truthful—Senators Mark Hatfield and John McCain come to mind—are a dime a dozen.

4. Money Dominates Political Campaigns. It is a well-known fact that it costs a lot of money to run for public office. This is why so many Congressmen and Senators are millionaires. Special interests don't give out of the kindness of their hearts (in most cases). Yet there is a big difference between raising money and downright corruption. Here again, I felt that my candidate avoided falling into the pitfall of greed. The important thing with money is to safeguard where it comes from. Beware getting money from corrupt businesses, extremist groups, or tobacco companies. Carefully screening the money flow helps the candidate politically too.

5. Politics is All About Connections. In politics, it's all who you know. The reason I worked for Nethercutt in the first place was primarily because one of my friends from Oregon, a high-level Republican National Committee (RNC) member, vouched for me. Politics is a business of connections. This is the best part about a campaign. Through the Nethercutt campaign, I was able to meet some heavy hitters in the political arena—including Senator Bill Frist (Majority Leader), Governor-Elect Dino Rossi, Attorney General-Elect Rob McKenna, and President George W. Bush.

6. Campaigns are Bureaucracies. This was one of the most frustrating aspects of the campaign: Campaigns are organized as hierarchies. Consultants are usually brought in to manage the most prestigious races, including U.S. Senate campaigns. At the top of the food chain is the campaign manager, followed by director positions, then the grunts and lower level people, then volunteers. When I was still working on the campaign, almost all of the people at the top of the food chain were from out of state, while most of the grunts were from the Pacific Northwest. High profile races draw a flood of folks from Washington, D.C. While hiring these gurus makes strategic sense, their lack of practical knowledge about basic geography, demographics, or the different moods of certain areas can be downright embarrassing, and makes volunteers suspicious.

7. Extremism is Dangerous. Working in politics, I learned that extremism is ugly, and can be dangerous. I clashed firsthand with gay rights protestors, but also noticed how ugly extremism can be on the other side. For instance, I ran into some GOP activists who believed (incorrectly) that Rep. Nethercutt was pro-abortion or pro-gay marriage. I had to point out that, in fact, my boss was pro-life and believed, like most Americans, that marriage is meant to be between a man and a woman. Our nation desperately needs Christian servant-leaders not afraid to stand on principle and willing to compromise on some things. Moderate-to-conservative folks like these are a dying breed in America.

Final Thoughts. Politics can make a person quite cynical. Fortunately, I've always been rather cynical anyway. I would encourage those political junkies out there to shoot for your dreams. Are you interested in changing the world through politics? Go out and work for a campaign. Work for a state senator. Make a difference.

STUDENT OUTREACH

Lighthouse: friends to the homeless

BY HEATHER DANIELSON
Reporter

What's that you say!? You want to help the homeless? Well do I have a guy for you! Neil Allender devotes every Friday to going downtown Seattle and helping out the homeless who reside on Queen Anne Hill. He and about four to five other students make up Northwest's Lighthouse Ministry. They spend a lot of time each year bonding with Seattle's homeless residents and providing much needed friendships.

Allender says that their main goal is to form consistent friendships with a handful of people downtown and to continually be there throughout the year. "There is a social need and they have no faithful friends."

In fact, says Allender: "because of drugs their friends will often rat each other out." He says that it is often difficult for the Lighthouse crew to keep these friendships because the Seattle homeless population changes throughout the year. During the winter many of the homeless move south towards warmer climates and the population up here dwindles.

Allender and his gang still will show up on Queen Anne and talk to anyone who will listen. Allender says that God puts the right people there at the right time. "If there aren't any homeless people around, we spend our time talking to residents and passerby's of the Queen Anne area."

The goal of Lighthouse is not to minister explicitly but implicitly. "We don't do anything like hand out tracts. We just aim

to show God's love through our actions," Allendar says.

Members of Lighthouse will frequently spend their own pocket money to buy a homeless person a hot meal at Taco Bell or Dick's. This gives them the opportunity to sit down and have conversations that these people truly appreciate. "Most of them appreciate just talking to a well-kept person. That isn't normal for these people and we have never had any problems downtown."

Last year's members of Lighthouse were so successful at gaining the trust of some of Seattle's residents that they were invited to spend the night in a park with some of their newfound friends. Allender says they felt totally comfortable with these people and they gained this opportunity because they had provided consistent friendships with some of the people downtown. They were also able to drive a heroine addict of twenty years down to California for rehabilitation.

Saint Francis of Assisi said, "Always speak the gospel and if necessary use words." We here at Northwest should be proud of the members of Lighthouse. Not many of us are as skilled at doing this as they are.

If this sounds like your cup of tea, please contact Neil Allender at 425-923-3545 or show-up on Friday nights in the Aerie at 8:00 p.m. The team meets for an hour of prayer and fellowship and then takes off for Seattle. They usually arrive back on-campus at midnight.

If you want an internet connection, you better read this!

BY NOELLE BONDS
Editor

"CleanMachines", a new technology for ensuring computer and network security, will be implemented on the Northwest University campus on December 5.

Perfigo, recently bought out by Cisco, designed CleanMachines, the industry's first network-based endpoint security solution that can scan, block, quarantine, and repair.

Basically, upon connection to the campus wired or wireless network, CleanMachines allows the network to scan a machine to ensure it is free of viruses, spyware or any prohibited applications.

Chris Martin, Chief Technology Officer at Northwest University, says, "The best part is that it will allow the network to run as fast as possible with all infected machines quarantined away instead of causing slowdowns or outages as with our current model."

If a machine is infected, the individual will see instructions on what they need to fix and will have the ability to patch to Windows Update. However, they will not be able to access any other sites or email until they have been approved.

The "Team to Clean" process details how students can ensure that their machines are free from viruses, spyware and exploits, and ensure that they have the Norton Antivirus properly installed properly and that all Windows Patches have been

done.

The "Team to Clean" CD that has been distributed to the residence halls is also available at the Front Desk in the Davis Administration Building. There are also instructions via the "Team to Clean" graphic on the front page of Eagle.

Beginning at 9:00a.m. on Monday, December 6, students without the Norton Antivirus installed and current Windows patching will be blocked from accessing the network.

Perfigo will also reduce network maintenance headaches for Martin and his staff: Nathan Henderson, Network Engineer III, and Randy Bonds Jr., Telecommunications Technician. Martin says, "This fall, we have experienced a number of outages on the ResNet directly related to student machines and virus infections or exploits. Approximately 120 hours of staff time were used in remediation of these outages. The Network Department would respond as quickly as possible, but there were periods of non-connectivity."

Because Perfigo requires students to login to the network to access the Internet, the Network Department will have computer information tied to user information and, in the event that someone has trouble, they will be able to more quickly assist them.

The Network Department became aware of the CleanMachines solution this summer while at the Coalition of Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) Technology Summit.

Debaters Win Second Place Rising to top of 35 team pool, Northwest University proves that it ranks with the best

BY GARY GILLESPIE
Contributing Editor

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Northwest University students made it all the way to the final round of the 74th annual Mahaffey Memorial debate and speech tournament at Linfield College in McMinnville, Ore. On November 19-21.

252 top students from 16 colleges and universities — including the University of Washington, Boise State, Oregon State, Humboldt State, Seattle University and the University of Oregon — gathered for one of the nation's largest three-day contest of wit and speaking skill.

Topics were assigned twenty minutes before each round and included controversies such as national health care, withdrawal from Iraq, confirmation of Supreme Court nominees, elections in Afghanistan, and the death of Arafat.

Congratulations are due to team captain, Sara Boyd, and her partner, Nathan Chambers, for winning second place in the 35 team junior division. Debating in favor of diplomacy to solve the crisis in North Korea, the pair lost to Carroll College in Montana in the final round on a 2-to 1 decision of the three judges.

In addition to wins and losses, each student is rated for speaking ability. Nathan Chambers ranked as the sixth best junior division debate speaker out of 70. Johanna Burch ranked as the 12 best junior debate speaker.

There were six pre-elimination rounds and teams with at least a 4 win record advanced to the first octo-finals (top 16), followed by quarter finals, semi finals and finals. Northwest broke teams in all three divisions.

Our open division team of Casey Digennaro and Jordan Goddard won an octo-finalist plaque. Mark Abbott and Robert Martin also won an award for reaching octo-finals in novice division.

On Sunday morning, the Northwest students led a chapel service for the tournament. About 20 debaters and coaches attended. Sara presented a devotional talk based on Psalms 100 and Casey Digennaro lead the group in worship songs with his guitar.

