

3
Selfish students' lives:
thinking about
someone else for a
change

11
"Transamerica:" a
transforming review

8
Around the town with
Amy featuring ethnic
restaurants

6
2006 graduates and
some parting
thoughts

The Talon Journal

April 17, 2006

A student publication of Northwest University

Vol. 4, Ed. 5

No more Flowers for Northwest

By Amber Coxen
Staff Reporter

After eighteen years of service and commitment, Dr. Marshall Flowers is leaving Northwest. He will leave on July 1st to accept a



position at Bethany University.

Dr. Flowers started on July 1, 1988 at Northwest as Vice President for Academic Affairs. This semester he helped initiate Northwest's new Office of Institutional Research and served as Senior Vice President of that office. Dr. Flowers has been instrumental in recruiting and hiring new faculty and establishing new academic programs at NU.

Bethany University, located five miles outside of Santa Cruz, California, is the oldest institution for higher learning within the Assemblies of God. Dr. Flowers will be filling the post of Provost at Bethany, which he says is similar to his position at Northwest. The Provost acts as chief academic and operations officer within a university.

When asked what he would always remember about Northwest, Dr. Flowers said the quality relationships with faculty and students. "It is a privilege to be a part of their lives," he said. He also mentioned his joy in seeing Northwest grow as an institution.

Dr. Flowers said he would like to leave the student body of Northwest with the message of Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ." He also encourages NU students to remember that God has given them special gifts and favor. They will be successful if they will always turn their hearts toward God and benefit from His loving and gracious activity in their lives.

Flowers is originally from Springfield, Missouri. He received his Doctorate of Philosophy in Higher Education Administration from Claremont Graduate University, his Masters in Divinity Cum Laude, from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois, and his BA in Biblical Studies from Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri.

"Romeo and Juliet"



"My only love, sprung from my only hate! Too early seen unknown, and known too late!" "Romeo and Juliet" was produced by the NU drama department with a cast of 18 actors and actresses. Pictured above are Starla Reynolds as Juliet's nurse, Lauren Gardner as Juliet, and Alicia Covey as Lady Capulet.

A insider's view from behind the stage

By Carrie Adkins
Guest Writer

My palms were sweating, my mouth dry, I tried desperately to remember the piece I had prepared. Finally, the moment arrived, I heard my name called and stepped onto the stage. Why had I done this to myself? Why was I up here again? Yet I knew that I needed this. My theatre hiatus had been much too long already. Three long years since stage lights had lit my cheeks and I was ready to shine again. Fifteen minutes later and I left the stage certain I would not be cast, yet Sunday came and the phone rang. I had been given that part of Abraham, the servant, a fairly small role. Then again,

as they say in theatre there are no small roles, only small actors.

So, my return to the stage began. Truly, there could not have been a better show with which to end my sojourn away from the stage. Romeo and Juliet is one of Shakespeare's most well known and most produced shows. It is the subject of movies, songs, and musicals. Not only was this the first time it would be done at Northwest, it was the first tragedy to be attempted. Of course, our production would put a few twists on the famous tragedy.

First, the hands of time were turned forward a few hundred years, placing the lovers in modern day Italy. This modernized the costumes and

...Continue on page 10

Reflections of the Iraq war

By Rebecca Mar
Staff Reporter

Three years have passed since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom — years that have tested courage and faith.



Johnathan

"Johnny" Beeton of Duvall, who went to Iraq shortly after the war started, served on two tours of duty as a combat medic and received a Bronze Medal. His service on the front lines caused stress in the family; they prayed for his safety. Beeton's mother, Kelli, remembers an instance when she was driving home and saw an official army vehicle proceeding down the road, an unexpected and unusual encounter. With a sinking heart, she began to question, "What if the officer is going to my house?" A visit from an officer can only mean that the worst has happened. Kelli did not realize how much she worried until her son came home and she was "a basket case for days."

During Beeton's first tour, he spent much time in the desert, where approximately five hundred bombs--accompanied by mortar rounds--exploded daily. Beeton's convoy hit a roadside bomb during his final trip of that tour, at which point his vehicle's passengers exited and formed a circle to prepare for the ambush. As Beeton reached for weapons, he was shot in the chest; the impact sent him to the ground, flat on his back. The bullet broke the vest's ceramic plates but did no other damage. Last year, roadside bombs became the enemy's preferred method of attack against the military and caused two-thirds of American casualties. Beeton, who returned home in February, is stationed in Colorado and engaged to be married.

