

The Talon Journal

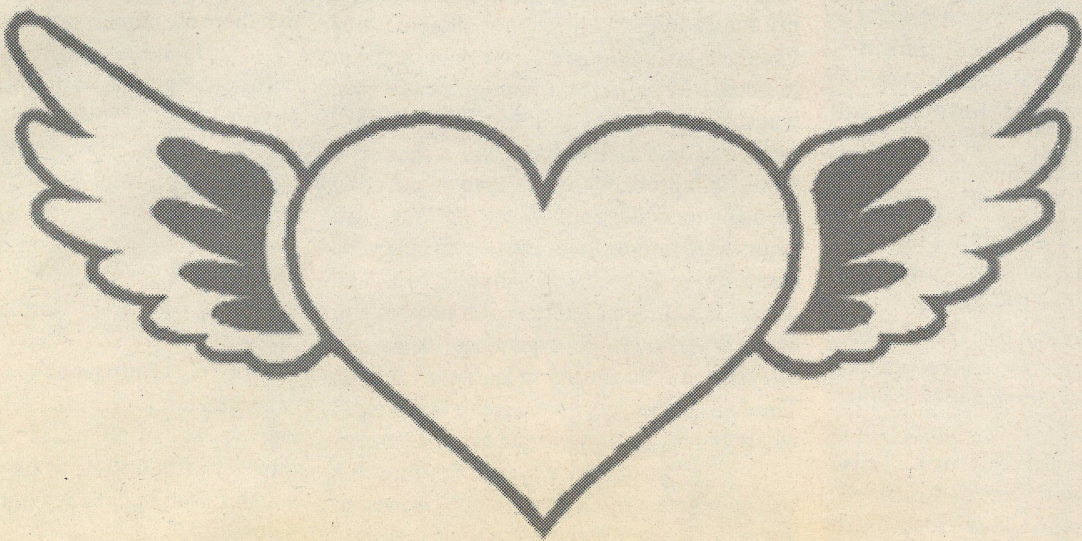
February 2005

A student publication of Northwest University

Vol. 3, Ed. 4

quirkyalone

a manifesto for uncompromising romantics



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us not to forget
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sarah boyd bravely tells why
you should make health
your priority
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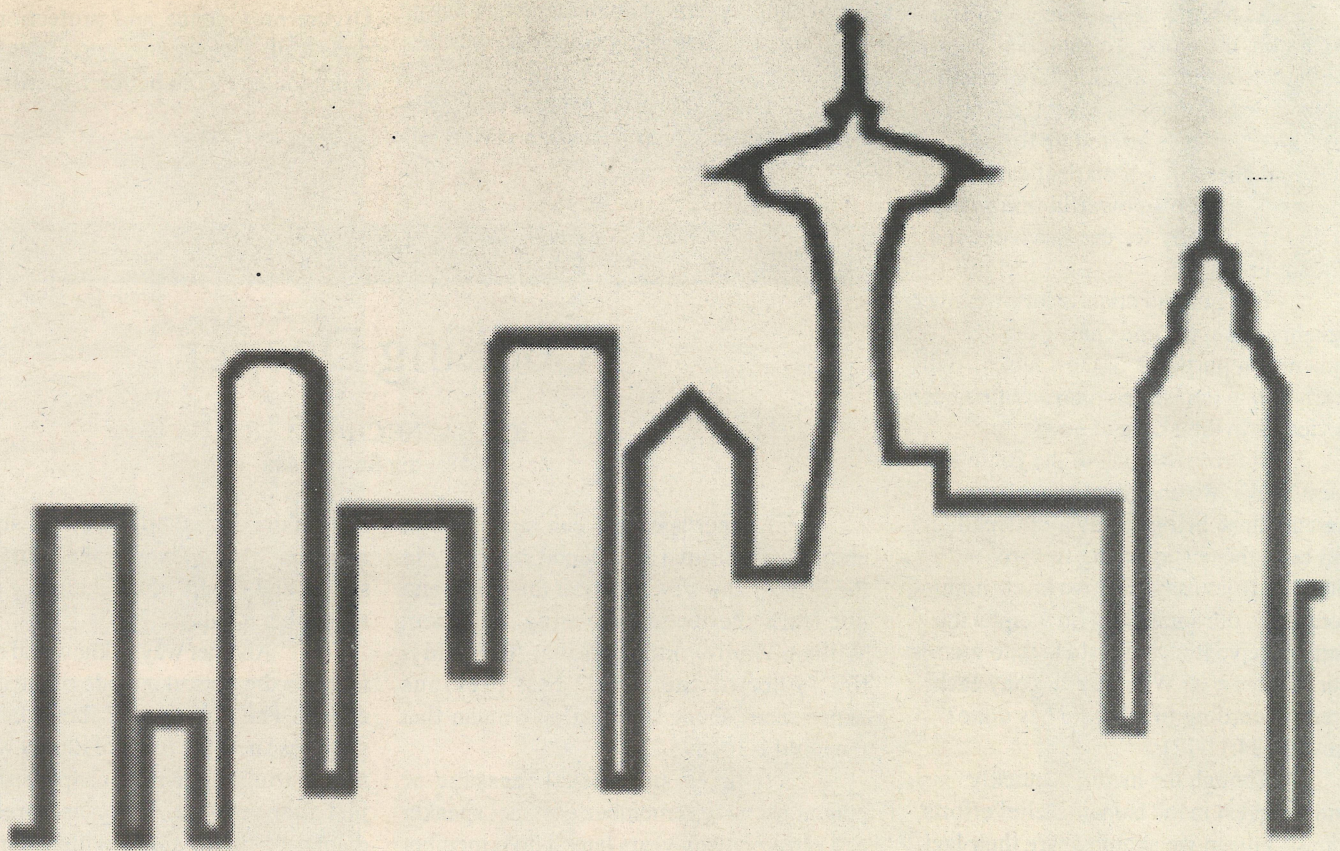
what is international
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QUIRKY AND SINGLE IN SEATTLE?

International Quirkyalone Day is not
anti-Valentine. It just happens to
fall on the same day.

LEAP

A Call To Action

Several weeks after the Asian tsunami, lives continue to be lost

BY GIDEON COPPLE
Reporter

Media in the United States and throughout the world was full of grisly images and stories of the Dec. 26th tsunami that struck coastal areas in Southern Asia. Pictures of beaches covered with corpses dominated the front page of nearly every major newspaper. Television stations rushed their reporters and camera crews to the areas to give the American public a firsthand glimpse of the massive devastation. Lately, the media rarely mentions the tsunami or the massive relief effort currently underway.

By the time you fall asleep tonight, several more people will be added to the staggering tsunami death toll. Currently, the disaster has claimed over 280,000 lives: a number roughly equivalent to half of the population in Seattle. Millions more are at risk of serious health epidemics. As decomposing bodies continue to contaminate drinking water, and unsanitary hospital supplies continue to breed infection and disease, the tsunami death toll is expected to rise over the coming months. Why then, does our media choose not to keep America informed on such atrocities?

It seems the news of the Asian tsunami has taken a back seat to 'more pressing' issues: the Brad & Jen breakup, the Michael Jackson trial, and Oscar nominations. For the media, coverage of the havoc wrought on that fateful Boxing Day is old news.

Sadly, our media won't change. But we can.

As people, as Americans and, as the Church, the worst we can do at such a time is to do nothing at all. Every cent in relief aid donations goes toward a great cause. Every prayer offered up to the Sovereign does not fall on deaf ears. In fact, one of the most powerful things we can do is pray daily for the survivors and their families.

The tsunami crisis is far from over. Arguably, relief aid and charity are fundamental purposes of the Church. Will the Church in the United States remember the victims in their time of need?

In Proverbs, one of the Bible's wisest books, we are given a mandate: "Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say 'But we knew nothing about this', does not He who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not He who guards your life know it? Will He not repay each person according to what he has done?" (Proverbs 24:11-12)

Though the media is quickly losing interest in the tsunami relief efforts, it doesn't mean we should share their lack of concern.

For further information on how you can personally be a part of the effort, visit:

www.agrelief.ag.org

Assemblies of God Relief

www.nwmti.org

Northwest Medical Teams International

www.unicef.org

United Nations Children's Fund

www.worldvision.org

World Vision International

LEAP Appreciation Week essay contest winner

How I learned to succeed as a nontraditional student

BY RICHARD HARRIGILL
LEAP Student

It was early one September morning in 1976 when I attended my first college class. I was a freshman at the University of Washington, and Chemistry 140 was in Kane Hall. It was a lecture hall that seated about 500 blurry-eyed students. I had the goal and ambition of getting out of there in four years with a BS in Engineering and Computer Science. Twenty nine years later, I am about to finally finish a Bachelor's degree at Northwest University. In the mean time, life got in the way. For a person without a degree, I have done well. However, I am the exception, not the rule. This is the story of how I have succeeded thus far.

Two years into college I was married and began a full-time career at Boeing. I also began a full-time career as a professional student and life-learner. In the last twenty seven years I have attended countless classes: some for college credit, some for vocational training, and some just because I was interested in the topic. Not a year went by when I did not study something in some way. During this time I accumulated several professional certifications, and earned a few initials that I can print after my name on a business card.

I was fortunate because my specific training and certifications were treated by my employer as functionally equivalent to a degree. I was therefore able to receive a job classification that allowed me to progress up the corporate ladder. However, the one thing that kept me going and provided value to my employer was my willingness to learn new things. I also kept my skills up-to-date in the fast-paced and ever-changing field of computer technology. Training and continuing education was the key.

During the past twenty seven years I have been involved in a wide variety of

activities. I owned my own business for a while, led several nonprofit organizations, was a youth pastor, learned the art of coaching baseball, became an airplane pilot, and filled the role of husband and father. I am happy with who I am and what I have done. I attribute this success to a passion for learning.

I am now at a point in my life where I am readjusting my personal goals, and looking at my future career. Obtaining a degree will fulfill that goal, and will enhance my future by providing more choices. Jobs like mine are starting to go away or be given to people in India for a fraction of my own wage. It may not be fair, but it is reality; I need a hedge. If I already had a degree, I would still probably be working on a second or advanced degree. Many people with degrees are finding themselves with pink slips these days. They need a hedge too. The degree is valuable, but does not protect you as much as knowledge, experience, hard work, integrity, and the ability to learn new things. The degree does, however, speak very loudly when you are looking for a new position.

Most of you who are reading this will complete your degrees. Know, however, that a degree is not an end to your learning. You will not have success with a degree and an attitude that you now know all you need to know. I guarantee you that the world will be vastly different in a few short years. Learning is the journey of life, not the destination of a completed program. Continue to take classes. Learn online. Watch educational and business programs instead of sit-coms. Take advantage of your employer's training opportunities. Make learning an integral part of your life.

With a little bit of luck, and a lot of Divine providence and protection, I have done well. Twenty nine years later, however, is not too late to do better. I'm still learning.