Judging for Northwest were assistant coach Mercy Novak and former team captain Megan Brinkman

announcement from the School of Ministry

Interested in traveling to Morocco over spring break or to Tibet this summer? Contact Dave Oleson for more information at x7821 or come by the School of Ministry office. All applications must be turned in before Christmas break.

Spring Break Mission to Morocco:
March 4th-13th 2005
Cost: \$1450
Summer Study Tour to Tibet:
June 2005
Cost: \$2500-\$2800

CALENDAR

December 1
Movie Night
Aerie @ 7:30p.m.

December 2
Grech Christiaus
7:00pm

December 3-4
Music Department Concert:
In Terra Pax
Chapel @ 7:30p.m.
\$5 tickets for students
\$7 everyone else

December 4
Men's Basketball
Pavilion @ 7:30

December 6
Perfigo policies effective

December 11
Women's Basketball
Pavilion @ 6 p.m.

December 13
Last day of class
Last day to withdraw

December 14-17
Finals

December 17
Women's Basketball
Pavillion @ 5:30p.m.

Men's Basketball
Pavillion @ 7:30p.m.

December 18
Women's Basketball
Pavilion @ 5:30p.m.

Men's Basketball
Pavilion @ 7:30p.m.

December 17-January 5
Christmas Break

December 24-January 3
College Offices Closed

December 25
Christmas

January 5
Dorms and Cafeteria Open

January 6 and 7
Orientation and Registration

January 10
First Day of Spring Semester

If you'd like your event on the calendar, please email the event details to talon@northwestu.edu by the 20th of the previous month

How do you celebrate

Three Northwest University Students share their family traditions

A Zajac Christmas

BY BECKY WILSON
Contributing Writer

I consider myself mostly Slovak. I am a genetic majority of Slovak, German, and Italian—I am typically American. But I consider the Slovak part of me as my true heritage.

There is one time of year that I feel my Slovak blood course most powerfully through my veins: Christmas.

Every Christmas Eve over fifty people pack themselves inside my Grammy and Papa's home. It is the same home that my Papa built himself and raised his eight children in. It seems a very old home to me, but that may be because there are so many memories etched upon it.

Year after year I would push my way into the kitchen through the front door. I needed to push because the kitchen was the main gathering spot: my aunts would be helping my Grammy cook and my uncles and cousins would be sneaking bites to eat. They would get their fingers smacked and sent away only to be replaced by another set of uncles and cousins that couldn't fit into the kitchen earlier.

I would, of course, go straight to the living room.

"Only after you hang up your coat and take off your boots," my mom would scold.

Then, I would go straight to the living room and pick through the mountain of Christmas presents under my Grammy's characteristically blue Christmas tree—it was a sometimes fake, sometimes real, blue spruce decked with strings of small blue lights and blue ornaments. It was the kind of spectacle that I couldn't stop staring at. I wouldn't be the first cousin in the living room. We would, as inconspicuously as possible, sort through the presents, making small stacks of our own presents so that we knew exactly where they were at that key moment of opening.

After getting yelled at to "Leave those presents alone or you won't get a single one" by every aunt who walked through the living room to the dining room, I would wander through the house looking for something to entertain me.

My uncles and older cousins would be in the den watching football. My Papa would sit in his reclining chair receiving hugs and hellos from cousins just arrived. My Uncle Greg and Uncle Jeff would be discussing the last play loudly over the din. Other uncles would take turns substituting in discussion as couch space freed up.

Most cousins my age were packed into an upstairs den. There was only one couch and two uncomfortable chairs in the room, yet ten of us would try to squeeze in. One cousin would end up sitting on this old rocking horse when there was no more sitting room. It would get to the point where the last one in would stand in front of the door so that no more could join us. We would typically be watching an Indiana Jones' or Arnold Schwarzenegger movie. Something violent enough to keep the little cousins out.

My brother and cousins just younger than me would crowd into the basement around the ping pong or pool table. I preferred not to hang out in the basement because my brother and several other cousins just his age would end up fighting. They would fling ping pong paddles and pool balls at each other until someone got hit. One of my uncles would storm down the basement stairs and we would all be forced to vacate the basement.

The youngest cousins would still be determinedly staring at their presents in the living room.

Then we would hear the dinner call.

Over fifty people would file through the dining room out into the thirty foot closed-in porch. There would be several six food tables set with mismatched plates, bowls, cups and silverware my Grammy had collected throughout her life. I hated having to eat on the porch: elbow room was scarce, and only the very long-limbed were served first. I was eventually bumped into the dining room where the oldest cousins ate. I was excited to finally be counted among the oldest, but—with only twelve of us around one table—I found I missed the bustle of the porch.

We would eat the Christmas Eve dinner that our Slovak counterparts were eating across the ocean: fried and breaded fish, mashed potatoes, mushroom broth and vegetable soup. Dinner was actually kind of gross. I never liked fish that much, so I tried to get the smallest piece. We only had melted butter for the mashed potatoes and there is only so many servings of potatoes and butter one can hold. I never really tried the mushroom broth; it had a very sour kind of smell and mushrooms floating in brown water is not visually appetizing. Sometimes I would pick the green beans out of the vegetable soup, but that's all.

The first time I took my husband to Grammy and Papa's on Christmas Eve he ate a slice of bread and looked nauseous as he watched the rest of us eat.

I don't walk away from Christmas Eve dinner full, but it wouldn't be Christmas Eve any other way.

Candles, prayers, and chocolate

BY NOELLE BONDS
Editor

The day after Thanksgiving, city streets glitter with white lights and evergreen wreaths, Starbucks serves steaming eggnog lattes, and reruns of "A Christmas Tale" play on television. The Christmas season has begun!

Maybe, like me, growing up you had an Advent calendar—a cardboard calendar with a Christmas scene on it. Each morning you opened a small door on the calendar and behind the door was a piece of chocolate. This is reminiscent of the tradition of the Jesse Tree, just one of the many traditions that are observed during the season of Advent.

The Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 28, is when the season of Advent begins. Advent is a time of preparing one's heart for the coming of Jesus. Advent comes from the Latin word for an "arrival" or a "coming". It looks back to the first coming of Christ at Bethlehem, and it looks to the future when Christ will come again.

Traditionally, Advent is a Catholic observance that signals the beginning of the ecclesiastical year. However, Advent is for everyone. The symbolism and participation in Advent traditions can be meaningful to all Christians. Some people believe that tradition is dead. I grew up attending Catholic school and in an Irish Catholic family. For many years I participated in the Advent season. Each Friday, all of the students in my class would gather around the Advent wreath to light the candles and sing the prayers together. Even at a young age, I remember the sense of peace and beauty that would come over me. I believe that it is people that are dead, not traditions. I love the traditions of the Catholic Church. Each element of a mass has deep symbolic meaning. So do the traditions of Advent.

Advent Wreath

One Advent tradition is the advent wreath. The advent wreath is an evergreen wreath with 4 candles placed in it. The candles are gradually lit, one on each Sunday of the Advent season. The wreath is symbolic of everlasting life. The lighting of the three purple candles and one rose candle symbolizes not only our expectation and hope in our Savior's first coming into the world and his Second Coming at the end of the world. As each candle is lit, there is a prayer that can be said:

First week: "O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come that by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Second week: "O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Third week: "O Lord, we beg Thee incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Fourth week: "O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy Grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Another Advent tradition is the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas." "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as a memory aid to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith. During the period of 1558 to 1829, people were not allowed to practice Catholicism in England and being caught with any Catholic literature could mean imprisonment. So, school children were taught this song. The twelve gifts are symbolic of the teachings of Christian faith:

- 1 Partridge in a pear tree = Jesus Christ
- 2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments
- 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity
- 4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels
- 5 Golden Rings = the first five books of the Old Testament (the "Pentateuch")
- 6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation
- 7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and the seven sacraments
- 8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes
- 9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 Lords A-leaping = the Ten Commandments
- 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

My family and I plan to light the candles on the Advent wreath this year. We want to observe this tradition because it causes us to pause a moment in our busy lives and to, each week, think about the meaning of Christmas.

And my husband and I will probably fight over who gets to eat the chocolate from behind the door on the Advent calendar.

I hope this article has opened your eyes to a beautiful tradition that millions of Christians around the world celebrate every December. And I hope that someone will decide to take part in the Advent season and see the meaning and depth that it can bring to your Christmas holiday.

Christmas?