Craig Ikeda, a member of the Hawaii National Guard who has served in the military for 41 years, recently returned from Iraq with his son, Jared. His other son, Chris, spent one year in Afghanistan with the same National Guard; his daughter, Janean, attends Northwest University. Craig and Jared spent nearly two years in Iraq and, according to Janean, witnessed "women, children, and businessmen receive medical attention, schooling, and various other opportunities not readily available in the past." Janean feels that they did their

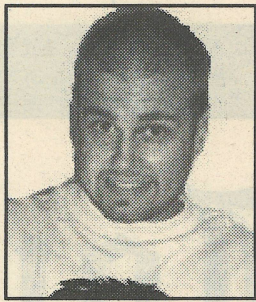
...Continue on page 5

Ministry to homosexuals: a guide for Christians today

By Dave Hall
Feature Editor

I grew up in Bellingham, Washington: hometown to the hippies, place for the pot smokers, and living ground for the liberals. Being raised in a Christian home in that environment is a "different" way to grow up. I remember receiving invitations to our neighbor's "smoke-outs." We lived across the street from a park that held a seven-day pagan festival exclusive to Bellingham. I can tell you stories of hippies running through downtown in nothing but a sign protesting President Bush's campaign. The church that my family and I attended was an Assemblies of God church, but with a very liberal flavor. The church held the arts in high regard with dance classes, numerous worship teams, artists painting during the preaching, and local photography as background to powerpoints. These experiences have definitely shaped my personality and values.

My family lived next to Rich and Jim, lifelong partners and, God forbid, our gay neighbors. They would invite us to their "fudge-packing" parties where about 120 gays and lesbians would gather together and make fudge. My family would attend such parties not as an act of condoning the



homosexual lifestyle, but to show them the love of Christ. Everyone in our neighborhood knew that the Hall household was a Christian family and so we would

get invited to the craziest get-togethers: whiskey Wednesdays, weed weekends, G&L (gay and lesbian) game nights. And we, as a family of believers, would try to make it to every single event, only skipping out on the truly outrageous ones. Our idea was that God loves everyone and we, as Christians, wanted everyone to know that.

My family did not condone drugging, alcoholism, or homosexual relationships, but we did embrace everyone as Christ instructed. Numerous questions plague my mind due to my unique upbringing. I am curious; why don't students at Northwest practice the same friendliness and hospitality toward the homosexual community? Why don't we go to Capitol Hill and intermingle with the gays--let them know that Christians care?

Here's another story that happened to me just a couple of months ago: I work at a tennis club where I often meet truly

fascinating people. I became good friends with a couple of gay men and after going out to dinner, they invited me to meet their partners and to attend one of their parties. I obliged and, mind you, they did not know I was a Christian. While at their party, they asked me where I went to school and, after telling them, they asked if I was religious. I told them about my faith, which led to some questions, the first one being: *If you're a Christian, what are you doing with us? Christians hate us. They tell us that God hates us.* These situations only enforce my aforementioned curiosity.

Why don't we care for the gay community? Why is it so easy to reach out to those being sold into sexual slavery thousands of miles away, but so difficult to look at those in our backyard who are just as important? It is easy to get hyped up when a Christian pop star tells us to help those in need, even if they are on the other side of the world. Do we need another pop star to help us see the needy people just across the lake? I get upset. Don't get me wrong; people need Jesus and human trafficking is something that needs to be stopped. But why can't we pour thousands of dollars into international "healing" and help our own people too?

I had a great conversation with my gay buddies from the tennis club one night.

They took me to go see *Brokeback Mountain* (two thumbs up, by the way) and then out to dinner where they asked me about Jesus, his love, and his ideas on homosexuality. I explained to them what the Bible says and they listened intently and weren't turned off by what I was saying. I wish I could say that they dropped to their knees, accepted Christ, and became un-gay, but that would be a lie. Instead, I now meet with them once a week and we talk about life, love, the Bible, and about this crazy guy named Jesus who hung out with the immoral and the marginalized. They tell me that if more Christians were like Jesus, then they would come to church. If more Christians walked the talk, then Christians would be respected and listened to.

I dare you. Step out of the bubble and see what life is really about. Go to a local coffee house and make friends with non-Christians. Support the human trafficking fund, but also set aside a few dollars to take a non-believer out for dinner. Let's donate ink cartridges to stop sexual slavery and donate our time to spreading Jesus to Seattle. We must take Jesus to the world because the world will not come to us.

All aboard for travel: a how-to on exploring the world

By Kortney Thoma
Editor in Chief

Get lost. I mean it: get lost! There is a world out there waiting to be explored. The world is too big to live your whole life without seeing much more than Washington State.