LIBRARY NOTES

Looking Deeper

BY LUANNE CHANDLER
Cataloging Supervisor

Chapel speakers can stir up great emotional, spiritual and mental responses in the listener and we could hear the words and not learn the deeper meaning. The poet William Wordsworth states that "the child is the father of the man;" that previous experiences shape the man or woman that the child is today.

It takes an unusual message or person for us to remember a chapel speaker or a sermon many years later. I do remember some from my chapel experiences. One was from Cordas C. Burnett, the president of Bethany Bible College in 1970. He was a short and stocky man and had a definite presence on campus. One chapel day he presented a sermon on the gates of hell. As he talked, he slowly stacked up the chairs on the platform to form a towering wall higher than him. When he concluded, in his usual fiery manner, he shouted that Jesus broke through the barrier to set the captive free and running

toward the chairs, he hurled his small body into this wall. They broke apart with the shouts and cheers of the audience and I still remember it today.

Another way to know and remember is to see the person outside of the context of chapel. The D.V. Hurst Library has set up a glass case near the foyer of library with books from various upcoming chapel speakers for just that purpose. They are prominently displayed there, along with other bits and pieces of personal information.

Dr. Byron Klaus is featured as well as an upcoming speaker, Dr. David Lim. Our own Dr. Kari Brodin and Dr. Moses Harris are there as well. A special guest, Dr. Steven Land, president of the Church of God Theological Seminary will also be speaking. Come by and check it out, check them out and then check out the books so you can look deeper.

Recycling???

BY RACHEL HOPKINS
Reporter

Kirkland, Wash.- A recycling program is a responsibility for Northwest University. After all, most colleges and universities offer an opportunity to recycle.

As Christians, we are called to be good stewards of the resources that God has given us. According to 1 Corinthians 10:26, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

We are examples to the world, and we should recycle the resources God has given us. By setting up a recycling program, we are taking the next step in stewardship.

The Environmental Stewardship Club, led by Dr. Eric Steinkamp, proposes that there are numerous benefits of recycling.

First, recycling reduces the need for destructive mining of raw materials from the environment.

Also, recycling diminishes the volume of garbage deposited into our landfills. Recycling should save the school money by cutting back on garbage disposal costs. As a result, more money may be available for future scholarships or other programs.

This program's goal is establish recycling effectively on campus. Be aware of the benefits of recycling and the negative impacts of choosing to be complacent and watch for an update in future articles of the Talon.

Possible Spring Football Draft

BY JEREMY RODGERS
Reporter

Intramural Sports Coordinator, Caleb Gerig, plans to host a new flag football season this spring.

There is much debate as to whether a draft should be implemented, to bring out those truly interested in playing the game or to stick with teams being assigned by living situations (each dorm floor has a team, in addition to the FIRS, Apartments, and Off-Campus).

Some students feel a draft would take away from the camaraderie of playing alongside members of a floor or apartment. In fact, Intramurals as a "floor function" may be what draws so many participants. In addition, many play simply to engage in activities with fellow brethren, instead of playing for competitive entertainment.

Ryan Miller, a resident on Beatty 300, supports floor or apartment teams. "I would miss seeing certain guys from certain floors out on the field. If teams were from all over, there would be no bragging rights in knowing which floor was the best."

On the other hand, teams would balance better through a draft. Instead of posing a team of Apartment Seniors against a young floor in the dorms, students may break through the geographical caste and finally bond under the flag of unity.

According to Caleb, a draft "allows for better competition, and competition on a higher level." This is true, that a draft would raise the caliber of play, creating a better show from the sidelines, and a better game on the field.

Anyone wishing to participate will receive the opportunity, regardless of talent or skill level. If you're interested in playing, Caleb will be posting a sign-up sheet on the board outside the Aerie in the Pecota Center.

Two students return from Los Angeles Film Studies

BY BETHANY OLSON
Reporter

At some point in their college career, nearly everyone has had that "that's it, I'm done, I'm packing my bags and going to California" feeling. For me – Beth Olson – and fellow student Brandon Clark... that's exactly what we did.

Over the Fall 2004 semester, Brandon and I participated in the Los Angeles Film Studies Center (LAFSC), one of many "study-abroad" programs offered by the Christian Coalition of Colleges and Universities (CCCU).

Arguably, going to Los Angeles isn't exactly "studying abroad" – but as Brandon and I discovered, it's a whole different world down there.

When we arrived in Los Angeles, we immediately discovered that people's expectations of life aren't the same as here in Washington. It's completely normal to pay \$2.50 a gallon for gas, to live in a two-bedroom apartment that costs more than \$2000 a month in a complex that has two swimming pools and a dry cleaners and a tennis pro shop.

But at the same time, *people* themselves are essentially the same. As Brandon put it, "People are willing to help. Particularly on the set, but also in my office, I don't think people were too trusting until I earned their trust, but once they saw I was willing to work, then the trust began." Surprisingly, it's true – everyone in the

entertainment industry got to where they are because of help and grace from others.

Brandon and I found ourselves recipients of such assistance many times during our stint as interns. We worked on the same studio lot – Brandon at Fox 2000 Pictures and I at Twentieth Century Fox Television.

Interns, being in one of the lower strata of the very elaborate Hollywood hierarchy, receive all sorts of mundane jobs – running errands, getting lunch for "important" people, copying and delivering scripts... the list goes on and on. Both Brandon and I did all these tasks.

However, many interns are also accorded unique privileges – as were we. Brandon had the opportunity to spend a lot of time on the set of a new Fox show, "House," because of his friendship with the second assistant director, Korey Pollard. Says Brandon, "I ended up getting to talk to the director for a really long time... I got to sit at the monitors and actually do a walk-through that day [as an extra]." Brandon appeared briefly on "House" on the February 1 episode.

I had the privilege of meeting and chatting with many writers on Fox shows such as "That 70's Show," "Arrested Development" and several shows that are still in development or production.

And what would a semester in Hollywood be without sighting some celebrities? Brandon can list off seeing Sandra Bullock, Jessica Simpson, Dennis

Quaid, Giovanni Ribisi and Jonathan Frakes of "Star Trek," among others. I saw Jude Law, Ashton Kutcher, Orlando Bloom, Topher Grace, Zach Braff, Juliette Lewis and Steve Martin, as well as many more. Both of us saw all of the "American Idol" contestants who "went to Hollywood," as it were – and as Brandon put it, "they are the vainest group of people I think I've seen in a long time."

Besides our internships, Brandon and I also took classes through the LAFSC, taught by people who have actually had experience in the industry. We each wrote and produced multiple short films, as well as being involved in shooting, directing, editing and other aspects of the process.

And the future? Brandon states, "My plan right now, Lord willing, is to work with Hollywood but not in Hollywood... to harness the monetary powers of Hollywood so I can do what can't really be done anywhere else." He sees himself hopefully writing, directing and producing here in the Seattle area; though he enjoys editing, he says he can see himself doing it "for a paycheck, and it influences how I direct."

As for me, I hope to return to Los Angeles soon after I graduate and perhaps pick up some jobs on-set while working at a "real job" as a producer's or writer's assistant. Who knows, maybe an indie director will pick up one of my screenplays to work with... After all, it's Hollywood – anything can happen... and it usually does.

Chapel small groups take on topics

BY AMANDA WINTERHALTER
Reporter

KIRKLAND, Wash. – The small groups venture that started in the fall semester of 2004 is kicking off once again, this time with a few changes.

The dynamics of small groups have not changed. The vision statement remains: "To foster relationships, community and spiritual growth through the fellowship of small groups made up of all members of the Northwest University community." Small groups have changed by now establishing themselves on interest and need, in order to get more students involved and connected.

The groups are more topical and individual, organized by the leader of each small group. In order to form a small group, a leader must fill out and turn in an application to the campus ministries office. Small group leaders are responsible for forming a vision and a focus on which the group develops its identity. Other responsibilities include recruiting a group, attending leaders meetings occurring three times a semester, and meeting with his or her group twice a month.

This semester, one chapel hour a month is devoted to a meeting time for small groups. Remaining small group chapels take place on Wednesdays, March 2, and April 6.

The small groups' website claims that involvement in a small group is not a requirement, yet leaders take attendance on small group chapel days, and turn it in for chapel credit. This means that if you do not attend a small group on the specified small group chapel days, you forfeit your chapel credit for that day. However, leaders also take attendance at the non-chapel small group meetings, and these may be used as bonus chapel credits, like Pursuit.

The current list contains 43 small groups. Group topics range from accountability to shopping.

If you enjoy swinging your nine-iron around campus, you can join Jeremy Rodgers in Campus Golf. "Campus Golf is a time of fellowship where we strengthen our accountability through campus golf. It's a gentleman's game," said Rodgers.

Holly Scott and Magin Pierson lead Crocheting and Knitting, which meets every Monday during the chapel hour, as well as the designated chapel times. Their goal is to teach people how to knit and crochet, and then to donate what they make to a charity or organization at the end of the semester.

Derrick Schumacher said his small group, Faith and Film, is going well. He said the purpose of the group is to explore worldviews, both Christian and non-Christian, through the medium of film.

Schumacher and Scott both agreed that the topical small groups are a better way to involve and draw students in. "If you want to get people involved, it's best to do it on an interest level," Schumacher said. Both leaders said they would be involved in a small group even if they weren't leading one.

Anyone interested in starting or leading a small group can download the Small Group Leader Application from the chapel ministries website: <http://eagle.northwestu.edu/campusministries/smallgroups/index.php>.

More information on small groups can be obtained at this site.

Northwest University
Women's Conference

Unveiling the Heart

In the Midst of Brokenness,
Be Still...
Know that You are His

Speaker

ASB President – Lindsay Fosner

Dates

February 25th – 26th

Location

Northwest University Chapel

Style

A conference designed to unveil the false identities in the hearts of women and lead them to their true identity in Christ

Cost

Free

Register

Please email your name, age, phone number, and church to:
swcm@northwestu.edu

CALENDAR

Mondays
Faculty/Staff prayer
7:15-8:15a.m.
Faculty Lounge

Tuesdays
Pursuit
9:30p.m.
Butterfield Chapel

Faculty/Staff prayer
7:15-8:15a.m.
Faculty Lounge

Wednesdays
Intercessory Prayer

Fridays
Lighthouse
7:00-10:00p.m.
meet in Aerie

February 1-4
LEAP Student Appreciation Week

February 11
Choralons Concert
Chapel hour

February 12
Men's basketball
7:30p.m.
Pavilion

February 14
Valentine's Day
International Quirkyalone Day

February 16
Graduate Psychology Information
Session
7:00p.m.
6710 building

February 17
Student Forum
11:00a.m.
F-3

February 18-19
Women's basketball
5:30p.m.
Men's basketball
7:30p.m.
Pavilion

February 21
No Classes

February 23
Class officer elections
Chapel hour

February 25
Northwest Friday

February 25-26
NU Women's Conference
Butterfield Chapel

I can do this: a personal, honest story of one student's journey to health

BY SARAH BOYD
Reporter

"I am fat." It's a thought, statement, and feeling that all women face. For me, it was the truth. In the last year, I have lost one hundred pounds. The following article is one of the most honest and open pieces I have ever written. Why am I sharing my most personal information with the entire student body? It's simple: I don't think I'm the only person on this campus who has struggled with developing a healthy self-esteem.