Christmas in the Ukraine

BY YURI SEMENYUK
Contributing Writer

Christmas is Ukrainian's most important family holiday. Because the winter weather is usually too cold to do much outside, Christmas time is an opportunity for the family to enjoy a great time of celebration of Christ's birth.

Even though Christmas Day is celebrated on December 25 in accordance with the Gregorian Calendar, most Ukrainians follow the Julian Calendar which places Christmas day on January 7. This is really the only date during the year celebrated according to the "old" calendar. Living in the US, our family usually celebrates Christmas on December 25. However, this does not mean that if someone did not get a gift on Dec. 25 that he or she cannot get a gift on January 7. Giving a gift on January 7 can be a convenient "excuse" for forgetting to get something on December 25.

In Ukraine, only kids got gifts. The gift is a package of some of the most wanted candy (mostly chocolates with some hard candy) and a mandarin. Santa Clause doesn't bring the gifts. Deed Moroz, or Grandpa Frost, brings the gifts. Honestly, I don't remember if Grandpa Frost says "Ho ho ho" or whether he goes through the chimney. From my childhood, I remember my mom putting all of my siblings' candy together in a large bag and giving the candy out one by one in the days to come. We didn't have candy all the time, but, because of Christmas, we could enjoy the sweets for a long time. In my Ukrainian church, we still give Christmas candy gifts to kids every year.

A greeting that is heard often on the streets of some parts of Ukraine is "Krystoc Naroduvsyia," that is "Christ is born." The response would be "Slavimo Yogo," that is "Praise Him."

I moved from Ukraine when I was eight years old so some of my memories are vague. I'm sure there have been a number of cultural changes in these 13 years as well. Ukrainians in America have combined the two traditions, Ukrainian and American, to celebrate Christmas as they like best.

Jingle Bells, Cardboard Wings, and Jesus: Christmas through the eyes of a former PK

BY MEGHAN YOUNG
Features Editor

Many of the students at Northwest were, or remain, pastors' kids (PKs) or missionaries' kids (MKs). For any of you who were either of those roles in your childhood, you may recognize some of the vivid, tinsel-covered, it's-beginning-to-look-a-lot-like Christmas memories that I hold (with, I'll admit it, a bit of a grudge) to this day.

For me, the Sunday after Thanksgiving always signaled the beginning of a new season. Christmas is a magical season for any child, but I think being the child of a minister put things in a different perspective. Maybe the children of businessmen who market toys or candy or long knit socks have similar recollections. Thanksgiving is over, and all of a sudden everything in your home, every topic of discussion, every mannerism and agenda and telephone call is geared toward *one* thing: Christmas.

Not that Christmas isn't fabulous- people are jollier, charities thrive, and presents are great, too. But mention Christmas, and the all-important Christmas Service, to me and I think of one thing -

Tinsel Halos.

Let me explain: I was a blonde child. Not just light-colored hair, but actual summer sun-turns-me-white *blonde*. And in the spirit of type casting, the children's church director insisted on casting me as "Angel #1" every single stinking year in the Christmas pageant. It started when I was old enough to walk, and continued on until the angel tunic became an angel miniskirt on my preteen frame.

The logic for this casting is very simple. Brunette = Mary, because the Bible very clearly states that Mary was a brunette. And blonde = Angel #1, because angels are blonde. Not, mind you, that I even got to be a cool angel, like Gabriel, with speaking parts or anything. Gabriel was not a chick.

And if that logic fails, we can always revert to the old standard backup explanation which I was told when I was eight years old: "You're the pastor's daughter! And that *makes* you angelic. Now, put on your wings and get out there."

Of course. It all became so clear after *that* explanation.

Bitterness aside, Christmas held other special promises as well. The Christmas Eve Shuffle was a famous one: every family in the church just *had* to see my father Christmas Eve for some milk and cookies (you'd think he was Santa), and that meant that the whole family bundled up until their limbs couldn't move and piled into the mini van to go from home to home to home, devouring cookies and admiring trees and opening cards with snowmen on them until the kids (that would be me) either passed out from exhaustion or were launched into a diabetic coma.

There was Christmas caroling with the church, too. The running order of songs went something like this:

1. Jingle Bells
2. Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
3. Jingle Bells
4. Jingle Bells with the snow-dashing verse which a whopping two people knew
5. We Wish You a Merry Christmas
6. Jingle Bells
7. Go, Tell it On the Mountain (the pastors' kids are bored!)
8. Jingle Bells, and just to make sure we've covered all our bases,
9. Jingle Bells.

There were exciting Christmases, too, like the Christmas we drove from Latvia to Berlin on the 23rd, shopped in Berlin on the 24th, and celebrated Christmas Day with an announcement to the district supervisors of our denomination's missionaries that we would be resigning our post as missionaries post-haste.

Or Christmases where, past the age of reason, I still believed that a good handful of our presents had to have come from old Saint Nick himself because our family just didn't have any money.

More frequently, I look back and am able to appreciate the insane generosity of the people to whom my parents ministered. It's easy as a child to miss just how stressful Christmas can be for the grown-ups, who have to keep their checkbooks balanced and still spend the holidays visiting hospitals, widows, and children whose fathers had abandoned them while their mom had to work Christmas Day.

As a child, it's easy to miss how much that really taxes your parents, but as an adult, I've come to appreciate how much my parents gave during that season. And as a result of their giving, I can also see how much our congregations have given back to us. Christmases where, because of church finances, my parents didn't get paid for their work in the church but still, miraculously, there were shiny presents under the tree Christmas morning from families who could see the sacrifice my parents made.

Looking back on Christmas as a PK and an MK, it's easy to look at the bad things: the easy disgruntlement of thankless routine, the constant lack for the sake of the ministry, not so much seeming Peace on Earth as One More Bazaar. But looking closer, I see the amazing ways in which God provided for and taught our family. I see the incredible sacrifices my parents made in their ministry- which I know all ministers make on a regular basis. And I see that above the extra-service, tinsel-haloed hubbub, God didn't just provide presents for materialistic children or seasons of change- He provided the most exquisite, priceless gift of all.

And that, I think we all can agree, is the entire point of this hectic, beautiful, cardboard-winged season. Merry Christmas.

Jesus was God's gift of love to mankind. In this Christmas season, the Talon asks how others view love

BY EZRAH SCHMEELK
Contributing Writer

How would you define love? I am sure that many of you are ready to recite: "Love is patient, love is kind..." And that is a great Christian answer. But how do you think that non-Christians would answer that same question?

For my Missions and Retreat class with Mark Schaufler, my assignment was to find out how secular kids would define *love*. I went to a Seattle-area high school and asked random students one question: "If you were writing a dictionary; how would you define love?"

Out of the one hundred plus students who took the survey, not one of them gave an answer that was from 1 Corinthians 13. The four main categories that their answers fell into were love, commitment, sex, and those who had no idea. Here are samples from each category from the survey:

"Love is a reassuring feeling that you are wanted."
"A strong, meaningful relationship between two people or objects."

"Love is giving [sexual favors] under the table at school in math class and not expecting any favors back."
"I have no right to define that word because I have had no experience with that feeling."

Next time you are talking to someone about love, it may be a great opportunity to find out what they think it is. Maybe if you are lucky, they will even ask you what love means to you.

'Tis the season of peace

NORTHWEST COLLEGE

Benevolence Committee

The Northwest College Benevolence Committee is here to help meet unexpected needs that may arise for students, faculty, and staff.

For more information contact:
Don North, Leroy Johnson, Esther Harmon, Dan Hickman or
Judy Olson-Briggs

YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

Get involved in your local church's Christmas activities. Suggest and plan a food drive or any other charitable activity for next year.

ARTS

Support to local art venues in the Northwest has decreased over the past year. In fact, without support of art aficionados, theatres and museums came close to closing.

The Taproot Theatre

PO Box 30946
Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 781-9705
www.taproottheatre.org

5th Avenue Theatre

(206) 625-1418
devo@5thavenue theatre.org
www.5thavenue theatre.org

Paramount Theatre

206-467-5510
memberservices@theparamount.com
www.theparamount.com

Seattle Art Museum

Kathleen Maki, Volunteer Department
SAM, P.O. Box 22000, Seattle, WA
98122-9700
Voice: (206) 654-3168
Fax: (206) 654-3135
volunteer@seattleartmuseum.org
www.seattleartmuseum.org

Lend a hand or spend a dollar to support local charities helping those in need



Northwest Harvest serves many but depends on individuals

Northwest Harvest is the only statewide hunger relief agency in Washington. It secures over 16 million pounds of food for distribution every year through warehouses in Grays Harbor, King, Stevens, and Yakima counties. Northwest Harvest supplies the food, without fees, to over 300 food banks and meal programs across the state. Approximately one-half million people are served every month. More than half of those served are children and the elderly.