I had a friend in high school who had never left the county until I convinced her to drive to Seattle in eleventh grade. She saw new people, a new culture, and gasp! even the Supermall! I hate to say it, but her world doubled after a four hour drive.

Though the previous example is a little extreme, the point is that there are bigger, better, more fascinating places than anything you have ever experienced before. I've dedicated my life to finding such places. Over the past four years I've been to eleven countries in three continents and have seen more than most people will in their entire life. What makes me keep going? It's the billions of people out there, each one living their own life, engulfed in their own little world, not knowing about me and me not knowing about them.

Don't wait for the world to come to you. Saint Augustine said, "The World is a



book, and those who do not travel read only a page." I urge you to read the rest of the book! The best thing about traveling is finding that nothing is as

you expect it to be. If the world is a book, it must be a mystery novel and you are Sherlock Holmes. Go unlock its secrets.

When you finally get ready to go, keep a few things in mind: when you travel, don't anticipate things to go as planned—expect delays and complications. The more messed up, the better the story! A friend and I were once left in Beijing while shopping with some friends and had to navigate our way back to school through a crazy system of buses and subways in the midst of a foreign country where few people spoke English. Nothing feels as rewarding as getting home safely after being lost and doing it all on your own.

Another great thing about traveling is the food. Don't expect it to taste or appear the same way it does at home. If you look down at your food and your food looks

back, say this little prayer: "Lord, where you lead me I will follow; what you feed me I will swallow." Take a chance! Some foods you will like and some you won't, but you won't know the difference if you don't try. If the menu doesn't come in English, just point to something and see what you get! It's extreme eating! Stay away from the comforts of home—you can have McDonald's anyday in the US, so eat at an authentic mom-and-pop restaurant. It's often the best and the cheapest, plus you won't get the same meal in the states.

See the major sights in the big cities, but don't spend all of your time there—take a day trip to a smaller city and meet some locals. They will be happy to tell you about their history and give you a tour. Sometimes seeing the smaller, lesser-known attractions outside the city is better because they are often more authentic and less crowded.

Don't be an obvious tourist. Stay away from the funny looking fanny packs. No one wants to see you reach into your underwear and pull out a fifty.

People will want to help you and will be kinder to you if you try to speak

their language. Most good guide books have simple phrases in them to help you along the way.

Read your guide book cover to cover a few times so that you know where you want to go and how much everything will cost. The best books that I can recommend are *Lonely Planet* and *Frommer's*.

I've focused mainly on international travel, but don't think that traveling can't be done within the states. There are many exciting things to see in your own backyard. Take a ten or twenty day road trip across the country and visit Carlsbad Caverns, see Mt. Rushmore, look up at the Statue of Liberty, swim with dolphins in the Florida Keys, tour the many beaches along California's Pacific Coast Highway, visit the Alien museum in Roswell, New Mexico, speak French in Louisiana, or hike in the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee. The same advice I gave above applies at home. The United States is bigger than almost every other country; isn't it about time you saw some of it?

Don't be satisfied with reading about distant and uncharted places; go get lost!

The Talon Journal

Editorial Staff:

Editor in Chief.....	Kortney Thoma
Assistant Layout Editor.....	Karyn Hiller
Feature Editor.....	Dave Hall
Arts & Entertainment Editor.....	Steve Potorke
Opinion Editor.....	Joe McQueen
News Editor.....	Gideon Copple
Sports Editor.....	Rocky Davis
Campus Life Editor.....	Amy Weber
Advisor.....	Dr. Glenn Settle

Staff Reporters:

Peter Dacanay, Debbie Chrisholm, Rebekah Proctor, Abi Copple, Derrick Schumacher, Amber Coxen, Princess Decicco, Katherine Dartnall, Amber Coxen, Lowell Perry, and Becca Mar.

Chief Photographer: Austin Bennecker

Publisher:

Pacific Publishing Company
636 South Alaska Street
Seattle, WA. 98108

Address:

Talon Newspaper
Northwest University
5520 NE 108th Avenue
Kirkland, WA. 98033

Office Hours: 8 AM - 5 PM
425-889-5357
talon@northwestu.edu
<http://eagle.northwestu.edu/talon>

The Talon Journal is a student publication. We are a vehicle for student voices, and any views or opinions expressed therein do not necessarily reflect those of Northwest University.

We encourage letters to the editor, though we do reserve the right to refuse publication of any anonymous or vulgar submissions. Letters can be sent to us at talon@northwestu.edu or delivered to our office in the Pecota Student Center.