I grew up with a weight problem, and I had attempted several diets to change the way I looked. What's different this time? It wasn't entirely about looking different. It was about being different. I could change how I felt about myself and how I presented myself to the world. There's a fundamental difference between knowing you need to do something, and being ready to do it.

So what did I do? At five feet, six inches and 290 pounds, I realized that I should be reflected in how I looked. It was easier to label people who cared about appearance as vain or shallow, than to admit that I needed to change aspects about myself. Yet, after a little honest, self reflection, I was ready to take that risk - and change.

The process began with the diet. Eating in a college cafeteria poses an interesting dilemma. While my peers were feasting on the deep-fried delicacies of chicken nuggets and pepperoni pizza, I became one of those annoying, salad-eating girls. You know, the ones who say absurd things like, "Oh, I'm so full I can't finish my salad." You want to kick them in the shins because they wear a size two, and are afraid they might be fat. I think girls like that should be taken to McDonald's and force fed happy meals. Cafeteria salads became a test of creativity: mushrooms, olives, cucumber, spinach, romaine lettuce, iceberg lettuce! The combinations were endless. At least, that is what I told myself as my friends consumed plate after plate of chicken-fried steak.

I knew I needed to exercise, but that presented a completely different challenge.

At my weight, I felt clumsy, awkward, and uncomfortable with most public, physical activity. So, for two months I woke up at five a.m. and, in my secluded dorm room, danced to the oldies with Richard Simmons. "Shake your booty." "Burn baby Burn." "You will survive." These are the phrases of encouragement he would yap at me as he gaily gyrated about. I wasn't very fond of Mr. Simmons at five o'clock in the morning. However, the workout started to pay off. As I began to shed the weight pound by painful pound, I posted my progress on a sign outside my door. When I had lost twenty pounds, my friend Lisa, who had a membership to Twenty-four hour fitness, and knew I was trying to lose weight, invited me to the gym as a guest on her account. Sick of Simmons' songs, I reluctantly agreed.

I hated it. If it hadn't been for the moral support of my friends, I never would have set foot in that place a second time. I felt like an ignorant tourist who didn't know the language or the culture. Lost, without a map, I would hesitantly try each machine. Staring first at the instructional picture, I would try to replicate those motions, while simultaneously trying to ignore the obvious fact that I did not belong there. The women in their tight spandex pants and mid-drift sports bras fit in. The men were strutting along with their bulging biceps probably there for the sole purpose of meeting those girls in sports bras. After showering and leaving that evil place, I despised the fact that I felt good about myself. Despite my discomfort at the gym, in the quiet of my own room, I was beginning to like who I was becoming.

My scale and I now have a unique relationship, but we didn't always get along. It was nosy. It knew something about me that I didn't want anyone else to know, and I resented that. But we've recently become good friends. It shares my successes. It keeps me accountable. Like any old friend, there are times when I enjoy what it has to say, and there are other times when I need to keep my distance.

When I require a break from a specifically cruel assessment of my number-oriented friend, I like to go shopping. Trying on clothes reminds me that the scale is not the only assessment of my achievement. I have lost ten dress sizes, and a collective sixty inches from all over my body. The most rewarding feeling is taking a size, one smaller than I used to be, into the dressing room, trying it on, and having it fit. I have size twelve clothes hanging in my closet right now. I have never been a size twelve before.

People sometimes comment, "You have so much discipline" or "I could never do that," but I do not appreciate these comments. The first remark sounds as if discipline is some natural ability I was born with. Well, if that were the case I would never have weighed 290 pounds. The second sends the message that the process gets easier as I go along, but that could not be farther from the truth. Discipline is a daily decision. The more weight I lose, the harder it is to lose weight.

The next chapter of my story is the most difficult to tell. It is not a part that I'm proud of, but it is definitely important to my experience. In fact, it may be the most important part. This past semester, I lost focus. I began confusing the word "healthy" with "skinny," and this became very dangerous because of motives. I wanted to be skinny, and how I felt was now tied to how I looked. Wanting only to be skinny left me comparing myself to others. It started innocently. A slight admiration for women in magazines; then came a secret longing, to be looked at the way they were. Soon their airbrushed flawlessness became the criteria for what I needed to obtain. To be skinny, to be pretty, I had to look a certain way. I must be a certain size. Operating under this opinion, I compared myself to the girls around me. I was dissatisfied with myself; there was always someone better than me. Looking back, I notice that the comparison didn't stop my appearance; it seeped into every area of my self-concept. I felt stupid, ugly, useless. I felt that I would have nothing to offer until I was skinny. Under this mindset, I contemplated on taking drastic measures. There would be days that I would not want to eat, because the

weight would come off faster if I starved myself. However, I never became anorexic, but I was dangerously close because my perspective was twisted and unhealthy. Had it not been for the conviction in my spirit and close friends to confide in, I don't know if I could have overcome that temptation. This battle of image consumed me, but through determination I kept a healthy mindset. I am proud to say that every pound I've lost is due to eating right and sweating hard. This is not the easy way, but I am convinced it is the better way.

So what keeps me going? Firstly, looking in the mirror has become fun. My facial features are more prominent. My muscles are more defined, and I am particularly proud of my collar bone. But beyond the physical toning, there is the mental make-over. While I'm not ready to be satisfied with where I am, I am content with who I have become. Despite still being in the process of losing weight, I know who I am. I am a healthy, energetic, ambitious woman. I no longer feel that every eye is a critical eye when I walk into a room. I am proud of, and finally comfortable with me.

The change has affected every aspect of my life. I now have the courage to try new things. The girl who used to avoid physical pastimes is gone. I'll go for a morning jog, or an afternoon hike. Plus, I've taken up basketball, and I want to learn tennis. These are all things that I never would have believed I could do, and every time I lace up my tennis shoes to go outside for an activity, I feel alive and uninhibited.

It is sometimes easy to revert back to an old opinion of myself. It doesn't happen often, but sometimes when I'm tired or distracted, doubt will raise its ugly head, and with his sweet, sulky voice, he whispers hurtful things. This self doubt causes me to continually examine myself—examine who I am and who I still want to become. Every day, I have the feeling that this will be a lifetime process. So, I remind myself: *I am pretty, I am noteworthy, I can do this.*

Homecoming Week snapshots

BY ELIZABETH BELLANCA
Reporter

Monday - Pajama day: James Matthews was costumed as a giant infant, complete with full-body fleece sleeper, pacifier, and rear button-up flap. Aaron Kessler provided the baby garb for James and himself which was handmade by his grandma. The Rubix Cube competition that night in the cafeteria appeared slightly off-balance when one floor solved the cube twice before anyone else could master the puzzle once. A different team solved this dilemma by breaking the cube and reassembling it. Nice work....creative at least.

Tuesday - Mismatched shoe day: feet all mixed up in anything from ski boots to high heels to flip flops all shuffled together.

Wednesday - Inside-out day: "Jeopardy" that night in the cafeteria provided entertainment for students eating their dinners.

Thursday - Superhero day: It is rumored that a group of girls masked themselves as our own president, Lindsay Fosner. That night brought the elaborate floor decorating contest with the movie themes Jurassic Park, Lord of the Rings, Muppet Movie, Shrek, Jaws, and E.T.

Friday - Spirit Day: This, of course, entails sporting any attire in the blue and gold hues. There was a very full Northwest Friday chapel in which some of the freshman-to-be were either inspired or frightened by the amazing school spirit. The floor Olympics brought creative birthday wishes to Professor Debbie Pope.

Saturday - The day began with powder-puff football. Surprisingly, James Matthews and the upperclassmen ladies were defeated by the underclassmen ladies. Perhaps the girls were distracted by Matthews' cheerleader attire. As a fitting finale of the week, both the girls and guys basketball teams defeated their opponents in a blaze of glory - girls in overtime, guys pulling ahead in the last few minutes. The alumni participated in a shoot-out, as well as cheering the teams to victory. The points of the week were tallied, and in the end, the 600 floor emerged as the champions of the Screaming Eagle award.

Thus ends another week of Spirit. James and Aaron will have to hang up their booties until next year.

NU Debate Coach receives national honor

BY KORTNEY THOMA
Reporter

Debate team coach Gary Gillespie was honored with the Outstanding Adjudicator of the Year award Saturday January 19th while students reached the final rounds in junior parliamentary debate.

Gillespie was nominated by his peers, other adjudicators, and coaches from across the region, for this prestigious award. During the awards ceremony, Brent Northup, coach of the Carroll College debate team, introduced Gillespie as "a man of quiet manner and of deep faith." Gillespie is recognized for his outstanding leadership, commitment to debate, and desire to see students learn, on and off the Eagle Debate Team.

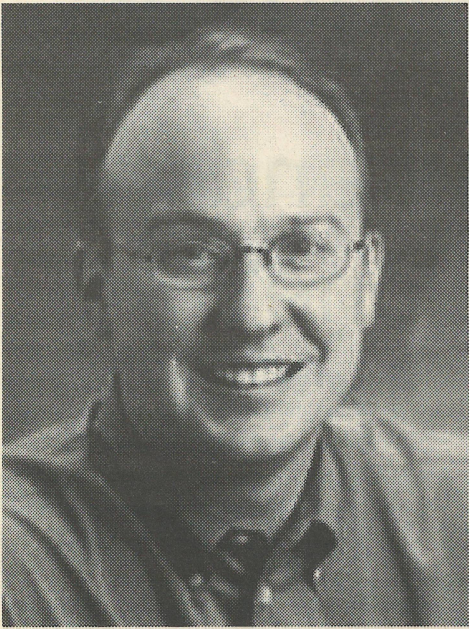
"This award shows how even throughout the debate community, professor Gillespie is an exemplary influence through his Christ like character. I hold a deep appreciation for the love he has for his students and his profession," said junior Tania Fleming.

Gillespie has been an associate professor at Northwest University since 1985, and has been teaching speech and communication courses since 1980. He is also a recognized published author.

Debate partners Nathan Chambers, junior, and Sara Boyd, senior, entered the junior division debate finals with a 4-2 record. They won the octa-finals round on military draft policies and then lost in the quarter-final round with a topic on forgiving foreign debt in Africa. Partners Evan Muxen, senior, and Kortney Thoma, sophomore, also reached the junior division debate octa-finals round with a 4-2 record. Among other topics debated were regulations on mass media, foreign policies with Iran, presidential war powers, and the Guest Worker Program.