Northwest Harvest relies solely on contributions from individuals, businesses, foundations, and other organizations. They need any nonperishable food or monetary donations. For more information of to find a food drop off location, go to www.northwestharvest.org.

General food items:

pasta
peanut butter
canned fruits and vegetables
hot and cold cereal
tuna fish
spices and seasonings
salad oil

For infants and babies:

baby formula
canned milk
powdered milk
jars of baby food
infant cereal

Whole meals:

Spaghetti-Os
Stews
Meat and gravy
pork and beans
soup
raisins
ramen noodles

Northwest University Benevolence Fund

The Northwest University family is concerned for the well-being of its members, and your Benevolence Committee is committed to responding to these genuine needs on your behalf. Your gift to the University's Benevolence Fund allows the Committee to take immediate action when an urgent situation arises.

There have already been a few situations this academic year where this fund has been of help to those in our community. The Benevolence Committee has been enabled to act on your behalf because of your prior donations to the Fund.

At this time, we would encourage you to share with those having need by contributing to the Benevolence Fund. Your gifts provide hope when needed most and at a time when most needed.

To contribute to the Benevolence Fund, please send your donation to Northwest University, College Advancement Office, P.O. Box 579, Kirkland, WA 98083-0579, or give on-line by credit card: <http://northwestu.edu/giving> click on GIVE NOW.

and goodwill

Seattle Union Gospel Mission: many locations need many helping hands

Founded in 1932 by leaders of Seattle area churches, the Seattle Union Gospel Mission is a faith based nonprofit organization serving the spiritual, social, and physical needs of our society through direct rescue mission work. Their mission is to help the homeless and poor men, women and children in the greater Seattle metropolitan area to renew their lives and re-enter their community's mainstream.

There are five homeless shelters: Pioneer Square, Capitol Hill, South Seattle, the International District, and Rainier Valley. There are also several drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, a seniors ministry, free legal services, a dental clinic, and a prison ministry.

For information about how you can help, contact the Volunteer Office at 206.723.0767 or check out www.ugm.org.

Volunteers needed:

sing Christmas carols at a shelter during meals
adopt a family for Christmas
help put on a Christmas party at the Women & Family Shelter
Put up Christmas decorations
sponsor a cookie decorating party
serve meals

Donations needed:

socks
diapers
bus tickets
gift certificates
coats
underwear
toiletries
school supplies
bulk food items

Giving Tree: shop for a child's wishes

A giving tree is a tree with ornaments or tags that contain a gift-wish from an underprivileged child. Wishes are from children of all ages and range from gifts costing \$1 to \$50. University Place on the University of Washington campus and Kirkland Parkplace Center have Giving Trees on December 1 thru December 20. Pick-up a gift-wish ornament and help to raise the spirits of a less fortunate child.

The Giving Tree at University Place is located at center court. Giving Trees at Parkplace Center are located at Mama Lucia's Italian Kitchen, Mark's Hallmark, Parkplace Office Supply, and Parkplace Books.

There is also a Giving Tree at Bartell Drugs in Houghton Plaza.

Military Corps bring toys to children

"Every child deserves a little Christmas." The Marine Corps League is a nonprofit military veterans service organization of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve has been sending messages of hope to needy children since 1947. Whether it's a fire truck, a doll, a football, a simple toy most children take these things for granted, but to a needy child, a toy is a message of hope.

The Marine Corps League is a nonprofit military veterans service organization of the U.S. Marine Corps founded by Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune in 1923. Its membership is comprised of honorably discharged, reserve, active duty, and retired Marines banded together for comradeship, mutual support, and community service.

This year Toys for Tots is partnering with KIRO 7 TV, the Seattle Seahawks, Longs Drugs, 97.3 KBSG to deliver more than 100,000 toys to children in Western Washington.

You can help by donating a new, unwrapped toy or monetary donation at a local toy collection site. To find a collection site, go to www.toys4tots.org/seattledrop2003.htm The site nearest to Northwest College is at Longs Drugs in Juanita in Kirkland.

FOOD BANKS

HopeLink Food Bank

302 1st Street
Kirkland, WA 98033
(425) 889-7880

Northwest Harvest

www.northwestharvest.org
Drop-off locations in Kirkland:
Kid Valley on Lake Wash. Blvd.
UPS Store on Main Street
Enterprise Rent-a-Car in Totem Lake

FOOD DRIVES

Kirkland Parkplace QFC

donations received go to benefit HopeLink in Kirkland
collection barrels are located inside the store.

Ends December 31

Almost every grocery store sponsors food drives during the holidays that you can participate in

TOY DRIVES

Holiday Angel Toy Drive

donations received go to benefit local hospitals
collection baskets are located inside every local Starbucks
Ends December 25.

Toys for Tots

Drop-off location in Kirkland:
Longs Drugs in Juanita
www.toys4tots.org

LETTERS TO SANTA

Every year, United States Post Offices receive millions of letters to Santa, many from needy children. Most post offices allow individuals to pickup a letter in order to grant the child's wishes.

Kirkland Post Office:
721 4th Ave.
Kirkland, WA 98033

EDITOR'S PICK

Starbucks hosts 4th Annual Joy Drive

THREE WAYS TO GIVE:

1. Bring a new, unwrapped gift to any Starbucks near you before December 25th.
2. Give a financial contribution at Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation.
3. Purchase books and toys for Joy Drive online at Barnes & Noble.

"There are angels among us." Starbucks is partnering with the Starlight Children's Foundation for the third annual Holiday Angels Toy Drive. Last year, Starbucks customers donated 276,304 toys - this year's goal is even higher, at 330,752. You can bring a smile to the face of a seriously ill child by bringing a new, unwrapped gift to a local Starbucks by December 25. Gifts donated during the holiday season will be cherished by hospitalized children all year long.

The Starlight Children's Foundation is an international nonprofit organization that serves over 100,000 seriously ill children every month. Starlight's goal is to restore the joy and laughter that serious illness takes away from children.

Working with more than 1,000 hospitals, Starlight provides both in-hospital and outpatient programs and services. Understanding that when a child is sick the whole family suffers, programs incorporate the entire family.

For more information about the Starlight Children's Foundation, check out: www.starlight.org or call 1-800-274-(STAR) 7827.

Gift suggestions:

Books (including multilingual)
Board Games & Puzzles
Hand held games (including batteries)
Craft Kits
Makeup kits
Building/Lego Toys
DVD/VHS tapes and CD's (rated G or PG)
Batteries
Dolls
Infant items

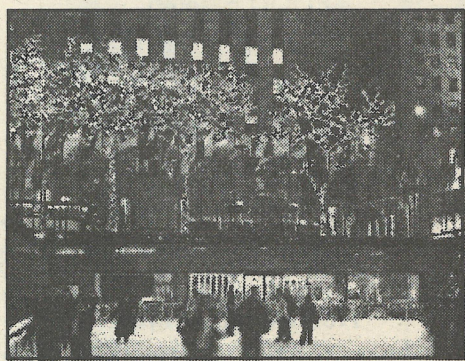
Starbucks do not accept:

Used toys
Plush toys or stuffed animals
Violent toys
Breakable items
Food
Clothing

starlight * starbright
children's foundation



SKATING RINKS



BY RYAN JONES
Reporter

Bellevue Holiday Ice Arena

10201 N.E. Fourth Street, Bellevue
Downtown Park (across from Bellevue
Square)

[http://www.magicseason.com/events/
main.htm](http://www.magicseason.com/events/main.htm)

Costs (cash only):

General admission: \$6

Skate rental: \$2

Hours:

Through December 17:

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday:
3:00p.m.-9:00p.m.

Wednesday: 2:00p.m.-9:00p.m.

Friday and Saturday: 11:00a.m.-11:00p.m.

Sunday: 11:00a.m.-6:00p.m.

December 18-30: daily 11:00a.m.-11:00p.m.

December 24: 11:00a.m.-6:00p.m.

closed December 25

December 31: 11:00a.m.-9:00p.m.

Highland Ice Arena

18005 Aurora Avenue N, Shoreline
<http://www.highlandice.com>

Costs:

one adult: \$6.00

one child / Senior (6-12 years old or 65+):
\$5.50

group discount for 7 or more

Skate rental fees: \$2.50/pair

Free skating sessions –

refer to website for dates

Hours:

Monday through Friday:

10:30a.m. -12:30p.m. and 3:00p.m.-5:15p.m.