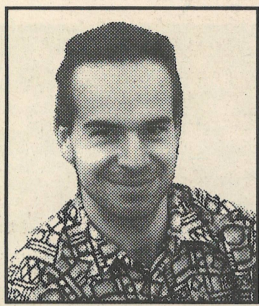
A selfish epidemic: people who think it's all about them

By Lowell Perry
Staff Reporter

Spring is here and the semester is almost over. Some of you will be looking forward to graduating, to getting married, or to a laid-back summer. Others of you may be facing the near-future with fallen hopes of love. You look at your bare finger and wonder why it holds no ring. This article is not another theological proof to invalidate your remorse, but rather an attempt to deal with it as a genuine problem.

We students know of NU's reputation as a "Meet and Marry" school. Many start the school year with high expectations of getting swept off their feet by the future love of their life and living happily ever after. Maybe this is an exaggeration, but one must admit that everyone here is looking. In a survey I did last year, very few NU students said that getting married was a motivation for attending college. A large portion also said that they would be silly not to look while they were here. Why is it that so many people come and go from here without finding what they are looking for?

In the previously cited survey, 86% of men and 82% of women said that they were attending college for career preparation. 27% of men and 25% of women also said that having fun was another reason. These



are very self oriented goals.

Here at college, we get advice from many people on many things: career counselors tell us about what jobs we would be good

at, resume writers tell us how to sell ourselves, financial planners tell us how to budget and invest, and parents tell us how to date. All this advice can make us very selfish individuals who think only of how to get the bestest and the mostest for ourselves (not that we should give up on planning ahead, but we must guard against selfishness). Sometimes we view the imminent future as a dreamland dotted with fluffy mounds of opportunity. In this imaginary place, drifting clouds rain down goodness, and everything is cast in a shade of pink. I have decided to call this mental phenomenon "College Fog."

When we look through the mist of College Fog, we see other people not as fellow souls cherished by God, as Christ would wish us to, but as a means to an end, and that end is our own happiness. We forget that we are NOT the center of the universe and that our everlasting happi-

ness is NOT a worthwhile goal. The few individuals who actually attain this state are labeled Manic and put on sedatives or confined to mental institutions. (I know because I am a psychology major).

Doesn't the Bible say that all people will know us by our love (Jn. 13:35)? Even though NU is a Christian school that aims to effectively change us into the likeness of Christ, the end result is more often the likeness of a narcissistic prune. Where is the love?

Now I will return to the all important question - What about that ring that should be on my finger? Below I have cited some students' thoughts on the issue which may help to clarify the answer for you.

"...[people] at Northwest seem so immature and sheltered...there is a lot of competitiveness in the dorms... it's really bad." Anonymous Female Student.

"Girls here suck." Anonymous Female Student 2.

"Girls here are not fun to be friends with. Like, I'll ask a girl if she wants to hang out sometime, just as friends, and she'll say no and give some excuse, but I know it's really because she's afraid of how it would look... It's like, after they come to Northwest, they just want to have fun and don't care about other people. And since I'm a person, that kind of sucks." Anonymous Male Student.

"People at Northwest are so fake. You can have a deep conversation with someone and the next day, pass them in the hall without them even looking at you. Back in my hometown, you could meet someone briefly, and the next time you see them, they'll say 'Hi, how's it going?'" Anonymous Male Student 2.

Do you see a pattern emerging? We've all been brainwashed, and now we are dissatisfied. Here's a modest proposal: stop being self-oriented and become other-oriented. Don't think, "I am going to college so I can have a career and lots of money to spend on myself," but instead think, "I am going to college so I can have a career and can better care for my future spouse, children and aging parents." Once you focus on giving instead of getting (I am not advocating being a bad steward of your resources), you will find more satisfaction in your relationships. Not only that, but you will have diverted yourself from the path to hedonism and jail.

Now, this is how you get a ring on your finger - put some real effort into your friendships, no matter what gender. When others see that you are genuine, you'll have suitors behind every bush and tree. Even if you don't seriously consider this advice, at least understand that getting married is not going to fulfill you.

Letter to the editor:

Dear Editor,

I am disappointed in the journalistic qualities portrayed in the Talon concerning "domestic spying." When you fly from Seattle to Portland, that's a domestic flight. When you fly from New York to London, it's an international flight. Using the adjective "domestic" to describe the screening of calls by the FSA to catch terrorism before it kills Americans is

Mr. Cook,

The Talon appreciates your interest in the topic yet does not feel that "Domestic Spying" is a misleading or unique description/title as many national news media groups such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, Fox, ABC, and MSNBC have also used this title for the controversy. The reporting of the said article consisted of many hours of research in which the actual Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act was scrutinized, leading to many of the printed facts. The reality of this issue is that illegal, warrant-less surveillance is currently being done on domestic territory, and against American citizens despite the restrictions our government has made within many legal documents.