Pacific University, in Forest Grove, OR, hosted the tournament. Thirty-eight colleges and universities attended with forty-two teams in the junior division.

Take a closer look at Reverend Doctor Jack Wisemore



BY AMBER COXEN
Contributing Writer

An animated man holding a can of Diet Coke, wearing glasses and (sometimes) a bow tie stands in the front of a college classroom. Using humor, wit and his vast intellect he challenges his students' preconceived notions about everything from existence to the works of God. This man is assistant professor of philosophy at Northwest University, Dr. Jack Wisemore. However, he does not allow his students to use that title. He makes his students call him Jack.

Jack grew up in Yakima and earned his BA in history from the University of Washington, after having studied engineering. He got his Masters of Divinity at the Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary in Fresno, California. He began his time at

Northwest in 1994 as campus pastor and held that position for three years, before deciding to prepare for Ph.D. studies. He then worked as an adjunct professor for one year while at the same time studying at Regent University in Canada. He moved to Scotland with his wife, Jennifer, to begin Ph.D. studies in theology at the University of Saint Andrews. Three years later, Jack returned to Northwest as Dr. Wisemore. This is his fourth year back. Jack teaches many philosophy courses, such as Ethics, Ancient Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, and Introduction to Philosophy. He also teaches some theology classes, such as Pentecostal Doctrines.

Jack and Jen met his freshman year of college. They began dating March of 1983 and married almost four years later. Jen is a software consultant whose specialty is enterprise systems, which means she analyzes businesses in order to fit software to their needs. The Wisemore's son, Ian, will be five in February and was born in Scotland. Their daughter, Sophie, will be three in December.

Jack's hobbies include running, books, music, his new Audi, and the ever present Diet Coke. While his Diet Coke obsession is considered by some who know him to be more of an addiction than a hobby, Jack's response to this is, "Any good hobby is truly an addiction." As far as music is concerned, he enjoys jazz, swing, big band, and classic rock. For recreational reading he enjoys Tom Clancy books, spy novels, and mysteries.

Running is not just a hobby; it is also one of his methods for dealing with stress. Wisemore says his initial reaction to stress is to work harder, which is good in the short term but bad in the long term.

Other ways he deals with stress are hanging out with friends and family, and of course, prayer, which for Jack is not a stationary activity. He says that some of his best prayer times happen when he is running.

Professor Jim Heugel says, "Jack combines intellectual rigor with genuine personal concern for his students." He does indeed. His students have noticed his concern. Amy Smith, who has had four classes with Jack, says that one of Jack's outstanding traits is that "He is willing to meet with you personally, for whatever reason." She also says that he is very personable and understanding. Both she and Alex Little, who has also had four classes with Jack, have noted that he is able to make the material understandable for all of his students and is sensitive to his students' comprehension level. He is happy to take time to explain anything his students do not understand and to answer any questions.

Wisemore is passionate about education. He says, "I actually think egalitarianism is one of the strengths of the American educational system." In his experience, the European system tends to categorize people early, without taking into account late bloomers. Also, almost anyone can go to college in the United States. He also thinks another strength of the American educational system is the fact that it is so international. Therefore, the system attracts some of the best in the world. When asked how he would change the American educational system, he says, "I would like to see us move away from a pragmatic vocational system to a richer understanding of education as making a well-rounded person and good citizen. Of course as a Christian I would like to see that as reflecting who God has made us to be." Jack has a preference for liberal arts

education. He sees it as foundational for other pursuits. He says, "Once you've got that [a good liberal arts education] you can learn to do anything."

When asked about his goals, Jack replies facetiously, "I want to be emperor of the world." On a more serious note, Jack sees himself staying in academics, probably changing some things with his class load and his teaching methods and most likely staying here. He also eventually wants to make some sort of major contribution, directly or indirectly, to his church. He wants that contribution to change people and eventually, the denomination. If he weren't teaching, Jack thinks he would be pastoring, an owner of a used bookstore, or in the software industry. He also says he wouldn't mind living in Scotland.

Besides being an outstanding educator, Jack is also a quirky individual. He is a master of one liners and irony. He has a story from personal experience for most of his points, and he often delivers whole lectures in funny voices such as a drill sergeant. He is able to laugh at his own idiosyncrasies, such as his Diet Coke addiction and his status as a neat freak. He is fond of his Audi and proud of his independent position on politics. He knows much random trivia, like the fact that in the original Gilligan's Island, in one episode the flag is at half-mast because it was filmed the day President Kennedy was assassinated. He rarely delivers a lecture standing or sitting still. He draws interesting diagrams, including many continuums, on the board. He frequently plays devil's advocate in order to make his students think. And he makes them all, on pain of horrible consequences, call him Jack.

MINISTRY TEAM FOCUS

Inside Out - children's ministry

BY RYAN JONES
Reporter

After longtime ministry team Peanut Butter 'n' Jesus was dismantled in early 2004, a new children's ministry team, Inside Out, was established. Inside Out is led by Shelly Sundberg and is rounded out by Whitney Huntley and Brenda Tesdal. During the summer of 2004, this team of 3 performed interactive children's services including skits and clowning in camps throughout Washington and Montana.

In terms of funding for the team to help cover expenses on and off the road (such as food, gas, parking in some places, lodging, and miscellaneous expenses), the team was funded by the school, though they also got donations from the churches and camps that they visited.

Some of the team's fondest memories were shopping, interacting with the kids, and staying with the families that sponsored them. However, they will not miss kitchen duty. Services projects and acting as camp counselors were hard work often required of the team in addition to performing.

Huntley felt the team's greatest strengths were that they worked well under pressure. However, being flexible and developing the interactive services were constant challenges.

Huntley said, "Traveling was an amazing experience because it forced me to come out of my comfort zone. Performing flexibly and always being ready to serve took work."

The same team of 3 will not be traveling in 2005. Two of the members will graduate in May and new members will try out and be selected.

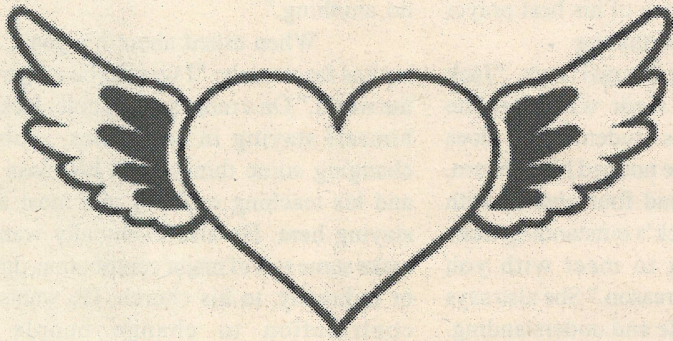
If you want more information about Inside Out or are interested in trying out for the team, contact Thuy Rider in the Campus Ministries office or visit <http://eagle.northwestu.edu/ministry/team/index.html>.

And as a word of advice for students wanting to join a ministry team, Whitney says that having a servant's heart, a good attitude toward service and flexibility are essential.

At Northwest University to "Carry the Call" means engaging the hand in acts of service and ministry to the Church and the world. Our Ministry Team program involves our students in practical ministry in community, district and church settings throughout the year. These teams are available for banquets, camps, retreats, regular weekly services, special outreach services and any other special event.

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| HOT DRINKS | Tall G |
| AMERICANO | 1.75 2 |
| LATTE | 2.50 3 |
| MOCHA | 2.75 3 |
| WHITE CHOC. MOCHA | 3.00 3 |
| CARAMEL MACCHIATO | 2.75 3 |
| BREWED COFFEE | 1.25 1 |
| CAPPUCCINO | 2.50 3 |
| Extras | The Arctic |
| ESPRESSO SHOT | Monday thru |
| CARAMEL | Friday |
| BREVE | 7:30a.m. to |
| FLAVOR | 5:00p.m. |
| SOY MILK | Fridays are double |
| POWER (Protein) | stamp day! |

international quirkyalone day:



What is it all about and are you a quirkyalone?

EDITOR'S NOTE

The International Quirkyalone Movement and holiday, and our coverage thereof, are not intended as an affront to couples or romantically-minded individuals; on the contrary, IQD is designed to *celebrate* romance in a healthy manner, with integrity. IQD is intended as an affront to those couples who can't survive without one another, who can't keep their hands (and their saliva) off one another, and who can't settle down into their own separate and unique self-identities for fear of offending, alienating or "losing" the one they love. IQD recognizes that there is always an element of give and take in a loving relationship, but "give and take" should never be mistaken for loss of self-identity or personal strength. Emphasis is placed on developing personal strengths and healthy, equally beneficial relationships on IQD.

Celebrating romance and self-love in a healthy manner

BY MEGHAN YOUNG
Co-editor/Features Editor

Quirkyalone: (n/adj.) A person who enjoys being single (but is not opposed to being in a relationship) and generally prefers to be alone rather than dating for the sake of being in a couple. With unique traits and an optimistic spirit; a sensibility that transcends relationship status.

Thus is the self-described International Quirkyalone Movement. Sorry, desperately-in-couples: this one's not for you. In fact, the quirkyalones are usurping your holiday: February 14 is also International Quirkyalone Day. Those of you who are in couples, though, don't worry: unlike St. Valentine and his poison heart candies of chalk, International Quirkyalone Day does not aim to exclude anyone in a different relationship status. In fact, there's even a word for those of you who display qualities of individuality and independence, but are in a relationship: quirkytogethers. Isn't this fun?

The Quirkyalone website (quirkyalone.net) describes International Quirkyalone Day as "a do-it-yourself celebration of romance, friendship, and independent spirit. It's a celebration of all kinds of love: romantic, platonic, familial, and yes, self-love. International Quirkyalone Day is not anti-Valentine's Day. It's NOT a pity party for single people. It's an alternative—a feel-good alternative to the marketing barrage of Valentine's Day and an antidote to the silicone version of love presented in shows such as *Joe Millionaire* and *The Bachelorette*.

"Above all, IQD is a celebration of romance, freedom and individuality.

"If you are single, International Quirkyalone Day is a call to arms to celebrate the possibilities available to single people today. If you are partnered, IQD is a vital reminder to value yourself and develop your individuality even when in a couple."

Quirkyalone.net offers a quiz to find out if *you* are quirkyalone, suggestions for hosting an IQD party, and a handy guide to which celebrities and well-knowns are QA, and which are not.

Alderwood Barnes & Noble Cafe in Lynnwood is hosting their own IQD party on February 12, open to the public, between 6:00 and 10:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Community Relations Manager, Keri DeTore at 425-771-3193. Any QA's interested in hosting their own parties are, of course, welcome to get creative and get happy.