Wednesday: 8:00p.m.-10:00p.m.

Friday: 7:30p.m.-12:00a.m.

Saturdays: 10:00a.m.- 12:00p.m. and

1:30p.m.-5:00p.m. and 7:30p.m.-12:00a.m.

Sundays: 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. and

1:30p.m.-7:00p.m.

Castle Ice Arena

12620 164th Avenue SE, Renton
<http://www.castleice.com/arena.html>

Costs:

Weekdays: \$6.50/person

Weekends: \$7.50/person

Kids under 5: \$3.25

Skate rental: 2.50 (on Saturday nights from
7:30 to 10:15, skate rentals are free of
charge)

Cheap Skate nights: \$3.25/person

Hours:

Mondays: 11:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

Tuesdays: 11:00a.m.-3:00p.m.;

6:30p.m.-8:15p.m. (cheap skate nights)

Wednesdays: 11:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

Thursdays: 11:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

Fridays: 11:00a.m.-3:00p.m.;

7:30p.m.-10:15p.m. (Teen Night)

Saturdays: 1:00p.m.-4:00p.m.;

7:00p.m.-10:00p.m. (Family Skate Nights)

Sundays: 2:30p.m.-5:15p.m.

Other Skating rinks in the area:

Sno-King Ice Arena - Lynnwood

Olympic View Arena - Mount Lake Terrace

Seattle Skating Club - Seattle

Sprinkler Ice Arena - Tacoma

Fall Play Another Dramatic Success



THE CAST (back row, left to right): Jesse Bryan, Erin Anderson, Meghan Young, Neil Allender, Jennifer Saunders, Kara Meissner, Jak Moroshan.

BY GIDEON COPPLE
Reporter

KIRKLAND, Wash. - As a wise old man once said: "The most wasted of all days is one without laughter". If you had the opportunity to experience the Northwest University Drama Department's latest

Elf - Yay or Nay

BY LOWELL PERRY
Reporter

It's the holiday season and that new Christmas comedy movie, *Elf*, has just come out on rental. If you haven't already guessed, it is about an elf (actually a man who thinks he is an elf). This elf whose name is Buddy, realizes he doesn't fit in the elf world and decides to leave the North Pole to try to find his roots in New York. There, he interacts with normal people and helps them discover their inner Christmas cheerfulness.

Elf is directed by Jon Favreau (*Life on Parole*) and stars Will Ferrell (*Saturday Night Live*, *A Night at the Roxbury*, *Anchorman*) as Buddy. Rated PG for mild rude humor and language, children and teens are the target audience.

Will Ferrell's performance is the main attraction. Its 95 minutes of comedy has some original and entertaining ideas, but the characters and plot lacked any interesting complexities. The story of the father who learns to put his family first, the son who gets the attention he's never had, the girl who learns to express herself - all these are pretty stereotypical for a Christmas story, but they do a good job of warming the heart for the holidays.

This movie did have funny scenes. My favorite was when Buddy beat up the imposter Santa in the mall. And there was the scene where Buddy was singing along with Jovie while she was taking a shower. Don't worry, it didn't show anything.

I thought the ending was pretty lame. It would have been nice if Jovie and Buddy just decided to keep wreaking havoc on New York after Christmas was over, but no, they had to get married. I thought it totally ruined the self expression theme with Jovie. She had a lot more potential than that. The last scene of the movie shows her serving hot chocolate to Buddy and his elfin father. And Will Ferrell isn't even cute.

Elf is an average Christmas flick that your whole family can watch. However, if you are a serious movie watcher, spend your money on something else.

On a scale of 1 to 10, *Elf* gets a 5.

(front row):

Colby

Swicord,

Lauren

Gardner,

Holly

Strandwitz,

Kathryn

Pecota,

Andrea

Cannon,

Melissa

Steinert.

Not

pictured:

Bethany

Strandwitz.

production, you certainly didn't waste your day.

Running nightly from November 17th through the 20th, the Northwest put on *Comedy Tonight! Broadway Hits and One Act Plays* – a smorgasbord of witty humor and dramatic intensity. The production proved to be a much-needed break in the busy month of November for Northwest students and the Kirkland community.

A very talented cast and stage team worked hard for weeks to give the campus a show it would not soon forget.

With Broadway-inspired choreography, familiar tunes, and several

wacky skits, *Comedy Tonight's* success required long hours of rehearsal.

Lisa Peretti, head of the Drama Department and the play's mastermind, is quick to credit her cast: "I think that singing on stage, as a 'character' is one of the most difficult and vulnerable things to do. And, not only have these students demonstrated that they can master a song and pull it off in character, but they can do the acting, movement, and technical timing required for this kind of theatre. It takes guts."

A few things are for certain: the soloists did a superb job of reviving the old, 'Golden-Era' magic of Broadway musicals; also, cast-member Jesse Bryan plays a surprisingly convincing drunkard.

When audience members weren't clapping/laughing hysterically, they were sitting back, captivated by the assortment of emotions that only a triumphant amateur-theater production can conjure.

With songs from such hits as *Guys and Dolls*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Chicago*, and *Beauty and the Beast*, the production spanned over 100 years of musical theater history. It was the best \$5 most of us have spent all month.

Congratulations to the Drama Department and all involved in this semester's play on a job well done. They got rhythm. They got music. Who could ask for anything more?

Be sure to check out spring semester's play, *Charley's Aunt* by Brandon Thomas, opening April 1st, 2005.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

**Park Terrace Chinese 'Splendiferous'
Atmosphere and Flavor**

BY MEGHAN YOUNG
Features Editor

KIRKLAND, Wash. - The search for perfection, I'm proud to announce, is over. The Talon has visited many little hole-in-the-wall, unannounced dives to find the perfect Chinese restaurant and it turns out, holes and dives were unnecessary. For those days when you just can't move another step without the deluxe power of sesame chicken, the hungry intellectual need stumble no further than Park Terrace Chinese, at Kirkland's Park Place.

Located next to TGI Friday's, it's easy to miss Park Terrace; but once discovered, this treasure of classic Chinese meals is hard to forget. Able to accommodate a single starving student, a handful of hungry humans, or even a peckish party of post-grads, Park Terrace does lunch, dinner, and catering, in dine-in or carry-out options.

Park Terrace has an inclusive menu, with carnivorous and vegetarian options, lunch, dinner, specials, a special tea menu, and delicious appetizers. A highly recommended dish is the sweet-and-sour chicken, which has a balanced flavor and excellent, tender choices of meat.

Also recommended is the Chrysanthemum Tea from the tea menu; a light blend of chrysanthemum blossom and herbal mint, and green tea, this decaffeinated beverage is served in a classic Chinese teapot and is a perfect way to de-stress after a long day bent over one's textbooks.

Freshman student Laura Taylor, self-proclaimed General Tso's chicken connoisseur, visited Park Terrace and has ordered both the General Tso's and the sesame chicken. The sesame chicken, Taylor reported, has "the perfect amount of sweet" and the General Tso's exceeded her expectations, with special note to the "huge chicken pieces." "Both of them, I love," she stated.

Fellow Freshman Alicia Church visited with Taylor, and has now been twice for Park Terrace's chicken chow mien. "It's splendiferous," she informed the Talon. Taylor added, "The chicken chow mien has really good flavor."

Another student, Katherine Gosvenor, who describes herself as something of a critic of Chinese food, had Park Terrace's chicken with broccoli, and said that it was "excellent." She added, "The atmosphere is very 'Chinese' and not super Americanized at all." She declared it the "best Chinese restaurant north of San Francisco."

Both Gosvenor and the Talon agree that Park Terrace's best appetizer by far is their potstickers, which have a delicious texture, wonderfully blended filling, and are worthy of ranking in a top ten list of comfort foods.

Menu prices run a little higher than fast food, but are highly competitive with other area Chinese restaurants. For scrumptious Chinese cuisine, it seems unanimous: Park Terrace Chinese approaches perfection with confidence and comfort.

THE STORY OF *NUTCRACKER*

The original tale of *Nutcracker and the King of Mice* by German romanticist music critic, eccentric, and short-story writer E.T.A. Hoffmann is told something like this:

On Christmas Eve, Marie (not Clara) Stahlbaum and her siblings, younger brother Fritz and older sister Louise awaited their Christmas Eve celebration with great anticipation. In this time, good children received their presents on Christmas Eve rather than Christmas Day, and so they huddled around the drawing room door with great anticipation.