The cartoon printed in last month's issue was meant to broaden one's perspective on the issue and lead one to question at what point, if there is one, our constitutional rights can or should be disregarded.

misleading. The FSA monitors calls to the USA and from the USA, "international" calls. A better term to use would be "international spying." A recent Talon article and cartoon would lead people to believe that the government spies on everyone's conversations, which is misleading when you research the issue further.

Jamin Cook

Other questions implied by the cartoon are at what point should the spying controversy end and how can the government control the potential abuse of such illegal actions if they are ordered and supported from the highest position within our country? Furthermore, it is the nature of editorial cartoons to be satirical and exaggerated. It was presumed that no reader would deduce from this cartoon that "the government spies on everyone's conversations" and mistake this comical depiction for fact.

The Talon is a vehicle for free ideas, opinions, and solid facts. We hope to spark conversation and encourage students to be more informed about our country and the controversies of our day - this is one example of how *The Talon* hopes to accomplish this.

Sincerely,
Kortney Thoma, Editor in Chief

Letter to the editor:

Dear Editor,

I read with interest Gideon Copple's article dealing with the Danish cartoons in your March 3 issue. Why, I wonder, did you not print one of the actual cartoons so that all might see? They aren't that bad for crying out loud and certainly cannot be compared with that enduring Robert Maplethorpe work of "art" ...crucifix of Jesus upside down in a certain beaker! American and European media, usually the great supporters of freedom of the press, have been largely silent. Have we entered into an arena of silence in this area? Are our great freedoms not worth supporting under the threat of violence? Do these

Mr. Heiberg,

First and foremost: The Talon thanks you for taking an interest in our March issue. The questions you raise are important ones, and I'll be brief in my response. Why did we not print one of the actual Muhammad cartoons for our readers to see? Because The Talon editors do not endorse the blatant insulting of people's deeply-held religious beliefs. You are absolutely right when you imply that the freedom of press is part of our wonderful democratic foundation. However, just because one can do something doesn't necessarily mean one should do it. Extremist Muslim and Christian groups alike have

freedoms not form part of the very foundation of democracy?

What is the matter with us? Check almost any day on foxnews.com (or source of your choice) and you'll see pictures and stories of innocent people killed by extremist Muslims. When was the last time any of us can recall when Christians killed those who blaspheme our God? Finally, if Islam is really a religion of peace...then...where-oh-where...are major Islamic leaders decrying the horrific acts of violence against innocent people we see daily?

Rick Heiberg

been slaughtering one another for blasphemy over the last two thousand years. To assume that extremist Muslims are the only ones resorting to violence would be historically inaccurate.

The message of Jesus Christ is one of love - not provocation.

Sincerely,
-Gideon Copple, News Editor

Calling all masters of the pen:

The Talon is looking for anyone with an interest in writing, journalism, photography, or graphic design to join our growing staff in another exciting year. If you've ever considered a career in writing (or maybe you just get good English grades) we can use you! Consider the benefits: it looks good on a résumé, you get your name and work in print, it gives you practical publishing experience, and it builds your school involvement for scholarship applications. When you think about it, why not write? Email us at talon@northwestu.edu

Resident Director, Andrea Ide, resigns

By Bekah Proctor
Staff Reporter

Resident Director for the women's dorms, Andrea Ide, is resigning after two years of serving the Northwest University populace. Prior to her experience here at NU, Ide was the resident director at Anderson University for two years; before that she served three years as dorm parent at a high school dorm in Kenya. When asked what lies ahead of her, Ide replied with the same answer most people give when faced with change: "I don't know."

Currently Ide is working on her Masters in Student Development Administration at Seattle University. "I really like the program and the people," she said. Her biggest goal in the next year is to finish her masters. Ide has started an internship at Seattle Pacific University where her husband, Andy, is currently doing an internship as well. Ide would like to eventually work in student development at Seattle University or Seattle Pacific University.

Ide says she is leaving her position because living in the dorm is stressful since it functions as her home and workplace. "When you live at work, you're always working, and that can get stressful over time. After living in the dorm for seven



years, there comes a time to move on."

Ide came to Northwest during a time of upheaval. The university went through three different Vice Presidents in a

two year period, which affected the majority of staff and faculty in some degree. One of the challenges of her position has been to define and reconcile different philosophies of Student Development and how they play out on a campus - an experience that really brings to life what she is studying in her graduate program.