We've Only Just Begun: the single joys of Valentine's Day

BY MEGHAN GREENING
Reporter

We've only just begun to live

Another spoonful of Ben and Jerry's Double Chocolate Fudge Brownie Ice Cream

*Before the rising sun we fly
So many roads to choose*

Another spoonful? Or have I had enough? A sigh, a shrug, just one more...

*We start out walking and learn to run
And when the evening comes we smile
So much of life ahead
We'll find a place
Where there's room to grow*

I need that. Room to grow. Especially if I keep eating this ice cream.

And yes, we've just begun.

This was me, at my worst, looking like a hairball—flannel pajamas and fuzzy slippers, and bad hair—that some giant cat just hacked up and left lying on the couch. Holding a pint of my savior—Ben and Jerry really are the greatest heroes—I sat listening as the Carpenters' Love Songs sang out from my old stereo. I listened, eyes glazed over, pondering the many roads that would take me through this life of love and sunshine and room to grow. As Valentine's Day approaches, I am left wondering why a holiday dedicated to love is really necessary. But no matter what my opinion is, every year, it comes again. Everyone's favorite day! A day for delighting in love, for basking in the glories of couple-ness! But what about the rest of us? What about the ones who spend the day stumbling along in the brilliance of singlehood? Since I am a member of the Still-Single-and-Stumbling-Along Club, I have decided to turn the focus of this day away from the victims of Cupid's arrow. Yes, I have decided to take a different route. I therefore dedicate this year's February 14th to the thriving and just as attractive unattached group at Northwest University.

After all, it is our choice to be single, right? And we like the way we are, don't we? Some would argue that Valentine's Day just brings all of our sad and single states into the limelight, giving all the happy couples in the world a chance to take a look at us up close, as if to say, "Oh, look at those poor single people. Oh, honey, remember how lost and alone we were without each other?" Smooch. Smooch. Gag. Vomit. Once again, I am standing up for my rights as a single person. It is my right to declare, "it's ok that I don't have a significant other and that I have not been asked to roomies three years in a row. It is my right to live securely in who I am; as a woman, as a friend, as a student. I am clinging to my rights, and I will not let this holiday get me down, to go out and do something fun and crazy with my friends, don't worry, faculty, no dancing. It is my right to have a very happy Valentine's Day. After all, I love being single.

Additional signs that you might be a QA

Examine the following statements and indicate which apply to you. If you answer yes to six or more of these statements, chances are good that you have found your tribe.

- YOU:
1. Display a talent for self-reflection
 2. Believe that life can be prosperous and great with or without a mate
 3. Create and maintain chosen families of friends
 4. Treat life as one big choose-your-own adventure; there is no single road map for adulthood
 5. Are not opposed to dating, but prefer not to date for social convention
 6. Would rather be alone than be in a relationship in which you have to hold back an essential part of yourself
 7. Generally feel a sense of compulsion to make a mark in culture and society, to express yourself, whether through art, writing, a small business, or activism
 8. Recognize the ways in which society prescribes happiness primarily through romantic love, and understand the failings of such an approach
 9. Have had a taste or a glimpse of a great love relationship (or encounter), which intensifies the desire to remain open to the possibility of finding a similar experience
 10. Possess a talent at deconstructing love songs equal only to your vulnerability to them

for uncompromising romantics

Glossary of QA terms

Perkytogethers: Ahhh, the perkytogethers—the quirkyalone's natural opposite. While there are many people whom quirkyalones can respectfully recognize as not sharing their worldview, perkytogethers impose coupledness on everyone.

Pseudo-quirky: One who tries to cultivate an air of difference for a charm factor.

Quirky: Goofy, zany, offbeat; unintentionally different, without artifice; possessing the courage to be yourself whether it's popular or not.

Quirkytogether: The state of being that results when a quirkyalone enters a long-term romantic relationship.

Too-quirky-for-their-own-good: People who feel that they are too distinctive to adopt a label.

TOP 7 Valentine's Day activities for singles

BY MEGHAN GREENING
Reporter

- 1.) Look at every single person you pass in the eye, wondering if they may be your soul mate. Act accordingly.
- 2.) Watch the entire Lord of the Rings Trilogy (extended version.) By the end, you'll have forgotten where you are, who you are, and your lack of a date.
- 3.) Visit Red Mill Burgers, located in Phinny Ridge. They are known for the best onion rings of all time. Enjoy the fact that you don't have to worry about onion breath. Plus, it's smoke and alcohol free, and prices range from \$2.99-\$4.89. Call 783-6362 for details and directions.
- 4.) Meet a hippie! Go to Mr. Spot's Chai House; Some of the nicest hippies you'll ever meet manage it. Call (206) 297-2424 for details and directions.
- 5.) Visit the Troll under the bridge. You won't feel nearly as unattractive, and he'll enjoy a Valentine's Day visitor.
- 6.) Catch up on homework for Prof. Heugel's class
- 7.) Find the tallest building in Seattle and ride the elevator up and down until the thought of pretty much anything makes you vomit, or you forget that you're roommate is somewhere canoodling with his/her latest love interest.

Flicks for quirkyalone viewing pleasure

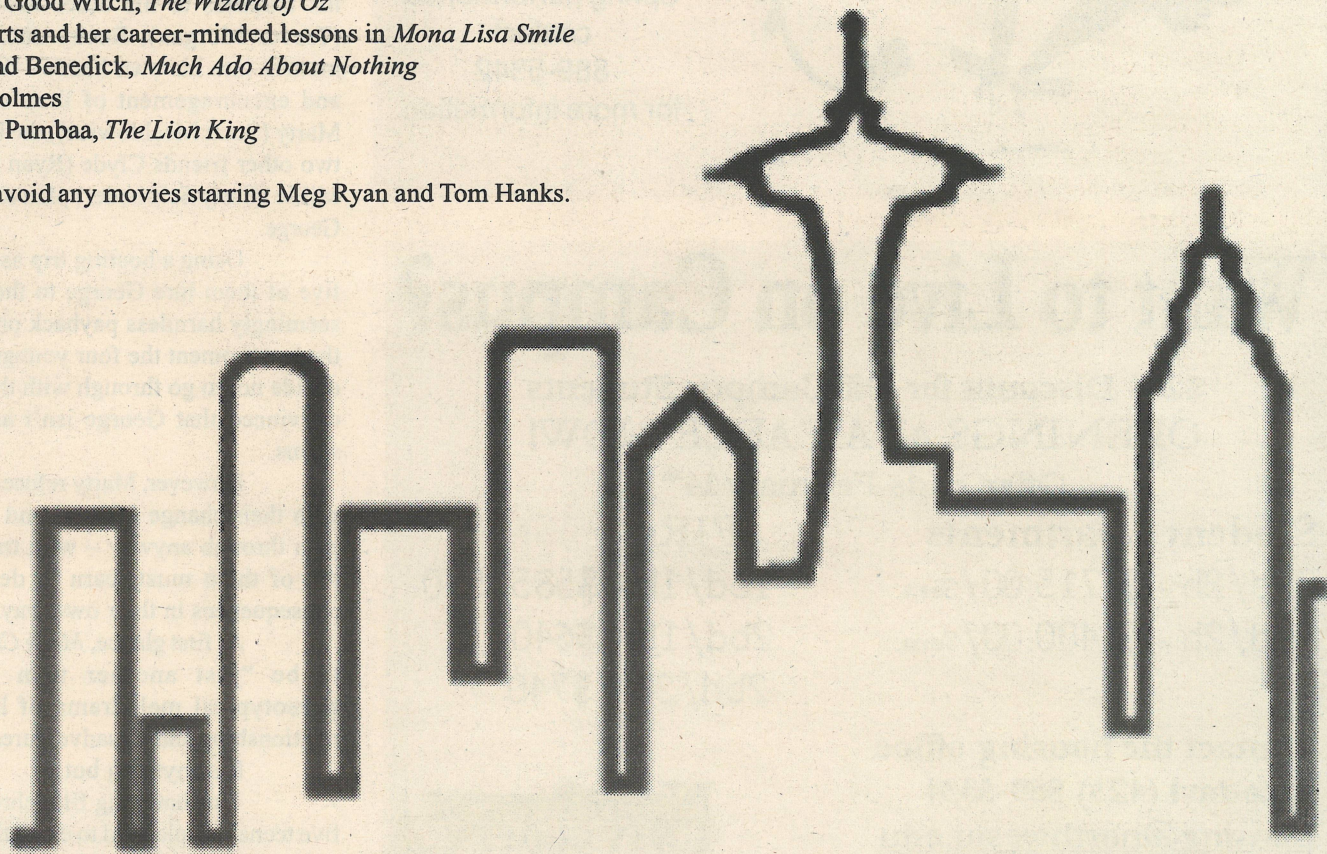
In honor of International Quirkyalone Day (Feb. 14), *The Talon* has compiled a list of films which exemplify quirkyalone ideals, characters, or situations for your quirkyalone viewing pleasure.

1. **Edward Scissorhands** (PG-13): Half man, half metal, Ed (Johnny Depp) lives in seclusion from the rest of the world in the Gothic mansion of his deceased inventor father. Mary Kay comes a-calling, leading him to the Technicolor world of people, most importantly including Winona Ryder. Sculptured shrubs abound, and in the end we learn that we can be happy alone, together.
2. **Pirates of the Caribbean (The Curse of the Black Pearl)** (PG-13): There are lots of swashbuckling pirates in this film, but our favorite is the quirkyalone Captain Jack Sparrow, as portrayed by Johnny Depp (again!). Proof that quirkyalones aren't unfeeling sorts, Jack loves Miss Swann, Will, treasure, and rum- the last, probably more than he loves himself.
3. **Romeo + Juliet** (PG-13): Example of two people who couldn't be *less* quirkyalone: Romeo and Juliet. Awesome example of a quirkyalone's good intentions gone bad? Mercutio, the hot blooded, cornrowed best friend of the hero. He dies tragically at the end, but not before getting a little of that bitterness out of his system: "A curse on *both* your houses."
4. **Napoleon Dynamite** (PG): Napoleon could be the posterboy for the quirkyalone nerd movement. Joining him in their exalted status are Deb, Pedro, and the llama. La Fawnduh's enrollment in the club is up for debate: remember, quirkyalones don't have to be single; they just can't *need* to be in a couple. Vote for Pedro.
5. **Hello Dolly** (PG): Barbara Streisand is probably not the best example of a quirkyalone, but her character Dolly certainly is. Dolly is in musical matchmaking heaven when she hits the hardest match of all: her own self, and the peevisish grocer Walter Matthau (may he rest in peace). Dolly's a strong, independent woman, surprised by her own desire- not need- to settle down and tame the grump. Another great example of quirkyalones who love is the cameo appearance by Louis Armstrong.
6. **X-Men** (PG-13): Quirkyalone by nature, Rogue is an outstanding lesson for all teenaged, hormonal girls to learn: if you kiss a boy, he might end up in a coma. Also loving the Hugh Jackman action, portraying Wolverine, the hot and dangerous quirkyalone rebel. Could be argued that Magneto and Professor Xavier are quirkyalones too, but that's getting a little sketchy.
7. **A Hard Day's Night** (unrated): The Beatles in their more innocent phase are just a quadroplex of dashing, bowl-cut young rock stars out to change the face of modern music (in the 60s). With only the occasional flirting incident, lots of fan chase-scenes, and a musical interlude every 20 frames or so, this is a great film to check out and watch with a group.
8. **Star Wars** (PG): The original trilogy is always in want of a good excuse to have a movie marathon, but since we're at it, why not check out the roster of quirkyalones who populate this galaxy far, far away: Yoda, Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Princess Leia, Chewie the Wookie, Obi Wan Kenobi, and Lando Calrissian are all blooming examples of intergalactic quirkyaloneness. Besides, who isn't up for another 6-hour lesson in *The Force*?
9. **Mary Poppins** (G): Like we need to explain how infinitely quirkyalone Mary Poppins and Burt are. Contrary to popular opinion, they are *just friends*. It doesn't get much quirkiest than laughing on a ceiling or exploring, in person, a sidewalk chalk painting set. Not to mention: practically perfect, in every way.
10. **Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring** (PG-13): Another epic populated with quirkyalones racing to save Middle Earth. Frodo, Gandalf, Merry and Pippin, Legolas, Gimli, Elrond and Aragorn are all quirkyalones; Sam may not be but we still love him, and Gollum most definitely is not. He's just a creepyalone. This epic's for you, Professor Rice.