That year, the children received several gifts, but the one Marie loved the most was the ugly little Nutcracker soldier she discovered hidden among the boughs of the Christmas tree. She and her sister enjoyed employing him for the cracking of nuts, and when they allowed the attention-deficit Fritz a try, he broke the Nutcracker's teeth.

Marie became even more attached to the little doll, and took special care of him.

After the evening's festivities were over, the children are sent to bed, except Marie who asks for a few more moments to make sure her Nutcracker is well taken care of in his new spot in the toy cabinet.

While she is doing this, the evening atmosphere gets to the little girl's fantasies and she imagines that she sees Drosselmeier atop the drawing room clock. As she's worrying about this, thousands of little mice come out from the walls, led by one huge mouse with seven heads, and seven crowns.

Just as Marie thinks she's going to be attacked by this mouse army, her brother's toy soldiers come alive and are led by the wounded Nutcracker soldier in battle against the mice. It seems they're going to lose, until Marie, heartbroken at the idea of any further harm coming to her Nutcracker, takes off her left shoe and throws it at the Mouse King.

Everything disappears, and Marie crashes her arm into the toy cabinet in her panic, passing out from pain/blood loss/some sillier 1800's ailment to do with injuries.

When she awakens, she is in bed, being tended by her mother and a doctor. She attempts to tell her mother of the night's events, but is of course treated like she is delusional and feverish from her injury. Drosselmeier shows up, however, and over the course of her recovery manages to terrify and encourage the young lady with the story of Princess Pirlipat, Dame Mouserink and her evil son who becomes the Mouse King, and the young man who came to court with the clockmaker and became doomed to wooden ugliness for the sake of the princess.

After she is recovered, Marie visits her Nutcracker in the toy cabinet again, restored from his broken teeth and in no other way harmed. Later on, the Mouse King returns and threatens Marie, and once and for all the Nutcracker defeats him. He does take Marie to a land of candy, where she meets his sisters and sees that he truly is a prince in disguise.

Then, she wakes up. A few days later, Drosselmeier comes to visit- with a young man, his nephew, visiting from another town. It is Marie's Nutcracker prince, restored to life from his defeat of the Mouse King and the courage and dedication of young Marie's love for him. Marie is married to the young man a year later, and they live happily together forever.

There is an implication in the story that most of the items of fantasy or color exist in Marie's imagination, but they are unspoiled by reality because of the vivid nature and vivacity of the girl's imagination and affection.

BALLET REVIEW

Nutcracker

© Angela Sterling photography

Pacific Northwest Ballet Company dancers with principal dancer Carrie Imler as Flora in *Nutcracker*.

Magic and energy at PNB's *The Nutcracker*

BY MEGHAN YOUNG
Features Editor

It is the sincere opinion of this writer that Seattle Center is the second happiest place on earth (after, of course, the wonder that is Disneyland). It has a cool fountain with choreographed water, music and light shows, the Experience Music Project, the Space Needle, a couple of awesome repertory theaters that do excellent shows all year 'round, and the Center House, where one who is easily entertained can spend hours just watching the taffy pull at Seattle Fudge. All that- not including festivals like Winterfest and Bumbershoot, Key Arena, and the ever-awesome Science Center.

Add one more thing to that list of highlights, though: the Pacific Northwest Ballet, housed at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. November 26 - December 28, PNB is performing P. I. Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, under the musical direction of Stewart Kershaw, the choreography of Kent Stowell, PNB school direction of Francia Russell, and set and costume design of author and illustrator Maurice Sendak.

Based on the short story *Nutcracker and the King of Mice* by German writer E.T.A. Hoffmann, *The Nutcracker* ballet is a classical Christmas tradition, famously choreographed by George Balanchine. Stowell and Russell, the husband and wife team of artistic directors for PNB have been working on *Nutcracker* for nearly 30 years.

The ballet takes place in Nuremberg, Germany; Clara Stahlbaum, a preteen daughter of Romantic-era bourgeois German Dr. and Frau Stahlbaum is taking a Christmas Eve nap, and has a dream in which her godfather, the eccentric and subtly sinister Herr Drosselmeier portrays a fight between a Nutcracker and an evil Mouse King, while the lovely Princess Pirlipat looks on. The Mouse King conquers, and bites Princess Pirlipat, turning her into an ugly girl.

Clara wakes from her dream and joins the rest of the party which her parents are hosting in the drawing room. Drosselmeier attends, torments the poor girl with scary recollections of her dream, and then enchants her with her very own wooden Nutcracker.

Between a scene depicting Clara's bratty brother Fritz, some human-sized wooden dolls, and a lot of ballroom dancing, however, the overwhelming first impressions are made not by the dancers, but by the sets. Sendak, better known for his authorship of the children's classic book *Where the Wild Things Are*, created the sets and costumes for PNB's *Nutcracker* in 1983. They are a large definition that sets PNB's production apart from many others, but they also- in their candy-toned, boldly pastel way- create the mood and energy of the show. As fellow *Talon* editor Kristie Benner remarked, "They're so German looking!" -And they are.

Technical notations aside, however, the dancers themselves were absolutely magical. The talents of dancers Olivier Wevers (Herr Drosselmeier, Pasha), Jodie Thomas (Ballerina Doll), Mara Vinson (lead Flower), Taurean Green (the Nutcracker), Christopher Maraval (the Prince), and Noelani Pantastico (Clara, Act II) were clear and vibrant. As a cast, they were cohesive and united; as soloists, they were stars.

A word to the wise: the old stereotypes of ballet being an over-effeminate, bourgeois event for evening gowns and opera glasses are out. PNB- and *The Nutcracker*- are a worthwhile Christmas tradition accessible to anyone, full of beauty and that little twinge of something magical that makes the holidays- and this production- unique.

CALENDAR

THEATRE



Paramount Theatre

Disney presents "The Lion King"
Experience the phenomenon. Seattle's most eagerly awaited stage production ever will leap onto The Paramount Theatre stage this season - it's visually stunning, technically astounding, and with a musical score like none other. Giraffes strut, birds swoop, gazelles leap. The entire savannah comes to life and as the music soars, Pride Rock slowly emerges from the mist. See the Tony Award-winning Broadway sensation that Newsweek calls, "a landmark event in entertainment."

November 30-January 16

For more info:

www.theparamount.com

Taproot Theatre

"A Radioland Christmas"

It's 1943. Another year, another Christmas "radioland special" and another year of writer's block for Ned Collins. With one hour till show-time the pressure's on. The script is a disaster, the actors are walking out and the invited guests are arriving for their command performance. When the on-air sign lights up an empty soundstage it's anyone's guess what will happen next.

November 19-December 30

Tickets: \$17-29

206.781.9707 or

www.ticketmaster.com

The Intiman Theater

"Black Nativity: A Gospel Song Play"

by Langston Hughes

Nov. 27-Dec. 26.

A nativity open for all faiths, this is a yearly tradition at the Intiman.

5th Avenue Theater

"Peter Pan"

Cathy Rigby's musical farewell tour-Rigby has become famous in this role, and this classic musical by Jerome Robbins is based on the original play by J. M. Barrie.

Dec. 1-19

PERIPHERAL VISION

WHAT HAPPENED TO "CHRIST"MAS?

BY KAELEY TRILLER
Columnist

The holiday season does not lend itself freely to the theme of this column. It seems to be the only time of year when we care for even those on the furthest outskirts of society. The familiar bell of the Salvation Army volunteer in the Santa hat greets us as we enter Safeway to pick up eggnog and candy canes. Most of us drop our spare change in the bucket at least once during the course of the season. After all, it is Christmas.

Christmas, the time of year when joy is almost a requirement, when busy men with suits, cellphones and fancy cars take vacation days to stay home, build snowmen and sit by the fire.

Christmas, the first time in months our entire seven person immediate family can congregate in the same place at the same time to watch good old Clarence earn his wings—and the first time we can do so without a major conflict.

Christmas, when ballet is actually cool, and the Sugar Plum Fairy once again returns from hibernation, when twinkling lights reflect off the frost covered ground, when Starbucks decorates its cups with snowflakes, and even the edgier radio stations feel compelled to play an occasional uplifting song.

Christmas, when Handel's Messiah is rivaled in your mind by the four year olds costumed as sheep in their personal rendition of Away in a Manger at the church Christmas pageant.

Christmas is a time of tree decorating and gingerbread house making, of taking pictures in Santa's lap for the sake of tradition, even though you are now 21 years old. It's a time of singing carols and loving people. There is an undeniable unifying element in this season. And while there are a few Ebenezer Scrooges among us, the overwhelmingly happy truth is that Christmas has the potential to bring about the best in people and to minimize the number of those, for lack of a better term, on the periphery.