Ide maintains that her overall experience at Northwest is good. She loves working with students and knows her friendships, especially with RAs, will last for a lifetime. "I love developing the leadership potential in students and helping them in this critical time of their lives when they start living on their own." Ide says she is sad to leave because she knows that NU possesses so much potential to go great places, given time. "I don't know if I'll end up back here again, but I hope God will bring the right person for the job."

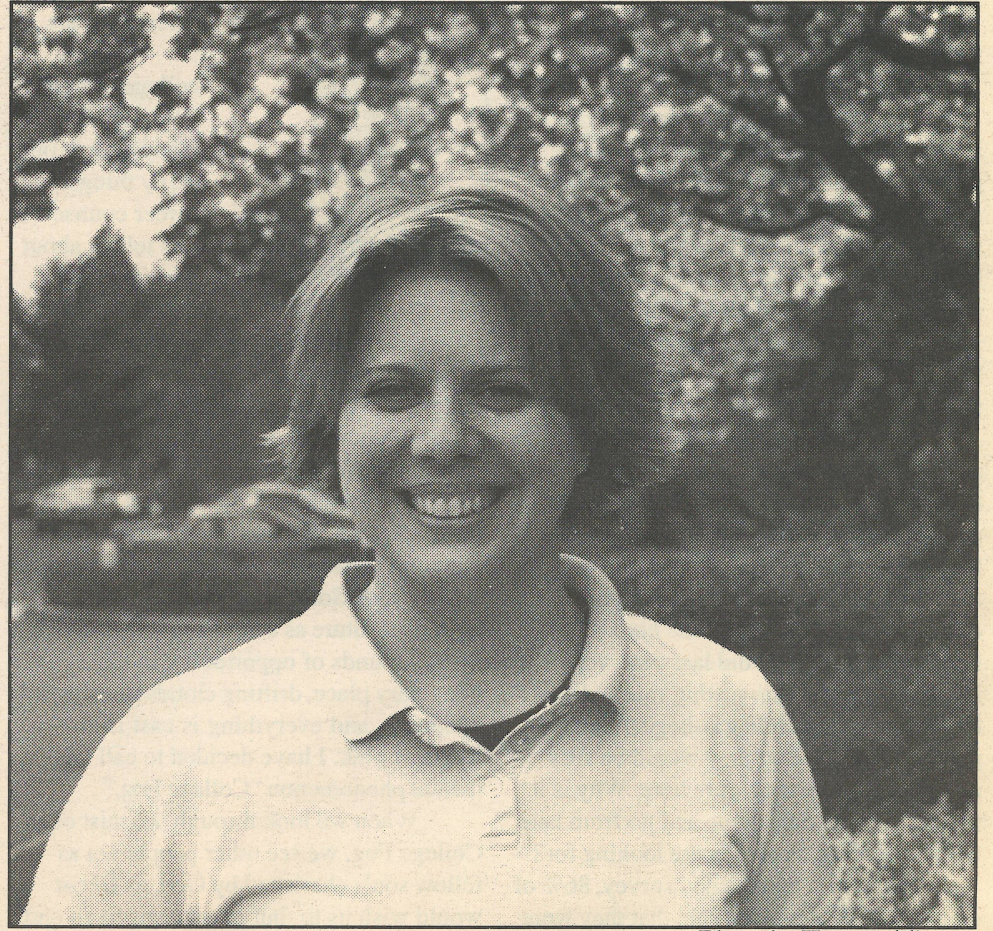


Photo by Kortney Thoma

Resident Director Andrea Ide will be leaving Northwest this summer after working three years in the women's dorms as supervisor and advisor for RAs.

Reichert works to get high marks from students

By Dave Reichert
Guest Writer, US Congress

There's been a lot of talk lately about federal student loans. I'd like to talk about what's changed, what hasn't and what's available. Let me first say, student loans have not been cut. There are no fewer student loans available now than there were last year, nor are there fewer dollars available overall. In fact, the opposite is true. Congress has increased access to student loans and the amount of funds available to students. Let me clear up any confusion and explain what the recently passed Deficit Reduction Act (Act) does to student loans.

Effects on Student Loans

Undergraduate student borrowers are currently paying an adjustable rate for student loans, which have a cap of [8.25%]. Due to good economic conditions and historically low interest rates, undergraduate students are currently paying 4.7%. Over the past three years, rates have hit uncharacteristic lows and are the lowest they have ever been. Under current law (established in 2001), in July 2006 the adjustable rate loans become fixed rate loans. The rate is to be fixed at 6.8%. The Act does not make any changes for undergraduate student borrowers.