Other Quirkyalones to check out:

- Phoebe, from *Friends*
- Glenda the Good Witch, *The Wizard of Oz*
- Julia Roberts and her career-minded lessons in *Mona Lisa Smile*
- Beatrice and Benedick, *Much Ado About Nothing*
- Sherlock Holmes
- Timon and Pumbaa, *The Lion King*

Above all, avoid any movies starring Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks.



PLAY REVIEW

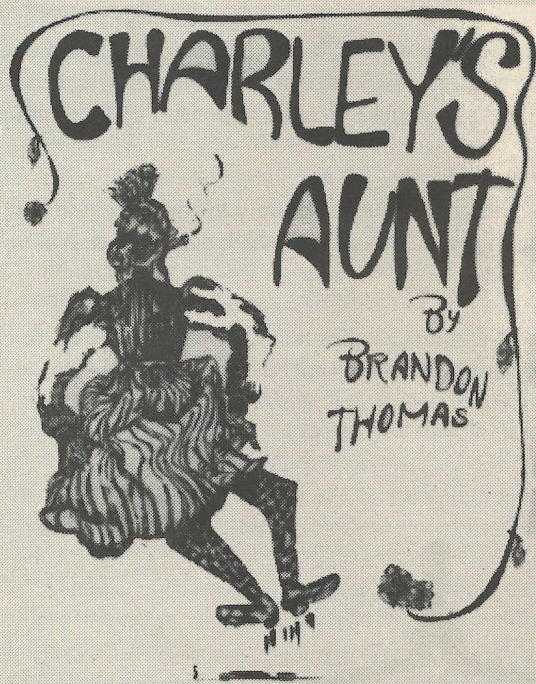
Seattle Rep's *Ma Rainey*: music of a slice of American historyBY HEATHER HALVERSON
Reporter

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom is part of a ten play series. Each play is set in chronological order throughout American history, and they are written by August Wilson, an African American. The plays give a little insight to the experiences of African Americans. *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* has been on the stage for twenty years, and it won several awards, including a Grammy Award in 1985.

The play opens with the soothing voice of Ma Rainey. Then the audience sits in silence as two men move about the man made recording studio, preparing for the arrival of Ma and her band. At one o'clock, the four band members begin to arrive; however, there is no sign of Ma Rainey. The band members—Cutler, Toledo, and Slow Drag—are veteran musicians who have learned to accept their place in life. Yet, Levee, the fourth band member, is an abrasive and determined trumpet player who will not allow the white man to be superior. The ensemble spends their time debating, bickering, and rehearsing. Through this dialog, the audience shares their experience; they are men struggling to find their identity and place in society. They are men struggling with the belief that there is a God who loves them.

Like many African Americans, Ma Rainey, played by Cynthia Jones, and her band must take what they want from the white man any way possible. Ma Rainey is determined to get what she wants even if it hurts the white man. She says, "They don't care nothing about me...well I done learned that and they gonna treat me like I want to be treated no matter how much it hurt them."

I highly recommend this play. While it contains swearing and sexual themes, the content in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* addresses deeper and more meaningful issues than most movies today. Ma Rainey cuts deep into the matter of racism towards African Americans. Wilson wrote the description of the characters and the actors brought them to life. At first, the play was slow, but it gave the background set up so that the audience could understand the second half of the play. There were heavy issues that were presented, but the presentation was straightforward. Actors and actresses will perform *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* for many more years because of its meaning and plot.



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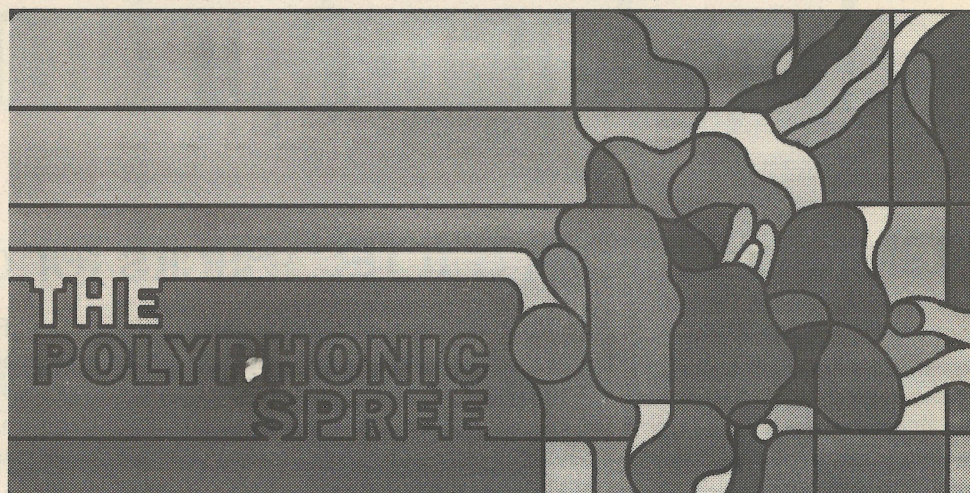
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BAND REVIEW

BY MEGHAN YOUNG
Co-Editor

This is not your daddy's psychedelic pop-rock. This is not the Beatles. This is not the 70s.

This is The Polyphonic Spree, the 25-member choral symphonic pop-rock band that came out of nowhere (okay, Texas) not long ago and are already playing gigs for the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremonies and internationally touring.

Upon first sight, it might be easy to mistake the 25 musicians, singers and clappers as a bunch of Hare Krishnas crashing a Coldplay show. It certainly does get confusing with the long, nondescript colorful robes that they don in place of trendy wear- "I figured by the time the crowd summed us up by what we were wearing they'd miss the music," front man Tim DeLaughter told People Magazine when he was contacted for their issue of 2004's Sexiest Men Alive.

What began as a refresher project for DeLaughter (who doesn't love that name?) after the death of his best friend and band mate in his old project, Tripping Daisy, who died of a drug overdose. DeLaughter was looking for something more positive, something that gave people- and himself-hope.

Starting out with 13 members- choral singers, French horn, and a myriad of other

instruments- The Polyphonic Spree quickly caught on. They have nearly doubled their number of members since the conception of the band, through volunteers and enthusiasts.

The latest album, *Together We're Heavy*, began when DeLaughter sat down at a piano he'd inherited from a friend. He'd never played piano before- he was usually a guitarist- but he learned as he composed the driving music behind *Together We're Heavy*.

Looked at as a continuance in a different sound from their debut album, *Together's* tracks are listed as Sections 11-20. Section 12, "Hold Me Now" displays the flute's fluttering melodies, a schizophrenic drum track and a sound reminiscent of the Beatles. Track 13 displays some serious quirkyalone ideals (see Features) in the lyrics "Holding on, holding on sunshine/ Keep the light on in your soul/ On your own.../ What would ya do it if all came up to you and love had a new place to play?"

The melancholy feelings of a romantic breakup are portrayed in Section 16, "One Man Show," contrasting fear and hope in the lyrics, "It's a beautiful day/ It's time to leave somebody."

The final track (Section 20, "Together We're Heavy") has only one lyric: "Love."

It's feel-good charisma with a bunch of happy, nature-loving rockstars. The sound may not be for everybody, but the message is clear: happiness is a prerogative.

MOVIE REVIEW

"Mean Creek": Not another teen movie

BY BETHANY OLSON
Reporter

Sam (Rory Culkin) finds himself continually in the sights of the school bully George (Josh Peck). When Sam confesses his troubles to his older brother Rocky (Trevor Morgan), Rocky decides to take matters into his own hands. With the help and encouragement of their older friend Marty (Scott Mechlowicz), the brothers and two other friends Clyde (Ryan Kelley) and Millie (Carly Schroeder) plan revenge upon George.

Using a boating trip as a cover, the five of them lure George to the river for a seemingly harmless payback prank. But at the last moment the four younger teenagers decide not to go through with their scheme, convinced that George isn't as bad as he seems.

However, Marty refuses to go along with their change of heart and forces their plan through anyway - with tragic results. All of them must learn to deal with the consequences in their own way.

At first glance, *Mean Creek* appears to be "just another teen movie," a stereotypical melodrama of high school relationships and misadventures.

It's anything but.

This haunting film chronicles how five teenagers planned to exact their revenge upon a bully - but in the meantime, reveals another bully right in their midst. The oldest of the group, Marty, proves himself a force

to be reckoned with. He cajoles, teases, intimidates, and even threatens the others into doing exactly as he wants: "You mean to tell me that...I'm out here on this river with a bunch of munchkins... and now you tell me that we don't even get to do what we came here for?"

But when their plans go awry, Marty is revealed to be not just a bully, but a tyrant. He brooks no refusal of his idea, speaking a line that embodies the soul of the whole film: "You always gotta go with the best idea you got - otherwise you're just left lying around not knowing what to do." Whether or not the others will stand up to him becomes the central crisis of the whole movie.

Besides providing a realistic picture of peer pressure and a paradoxical portrait of cowardice and bravery, *Mean Creek* is superbly crafted. The intelligent handling of these themes in a unique script is coupled with superior lighting, cinematography, and overall production design. The actors all exhibit skills that belie their respective ages. The film was an official selection at the Cannes and Sundance Film Festivals in 2004, and Ebert and Roper gave it "two thumbs up."

While *Mean Creek* is certainly not for the faint of heart, those willing to brave its disturbing depths will find themselves rewarded for the journey.