As I was watching TV last night, a simple Jack in the Box advertisement struck me. It was an amusing add. Office workers made themselves festive by individually wearing reindeer antler hats and greeting each other with the phrase, "Happy holiday spirit!" One unfortunately overspirited man wore antlers so big that they scraped the walls as he walked awkwardly down the hall. I laughed. And then I thought about it a little, and it started to bug me. Happy holiday spirit? What exactly might that be?

Now I realize that we live in a melting pot of a country, that not everyone believes in Christ, and therefore not everyone believes in Christmas. I cannot slap a magic Jesus band aid on everyone or spoonfeed my theology down every throat. Changing hearts is God's work, and therefore I will not make a fuss in an attempt to prevent people of Jewish faith from celebrating Hannukah. Though I disagree with the doctrine of those who celebrate Kwanzaa, I will not campaign against their

right to do so as they see fit. So I object to muted phrasing such as "Happy holiday spirit" that prevents me from celebrating mine. I object to the local public library's decision to discontinue the tradition of the annual Christmas tree in an effort to be inoffensive. I find it very offensive. I say keep the tree and throw in a menorah if you have to.

Somewhere in the midst of making snowmen, baking cookies, singing carols, hanging lights, drinking eggnog, taking pictures with Santa, and spending time with the family, we've allowed the worst possible alienation. We've put Christ at the periphery of his own holiday! He's an afterthought, an occasional nativity scene on a church lawn, and a threat to the ever sacred entity of political correctness.

The sad truth is that the secular world is getting away with the idea of a Christless Christmas because Christians haven't acted boldly or powerfully enough to prevent it. By all means, enjoy every minute of the Christmas season and all that entails, but remember that at the heart of all the joy it brings you is a child in a box of hay in a smelly barn on the outskirts of society. We put him there by our sin; we leave him there by our complacency.

Declare Christ this season. Put a nativity scene outside your house, buy religious greeting cards, play music that celebrates his birth. Don't worry about offending people; worry about offending Jesus. I just can't seem to settle for "Happy holiday spirit." Merry Christmas!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I have heard through the grapevine of this small campus community, that the most recently published issue of the Talon Journal was forced to be retracted and reprinted due to an article of a recent controversial chapel service. Not only have the former Talon editors worked hard to establish an objective student newspaper, but current editorial staff has also worked hard to develop and maintain a high level of credibility and professionalism.

The meaning for this letter is my concern as both a student and a journalist. For the last six years, I have taken pride as an involved journalist within my community. One year was as a student reporter, the following years until this year I assumed an editorial position – whether it was as Assistant Editor or Editor-in-chief. In my years of experience, I too have had to deal with the issue of censorship. My question is, was this retraction truly necessary?

Whether or not this article held any validity or truth to it, if the student editors felt it was worthy enough to be printed as an "editorial piece by," it should have had the opportunity to be printed as such. Newspapers, by nature, are a form of organized dialogue that occurs between the public readers and the editorial staff. More specifically, student newspapers are an avenue of *student* expression and free speech. Now before I lose your attention, I realize that in my usage of the words "free speech," it uproots the common frustrations of the misuse and abuse of its power.

The Student Press Law Center, an organization committed to increasing the

understanding high school and university age students have of their rights as journalists, has better analyzed the First Amendment and its application to this issue of censorship. Although the First Amendment is only bound to the actions of those acting on behalf of the government, or public sectors, the SPLC makes a good point when they state, "Even though a court may not be able to prevent censorship at a private school, this alone does not make it right. Just because you *can* censor does not mean that you *should*."

So why shouldn't the school flex their censoring muscles? There are a few reasons why it is a bad practice. Northwest has made a commitment to teach students to "Carry the Call: with heart, head and hand." How will students graduating from this institution sufficiently fulfill this mission, should they decide to continue in journalism, if they have been taught an incorrect analysis of its function in a secular society? As the SPLC puts it, "A student journalist who has experienced censorship and prior restraint throughout his academic career will approach the realities of journalism and its role in American society with a warped perspective."

Continual censorship hinders students from the ability to have an accurate perception of how journalism in the real world works. It also restrains our students at Northwest from as much of an education that those at a public school might have, "It is also retarding one of the basic necessities of the learning process – the unfettered free flow of ideas." Finally, as a school affiliated with religious backing,

there should be a common understanding of the First Amendment concerning free speech. After all, should the First Amendment not have protected our free exercise of religion, Northwest University and other schools like it might not be in existence. I agree with the SPLC when they said, "It would seem incumbent upon religious schools to advocate the guarantees that protect journalists as much as themselves."

I am not asking that students be allowed to publish works that are offensive and degrading, but rather pieces that will allow them to healthfully express and exchange ideas in a form that will stretch the logical, analytical and emotional thoughts they hold. Through this interaction, students are able to more fully challenge, discuss and learn from the intellectuals they are surrounded by on a daily basis.

I would think that as a college, so engulfed in the emergence as a "university," that we might be open to the idea of tasteful expression of thought and opinion. If this is a breeding ground of education, it should as well be to not only areas of ministry but certain secular fields as well. How sad that I would have more opportunity to grow as a journalist and be challenged to hold true to my ideas more in a fallen, public high school than a well-respected Christian institution I chose to attend.

For more information regarding the citations used in this article, please visit the official website of the Student Press Law Center at www.splc.org.

Sincerely,
Tiffany Zulkosky

The Talon
Journal

The Talon encourages letters to the editor. However, we reserve the right to not publish anonymous or vulgar submissions.

The Talon is a student newspaper and therefore the views and opinions presented here do not necessarily reflect those of the institution of Northwest College.

The Talon needs reporters, photographers, and an advertising manager! If you are interested, please email us or go to our website and submit a "Become a Reporter" form.

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Men's basketball update

November 9, 2004

Tossing aside their image as a typically inside-the-paint offensive threat, the Northwest University Eagles played chameleon against Columbia Bible College on Tuesday night and used a perimeter-shooting game to race past the Bearcats 87-73 up in Abbotsford, B.C.

Paced by senior guard Nate Lindseth's seven 3-pointers, the Eagles had four players hitting from behind the arc as they rallied back from an early 26-13 deficit by hitting 10 treys in the contest to improve their record to 2-0 for the season. Andrew Gard started the NU comeback by nailing a 3-pointer from the top of the circle at the 12:10 mark of the first half, and Lindseth quickly followed suit by canning three straight bombs to help knot the game at 31-31 with 6:50 left on the clock. Patrick Hillis' driving lay-in finally put the Eagles on top at 37-35, and after the Bearcats took a short-lived one-point advantage, his back-door lay-in gave NU the lead for good at 41-40 with 3:36 left to play.

After Chase Van Cleeve buried a trey from the top of the key to increase the advantage to four, the Eagles never again

allowed the Bearcats to lead in the contest, instead relying upon a ball-pressuring defense to push the margin to 79-60 late in the second-half.

Lindseth led NU in scoring with 23 points, while freshman Steven Ishmael continued to provide the Eagles with a strong inside presence by tossing in 21 points and grabbing 15 rebounds. Also scoring in double figures for Northwest were Hillis with 11 and Tyson Dodd, who added 10.

November 15, 2004

They say there are no "moral victories" in basketball, but every once in awhile there are those times where the final numbers glowing up on a scoreboard don't truly reflect the actual story of a game. That was the case last night in Bellingham when the Northwest University Eagles dropped a hard-fought 84-65 contest to NCAA Division II power Western Washington in a game that was actually much closer than the final score indicated.

Paced by the stalwart performance of underclassmen Stephen Ismael and Aaron Sawyer, the Eagles were locked in a

tight thriller with the home standing Vikings, trailing only 56-51 with only ten minutes left on the clock. But following a Western time-out the NU offense suddenly went cold as the Vikings suddenly switched to a zone defense and dared the Eagles to beat them from the perimeter. A pair of costly turnovers and several missed shots later found Western racing out on an 18-0 run that finally ended when Sawyer hit a free-throw with 4:22 left to play and the Eagles down by a 75-54 count. Save for that five-minute scoring drought, the game was a virtual stand-off, with the underdog Eagles playing their highly regarded hosts even for most of the night.

Northwest's young frontline out-rebounded Western, pulling down 38 boards to the Vikings 27. But Eagle turnovers proved costly, as Northwest turned the ball over 18 times while forcing only 8 turnovers themselves.