Parents who borrow for student children under the Plus Loan program are currently paying an adjustable rate which has a cap of 9.0%. Again due to good economic conditions and historically low interest rates, parents are paying 6.1%. Under current law (established in 2001), in July 2006 the adjustable rate loans become fixed rate loans. The rate is to be fixed at 7.9% [for Direct Loans]. The Act changes current law so that the fixed interest rates for [FFELP] Plus Loans will be 8.5% [—these are the type of loans NU parents use].

Graduate students are currently paying an adjustable rate which has a cap

of 8.25%. Again, because of good economic conditions and historically low interest rates, graduate students are paying 4.7%. Under current law (established in 2001), in July 2006 the adjustable rate loans become fixed rate loans. The rate is to be fixed at 6.8%. The Act changes current law so that the fixed interest rates for normal graduate student loans will be 6.8%.

In addition, for the first time ever, graduate students will be eligible to apply for Plus Loans. This makes an entirely new pot of money available to graduate students. The rate for Plus Loans for graduate students will be fixed at 8.5%. [The PLUS Loan changes were made effective July 1, 2006.]

Making Loans Better for Students

The Act also increases loan limits to give students access to more financial aid. Loan limits were last adjusted in 1986 for first-year students and in 1992 for second-year students. To meet the needs of today's students, first-year student loan limits were raised from \$2,625 to \$3,500 and second-year student loan limits were raised from \$3,500 to \$4,500. However, to prevent students from assuming high debt loads, the total undergraduate borrowing limits will remain the same at \$23,000. [These increases will be effective July 1, 2007.]

The Act reduces total loan fees from up to four percent to just one percent on all student loans [over the course of 4 years, ending at 1% in July 2010]. The Act also reduces obstacles to obtaining an education via distance learning. Previously, there were limits as to how many courses an institution could offer in their distance learning program. Those limits have been removed, allowing schools the flexibility to increase the use of technology and provide students with new options to obtain undergraduate and graduate degrees.

The Act also simplifies the financial aid process, making it easier for the neediest students to participate in federal student aid programs. It also allows

students to earn more money without losing their financial aid, allowing them to contribute to the cost of college without impacting their eligibility to receive federal student aid.

The Act permanently expands student loan relief for highly qualified teachers in key subjects like math, science and special education. Maximum federal loan forgiveness for these teachers will increase from \$5,000 to \$17,500. [This act's provisions will take effect as if enacted on October 1, 2005.]

The Act also gives loan deferments—meaning they do not have to make payments and interest will not accrue—to active duty members of the military when they are serving our nation. The Act also recognizes and serves the unique needs of military personnel seeking a higher education. Active duty members of the military will now be treated as independent students, which gives them access to greater financial aid opportunities. [Loan deferments for military students applies to any FFEL Loan, Perkins Loan, and Direct Loan in which the first disbursement was made on or after July 1, 2001.]

More Student Loan Money Available Than Ever Before

What I'm most proud of as a member of the 109th Congress with regards to education and access to it, is the new money we have made available to students. The Act made \$3.8 billion available to high achieving, low-income students in their first and second years of college. Additionally,

third and fourth year high achieving students pursuing degrees in key subject areas such as math, science and critical foreign languages, will be eligible for increased grant aid. This is student loan money that did not exist prior to this Congress.

The Act does not affect the TRiO or GEAR UP programs at all. The programs were fully funded by Congress and the Act does not alter them in any way.

Looking Forward

I am committed to doing all that I can to make sure that college is an affordable, accessible option for every qualified student. Among my constituents, I am fortunate to have intelligent and informed students who working with me to find realistic solutions to problems. I am meeting regularly with local college students to jointly craft a bill that addresses the biggest obstacles students face. I will continue to make education a priority as I serve as your Congressman.

Thank you for allowing me to tell you about some of what this Congress has done for college students. I'd like to hear back from you, as well. Please contact me via my website (www.house.gov/reichert/) or phone (877-920-9208). If you'd like to see even more about what the Act does, please visit my website.

This article is a press release from Congressman Dave Reichert's official office in Washington DC. The Talon does not endorse any political candidate but does welcome any press releases.

Do you have an opinion regarding financial aid and student loans?
Share your opinion by sending it to *The Talon Journal* at: talon@northwestu.edu, or drop it into our box in the Pecota Center.