Rated "R" for language, sexual references, teen drug/alcohol use.

ALBUM REVIEW

Brian Wilson
Presents
SMiLE

BRIAN WILSON SMiLES AFTER 37 YEARS

BY AMANDA WINTERHALTER
Reporter

Brian Wilson, best known as the originator and leader of icon band The Beach Boys, has finally released his long-awaited album, *SMiLE*.

At the world premier of the album's release February 20, 2004, Wilson said, "Our SMiLE dream has come true."

The record has definitely taken its time to appear on retail racks. SMiLE is a project that Wilson and his lyricist partner, Van Dyke Parks, began working on in the summer of 1966. The duo wanted to create something truly American in the midst of the British Invasion.

Wilson never had any official musical training, and was practically deaf in one ear when he starting arranging, composing, writing, and singing with the Beach Boys. However, he proved to have a natural creative genius with music because the Beach Boys were soon named "America's Band."

Finally, stressed from overwork, Wilson decided to quit touring with the successful Beach Boys in 1964. In early 1966, he released his album *Pet Sounds*, to show America the true Brian Wilson.

In truth the songs that he wrote for the Beach Boys were far from his personality. Afraid of the water, Wilson has never been a surfer. After writing songs that he had no interest in, he was ready to share the depth of his musical abilities and vision with America.

Pet Sounds was a quirky, artistically acclaimed album, characterized by sounds from accordion, theremin, bicycle bells, kazoo, banjo, and glockenspiel. Famous former Beatle's member Paul McCartney has claimed *Pet Sounds* as his favorite album ever made.

Experiencing good reviews and popular success with his album, Wilson jumped into *SMiLE* along with lyricist Van Dyke Parks. The pair worked intensely on the album for some months, but suddenly abandoned the project. Two of the songs Wilson and Parks had worked on, "Good Vibrations" and "Heroes and Villains," ended up on a new Beach Boys album, *Smiley Smile* in 1967.

Wilson eventually gave up his role as the guiding force of the Beach Boys. For some time he had been struggling with personal problems and artistic frustration. Though he no longer performed or toured

with the group, he continued to contribute to the band's albums, writing hit singles.

Over the years, Wilson grew more introverted and troubled, increasingly withdrawing himself and his music from the public. He released a solo album, *Love & Mercy* in 1988, which received mixed reviews.

Wilson's life turned in a positive direction in 1995, when he married Melinda Ledbetter. He began to contribute to albums again, and then released another solo album of his own, *Imagination*, in 1998. He even performed publicly, overcoming his stage fright.

Wilson later teamed up once again with Parks to finish the album he had started and abandoned over 32 years earlier. The duo finished *SMiLE* in the fall of 2003.

Since its release, *SMiLE* has received critically acclaimed reviews from Rolling Stone, Newsweek, The New York Times, and many other media outlets. Fans of the Beach Boys and Wilson's unique and original sounds were thrilled to finally hear *SMiLE*.

This album struck the reporter like the feeling of attending an eccentric circus. Many songs contain the quirky sounds described for the album *Pet Sounds*. Wilson uses a technique of overlapping songs, as well. For example, the melody of "Roll Plymouth Rock" appears repeatedly throughout the album in other songs.

Don't misunderstand; *SMiLE* contains all of the intricate and alluring harmonies that most of us have heard from the Beach Boys on the radio throughout our lives. Despite the album's title, the sweet and easy harmonies seem to surround a melancholy tune.

When we heard their music on the radio as a kid, we could imagine the Beach Boys driving to the California beach in their topsless T-bird, surfboards under their arms, ready to take on the babes and the waves. The upbeat "vibes" of their original music are still remnant here, but Wilson's *SMiLE* seems to be a subtle outlet of his tormented past.

"I went through times that were so scary that I wasn't sure I'd make it through," Wilson said in recent years. Now he seems to have let go of his demons, finishing his reflective *SMiLE* project.

SMiLE is available at Starbucks for \$19.98, on Amazon.com for \$14.99, on Barnes & Noble.com for \$13.98, and in most other retail stores for similar prices.

Ten Unconventional, Inexpensive, A.G. Appropriate, Rainy-day Ways to Stay Entertained

BY JEREMY RODGERS
Reporter

Are you tired of the same old game of Uno, or 6-hour Halo fight? Here are 10 activities to laugh away those wintertime blues – and they're all free!

(1) Play Noah – try to round up as many animals as you can and put them in your imaginary ark. Hurry before the floods rise!

(2) Human Bowling – set up mini trashcans as pins, and roll each other down the hallway. Remember, here it's good to strike out.

(3) Cook something that has never been cooked before. Who cares what it tastes like, just try something new. Add whatever strikes your fancy, or whatever you have lying around.

(4) Call Ryan Miller for a date to Roomies.

(5) Become an entrepreneur – borrow a voice recorder and capture a few minutes of rain sound. That stuff is huge in the Midwest, so send a 10-second sample with ordering information and watch your sales "rain" down.

(6) Research random facts on the internet to interject in opportune conversation, enhancing the apparent wisdom that people never thought you had. For example, "Wow, it sure is rainy today." "Well, that's nothing compared to economic hardships faced in the far-east region of Amish Ireland, due to the fluctuating market price of potato products."

(7) Protest something – find an event, a group, an action, anything mildly upsetting and go crazy with banners and buttons to protest in downtown. You may even catch the eye of the media.

(8) Plan your outfit for the next 5 days – guys can even get into this one. It's amazing some of the fashionable marvels you create when you pick clothes out 5 minutes before class.

(9) Find a Ministry major to pray with you against the demons of precipitation.

(10) Rain Bathing – similar to sun bathing, except in the rain. Just grab a towel and your swimming trunks, and head out to the green to soak up some good ol' H₂O.

CALENDAR

THEATRE

5th Avenue Theatre

What could be more romantic than taking your sweetie to see one of the most beloved musicals of all time? This Valentines Day, get tickets to *Singin' in the Rain* and save \$10 off the top three ticket prices for any performance Feb. 12-16. Use the codeword LUCKYSTAR at ticketmaster.com, by calling 206-292-ARTS or in person at The 5th Avenue Theatre Box Office.

Singin' in the Rain is an uproarious romantic comedy packed with brilliant dance numbers, a hit parade of fabulous tunes and a spectacular on-stage rainstorm!

The Paramount Theatre

Silent Movie Mondays: Love on Film showing *Love* (1927)

February 14

7:00p.m.

\$12

An annual tradition at the historic Paramount Theatre, Silent Movie Mondays celebrates "love" during the month of February. Each film is accompanied by Dennis James, on the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ.

LOVE, 1927: Greta Garbo and John Gilbert star in this "upbeat" version of the Tolstoy classic, *Anna Karenina*. The film differs sharply with the novel, however, as it has a healthy dose of comedy, sensuality, and roguish charm.

Will there be a happy American ending? Or a more Tolstoy-like ending - swift, irreversible and tragic? See how love sizzles.

BALLET

Pacific Northwest Ballet

PNB lays bare the evocative originality of Stravinsky with three extraordinary compositions for ballet, including the primal forces at work in Tetley's *The Rite of Spring*, making its Seattle Premiere in this mixed repertory program.

Firebird

Music: Igor Stravinsky

Choreography: Kent Stowell

Apollo

Music: Igor Stravinsky

Choreography: George Balanchine

Rite of Spring

Music: Igor Stravinsky

Choreography: Glen Tetley

February 4, 5 & 10, 11, 12

7:30p.m.

February 5 at 2:00p.m.

February 13 at 1:00p.m.

PERIPHERAL VISION

HERE WE ARE: NOW ENTERTAIN US

BY KAELEY TRILLER
Columnist

Tuesday chapel sucks: we're lucky if we sing one song, the speaker must talk about, gasp, a passage of Scripture, and it is unlikely he or she will be using any cool props to do it. I've heard it numerous times this year; I've said it myself. No funny skits, no video presentations, just plain old monotonous speaking. Yeah, Tuesday chapels are kind of a bummer this year.

Frighteningly enough, these are the thoughts I allowed access to my mind last semester. I think many of you honest people out there will find them at least slightly familiar. Notice I used the word "frightening." It's scary to me that I have been using God's house as a source for my entertainment. It's scary because I'm not alone.

Today is the day of the "seeker friendly" church, of making the Gospel appeal to the masses. Step aside organs, hymns, fancy clothes, and choirs; your time is through. Enter electric guitars, power point presentations, free espressos, and the comfort of jeans coordinated with sweatshirts. People are using a business formula to reach the lost. As I researched different methods, I found a Dinner Theater Church, for those who get restless and need amusement. These churches seem more concerned with numbers rather than the Gospel.

I do not doubt the best intentions of those considered seeker friendly. I think it's great that Christians have the ability to look outside themselves to see the lost and to care

enough about them to draw them in. However, I wonder if these churches have become seeker centered churches. What happens to the body of believers who are no longer seeking but have found the truth? Is it like a Sunday school class where you earn enough gold stars and graduate to the next level? Or do you stay in the same place; one big happy family with a really cool band at the front of the altar, and the knowledge that Jesus loves them?

Gregory Koukl addresses a real problem within today's church. He writes about the church of Rick Warren, an instrumental person within the "seeker friendly" movement. Warren's statement of faith is orthodox as are many things he says and writes. Although the biblical language is simplified, it appears he is speaking to someone in grade school or baby Christians. This would be fine if this was his only audience, but it is not. When I visited his website I typed in basic words of the Christian faith in his search engine, words like cross, sin, surrender, repent; it yielded nothing. What came up is a list of topics: baptism, counseling, free food, hockey, marriage, support, tithe, surfing, weight loss and topics similar to these. These are all the activities in his church.

I am not saying that church needs to be boring, tedious, and solemn all the time; the most effective speakers know how to hold the congregation's attention with

the occasional joke or illustration. There is a discipline that has been largely lost. A church I visited a few years ago in Scotland is in the practice of weekly three hour, prayer meetings. It is not uncommon for a regular church service to pass two hours in duration, and they do it without PowerPoint or a worship team. They are disciplined Christians.

If we draw people into church with a three ring circus, we have to keep that circus in motion. What we draw them with, we draw them to. And if all our church services are catered to the unbelievers, then the believers will slowly begin to starve.

Hebrews 5:13, 14 reminds us, "For every one who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their faculties trained by practice to distinguish good from evil."

Tuesday chapels are spiritual meat. If the body of believers is unable to digest it, we really can't expect much from the "baby Christians." It is important to remember that church exists for the edification and growth of its members. Free coffee, refreshments, and skits are all well and good...as long as they are not the central focus of a service. When church becomes more about our entertainment than God's worship, it's time to do a serious check of our priorities.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I have a couple of comments regarding the letter to the editor from Tiffany Zulkosky in the recent Talon Newspaper (December 2004). Though I am not aware of the reasons that the original article was pulled or details about the controversial chapel for which the article was written, I do have a problem with the letter.