Ismael led the Eagles in scoring, tossing in 14 points while hitting all seven of his shot attempts in the game. Grant Enloe added 12 and Sawyer 11 as NU had three players scoring in double figures. The Vikings were paced by Grant Dykstra and Ryan Diggs, a pair of cat-quick guards who accounted for 44 points between themselves.

November 20, 2004

Taking full advantage of an unfamiliar luxury, Northwest University basketball coach John Van Dyke used his Eagle's depth and maturity to capture a pair of impressive wins this past weekend down in Portland. Led by the stalwart performances of seniors Tyson Dodd and Nate Lindseth who each came off the bench on successive nights to help ignite the Northwest offense, the Eagles improved to 4-1 on the season after beating George Fox 63-59 on Friday and belting Pacific 74-62 Saturday.

Leading 12-10 in the early going against Fox, Dodd's put-back and 15-foot jumper in the lane upped the Eagle advantage to 16-10 and helped spark the NU offense to a 14-4 run. By halftime Northwest had widened the gap to 32-18, and when Patrick Hillis went the length of the floor to cash in a lay-in following a steal, the Eagles had pushed their lead to 54-34 with 9:48 left in the game.

Even though George Fox responded with a late-game charge, the Eagles kept their composure down the stretch, icing the game with Aaron Sawyer coolly dropped home a pair of free-throws with 38 seconds left to make the score 63-56. A bank-shot three pointer from beyond the top of the key at the buzzer closed the gap, but the Eagles poise during the late-game Bruin charge kept them in control through out the contest, sealing the non-league win.

On Saturday night it was Lindseth who came off the bench to add some much needed spark to the Eagle offense. After burying a three-pointer from the left side with 6:13 left in the first half, Lindseth found the bottom of the net with a pair of back-to-back treys minutes later to push the NU lead to 33-20 with 1:55 left. Stephen Ishmael then scored on a three-point play and a lay-in off a steal by the Eagle sophomore just before the buzzer gave NU a 38-20 halftime lead they never lost. A pair of free-throws by Dodd upped the lead to 56-31 with 11:28 left, and the Eagles coasted to their second straight win with 11 players scoring in the contest.

Sawyer paced the Eagle offense

sophomore Rachael and Shanna Claflin of a Lisa Langmade attack, Hamilton-Smith clinched the match with a block-tooling kill at the middle of the net.

Northwest, which lost to the Raiders in five games for the second time in the three-day, six-team tournament and finished the season with a program-best 22-8 record, received incredible stat lines from junior middle Emily Marquez (23 kills, six blocks), junior libero Dayna Casseday (39 digs), senior hitter Kelly Clarke (15 kills, 22 digs, four blocks) and Langmade (15 kills, 22 digs).

Match statistics accentuated the nip-and-tuck regional finale. Both teams had .167 attack percentages and amazingly even totals for digs (122 each), assists (76 each), kills (SOU 82, NU 79), attacks (NU 269, SOU 263), and blocks (SOU 13, NU 12).

The see-saw affair began with the Raiders staking a 17-15 Game 1 lead, but three late Langmade kills spurred a 7-1 NU run that closed out the frame. The Eagles then built a 7-2 Game 2 edge and held a 30-29 lead before SOU sprang two aces and a Jess Childress kill to eke out a crucial 33-31 win. After trailing wire-to-wire in Game 3, Northwest forced the deciding game with a 12-6 run that resulted in a insurmountable 27-21 lead in the fourth stanza.

A Marquez kill provided Northwest with the 9-6 edge in Game 5, but with Raider all-star setter Jamie McCreary serving, Southern scored the next seven points aided by three successive Eagle attack errors. Northwest, however, battled back with two Marquez kills, and Buck's service ace created NU's first match point try at 14-13, and Marquez struck again at 14-all leading up to Southern's match-sealing plays. Both setters played brilliantly. McCreary, who missed a portion of Game 2 due to injury, finished with 61 kills and 16 digs in a gritty performance, while Eagle freshman floor general Ali Simmons mustered 69 assists, five kills and four blocks.

stats

WOMENS VOLLEYBALL

Date	Opponent	Results
11/5	Concordia U	W: 3-0
11/6	W. Baptist	W: 3-2
11/12	Oregon IT	L: 0-3
11/13	West. Baptist	W: 3-0
11/18	S. Oregon U	L: 2-3
11/18	Oregon IT	W: 3-2
11/19	NAIA Semis	W: 3-0
11/20	NAIA Finals	L: 2-3

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Date	Opponent	Results
11/6	Walla Walla	W: 75-58
11/9	Columbia Bible	W: 87-73
11/15	W. Wash. U	L: 65-84
11/19	George Fox	L: 54-56
11/20	Pacific U	W: 74-62
11/23	Whitman	W: 74-65
11/30	George Fox	L: 54-56
12/3	UPS	7:00p.m.
12/4	Pacific U	7:30p.m.
12/9	Walla Walla	7:30p.m.
12/10	Whitman	TBA
12/11	Whitman	TBA
12/17	Albertson	7:30p.m.
12/18	E. Oregon	7:30p.m.
12/30	S. Oregon U	7:30p.m.
12/31	Oregon IT	7:30p.m.

WOMENS BASKETBALL

Date	Opponent	Results
11/5	Westminster	W: 84-72
11/6	Walla Walla	W: 86-37
11/12	Westmont	W: 62-55
11/13	Simpson L:	61-68
11/20	Saint Martin's	L: 45-72
11/23	UPS	L: 59-97
11/26	Holy Names	L: 57-86
11/27	Olivet Naz	L: 83-106
12/3	Whitman	5:00p.m.
12/4	Whitman	5:00p.m.
12/11	Exhibition	6:00p.m.
12/17	Albertson	5:30p.m.
12/18	E. Oregon	5:30p.m.

against George Fox, tossing in 22 points against the Bruins, while Grant Enloe added 10. Dodd led all rebounders on the night, garnering 8, while Hillis dished out 5 assists.

Saturday Sawyer again led the Eagles in scoring with 16, while Lindseth and Ishmael each added 9 to help pace a balanced NU scoring attack. Heady Eagle point-guard Andrew Gard handed out 10 assists in the game, giving him a total of 12 for the weekend.

November 23, 2004

Sparked by Patrick Hillis' 8-foot jumper that gave them the lead for the first time at the halftime buzzer, the Northwest University Eagles rode that momentum to a hard-fought 74-65 win over Whitman last night at the Northwest Pavilion. The Eagles improved their record to 5-1 as they used a balanced scoring attack to hand the Missionaries a season-opening loss. Paced by Aaron Sawyer's 19-point effort, Northwest upped their lead to 58-45 late in the second half before holding off a late Whitman charge. Also hitting in double figures for the Eagles were Grant Enloe and Andrew Gard who each tossed in 12.

Matt Kelly led the Missionaries with 24 while Ian Warner added 14.

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Lady Eagles Co-Conference Champs

November 6, 2004

Despite a career-high 33 kills delivered by Western Baptist sophomore hitter Kim Turin, Northwest University overcame a 2-1 deficit to finish the Cascade Collegiate Conference volleyball slate with a 30-26, 26-30, 28-30, 30-25, 15-9 triumph at C.E. Jeffers Sports Center on Saturday night. Northwest put on a blocking display to win Game 1, stuffing seven balls in the contests. After taking Game 2, Western Baptist scored seven of the final eight points in Game 3 to rally for the win. The Eagles put their offense in high gear the final two stanzas, making just three attack errors the rest of the way including 10 kills without a miscue in the decisive game. Leading just 9-8, Northwest scored six of the match's final seven points.

November 20, 2004

Northwest University and Southern Oregon shared the Conference Championship this year, but unfortunately a birth to nationals couldn't be shared. Both teams advanced through pool play and semifinal matches to meet in a winner take all regional final that would be one for the ages. The epic match would last well over two hours and see the Southern Oregon University volleyball team rally from a pair of three-point deficits in the fifth and deciding game to win its fourth consecutive NAIA Region I Tournament championship in front of 700 spectators at McNeal Pavilion. The top-seeded Raiders (26-6) earned the school's fourth consecutive trip to the NAIA Championships by outlasting Northwest University 24-30, 33-31, 30-23, 26-30 and 17-15 in a dramatic and evenly matched contest between the Cascade Conference regular-season co-champions.

Southern won after overcoming 7-4 and 9-6 Game 5 deficits and staving off Eagle match point tries at 14-13 and 15-14. Raider freshman outside hitter Jaclyn Hamilton-Smith evened the battle at 15-all, and following a block assist by