She cited information from the Student Press Law Center and commented about free speech. I have taken courses in higher education and higher education law. Students enrolled at private colleges DO NOT HAVE FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS. Because of the nature of the school structure, unless a college or university specifically gives those rights to a student, they are not automatic as they would be at a public college or university.

Members of administration have the right and responsibility to limit what is said or done on campus not only because of religiosity, but because of the overall structure of the school. The college can limit what is said, what is done, and who or what is allowed to gather on its campus.

Students need to understand that though they may be allowed to speak their minds and question decisions, they can not site the First Amendment to back themselves up.

Just a few thoughts.

Jennifer Fetters

ARTICLE
SUGGESTIONS

Did we miss something?
We're sure there's something you really want to see in here that's missing.
We want to write about what you care about.

Let us know!

Email us at:
talon@northwestu.edu

LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR

We're sure you see something in this issue that you like or hate.

Email us at:
talon@northwestu.edu

C'mon. Noelle never gets any email. Make her feel loved.

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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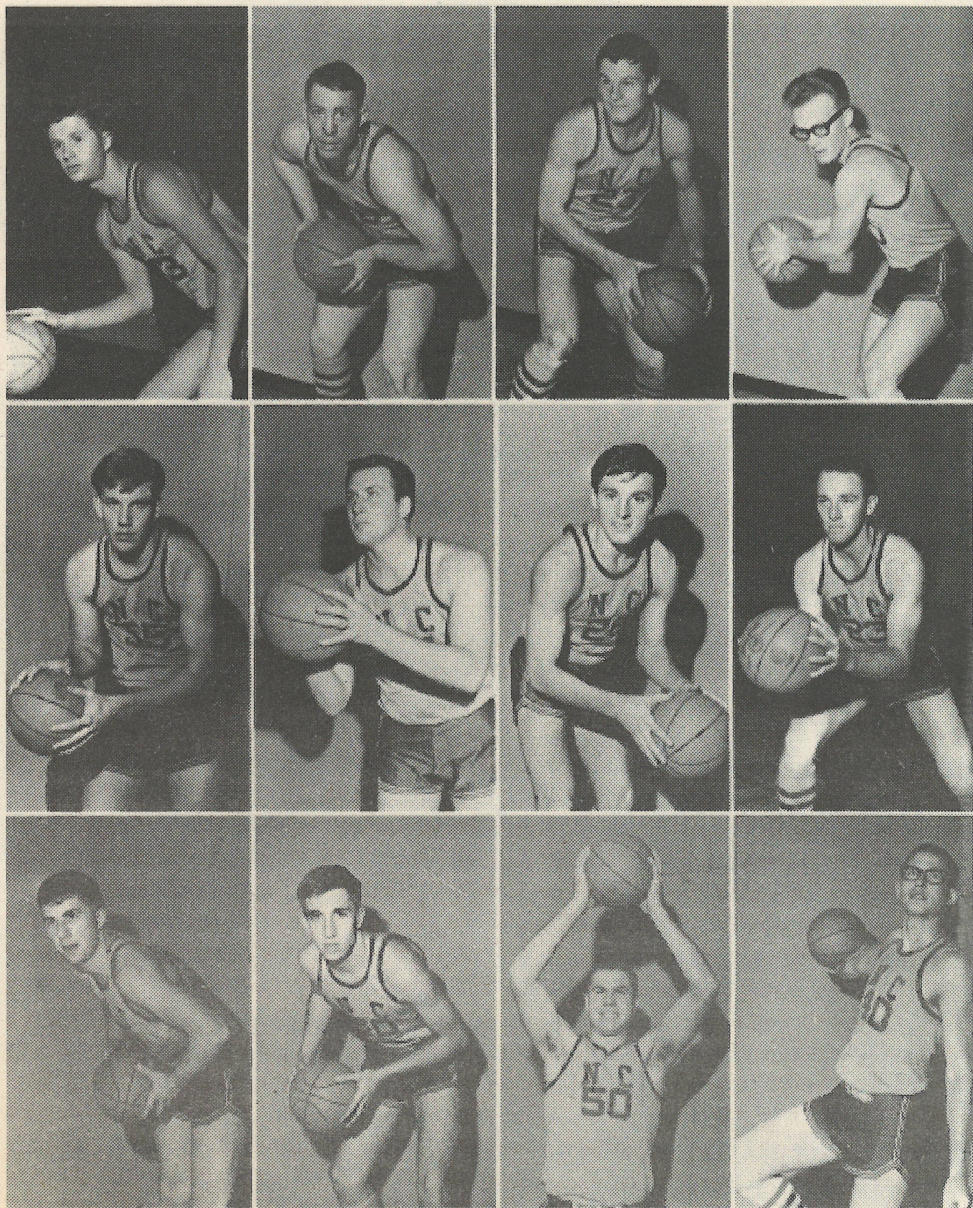
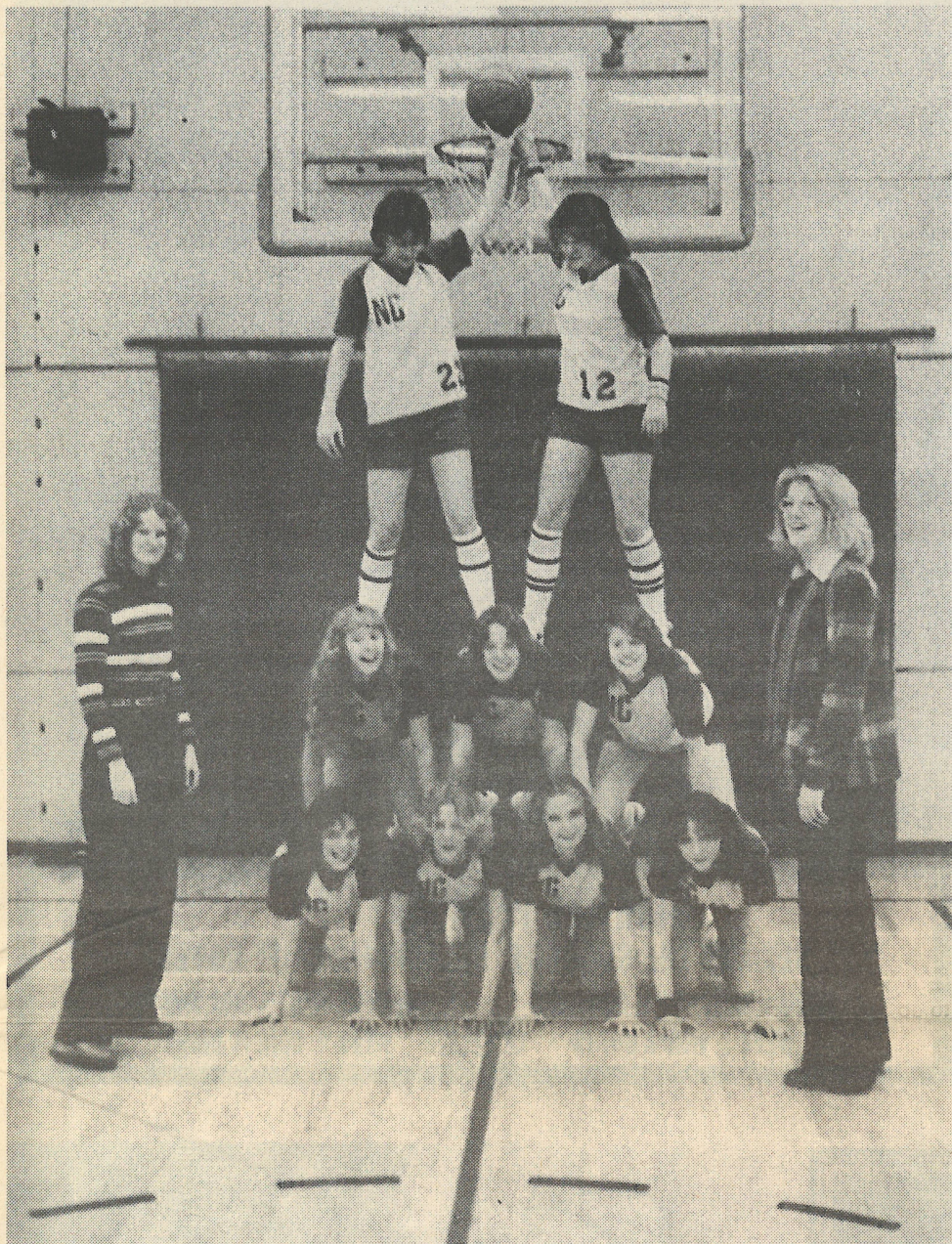
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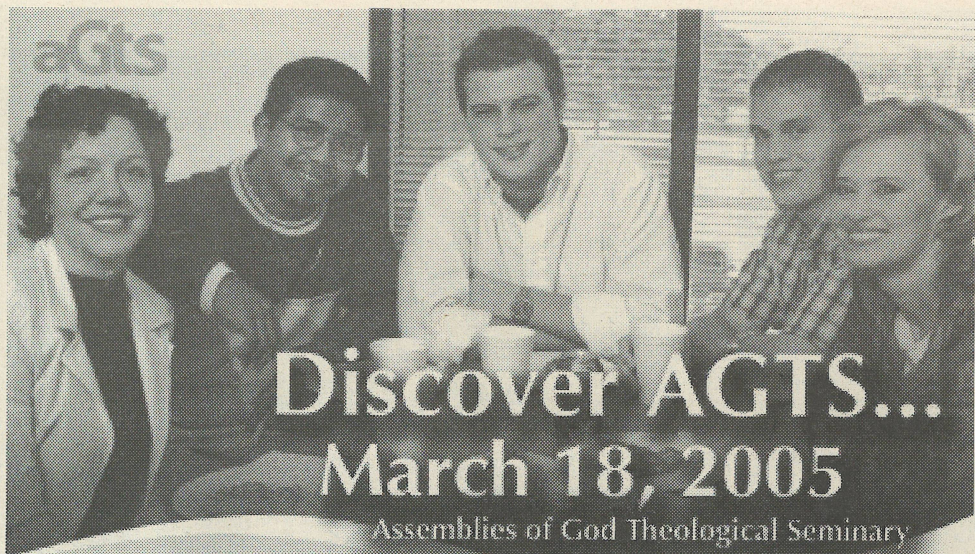
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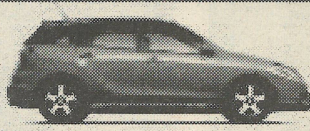
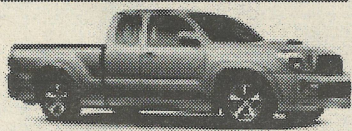
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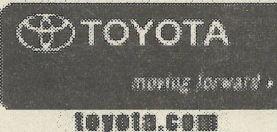
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