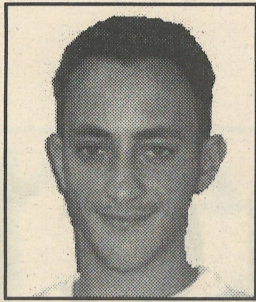
Chapel to Church serves local worship teams

By Rocky Davis
Sports Editor

"You know it is just another way I can be more obedient to God and show my love to people and to God through worshipping. I think with Chapel to Church, I am able to do that," said junior Dylan Cochran in regard to the newest campus ministry team.

Chapel to Church (C2C), a worship team at Northwest University, is a creation implemented by senior Music Ministries major Warren Kinser consisting of a lead singer, lead guitarist, three harmonies, a base guitar, someone to play percussion, and finally the actual drummer himself. The students involved are Kinser, Candace Taberner, Rocky Davis, Dylan Cochran, Heath Annett, Cassi Bowe, Zach Bell, Caryn Jamieson, John Weaver, Dan Gibson, and Brent Fosner.

The team travels to local churches to perform in place of the church's regular worship teams, giving local worship teams a much-needed break. Recently, C2C played their first act of service at The People's Church in Auburn. The congregation consisted of about two hundred people between 40 and 60 years-old, but age did not hold them back from Pentecostal praise



their servanthood.

Following that, Annett stated: "I was ready for God to use me as an instrument of his work and to play my best to glorify Him and in the process help other believers to do the same. I have wanted God to use me like this for a while and he finally is through Chapel to Church. But like all people, I must admit I was a little bit nervous at our first service."

When commenting on the recent creation of C2C, team leader Kinser says, "It was a passion of mine to develop musicians and to improve church music, since music is supernatural in essence. We have absolute truth as Christians and so we should be at the forefront and a way that we implement that is by making Chapel to Church."

When asked how he chose people for the team, Kinser said: "I chose local music pros to judge auditions. Then, I had anyone who wanted to try out do an audition. I

—worshippers were waving their hands, shouting to God and jumping up and down, and at the end of the worship service, many expressed their thankfulness to C2C for

based the pickings on both chemistry and talent because I wanted there to be a balance between the members."

Kinser says that the team "allows whoever is doing worship to take a break, bringing refreshment and encouragement to them, and it shows that there really are newer generations showing them that we really do worship God. And it is just to let them know that their investment in them is worth a lot—as in they can trust us."

Kinser's main vision "is to have multiple teams with multiple genres of music to go to different churches - and I believe that this is part of that process." In the future, Kinser intends for this particular C2C team to be run without him. He wants to set it up so that it can focus more on a group of students running their own services and doing God's will.

Kinser says that he is very proud of his new Chapel to Church members, and he has faith and hope that they'll succeed.



Photo by Rocky Davis

Dylan Cochran leads the Chapel to Church worship team in songs that serve local churches by giving their regular worship teams an evening off.

Vocalist, Weaver believes that he can make a difference at Northwest. "I hope that I can contribute a joyful spirit, a worshipful life, a godly example, and a servant's heart. I also try to come beside my fellow team members and encourage them. Through C2C, I don't have to wait to step into my calling — it's the life I now live."

Sleeping in Seattle; lying down for northern Uganda

By Kate Dartnall
Staff Reporter

On April 29th, over 120 people across the Seattle area will help fight a war in their sleep. Locals are lying down for the neglected street children of northern Uganda and demanding that the U.S. government put an end to the devastating war.

These children in Northern Uganda walk every night to find somewhere safe to sleep in city centers, in fear of being abducted and forced into war by rebel armies. According to Invisible Children Inc., an organization dedicated to ending the war, more than 30,000 children have already been abducted.

Invisible Children Inc. has organized a Global Night Commute in 136 cities across the U.S., where volunteers will sleep outside on behalf of the children. So far, over 15,000 have signed up for the Global Night Commute on the Invisible Children



"After watching it, I kept thinking about the kids and what they were going through. The media focuses so much on Iraq, but never this," said freshman Maria Pratt.

Invisible Children launched in 2003 after three young filmmakers ventured to Africa looking for a story. Jason Russell, 27, Bobby Bailey, 23, and Laren Poole, 22, discovered a story untold and unheard of in their native Southern California.

A war between the rebel army and the Lord's Resistance Army has tortured northern Uganda for over 20 years. Since then, they've used their film to call atten-

tion to the disgusting, yet inspiring story of the invisible children.

Several Northwest University students signed up to sleep outside in Seattle after they viewed the film "Invisible Children: Rough Cut."

tion to the disgusting, yet inspiring story of the invisible children.

"The Global Night Commute is an opportunity for Americans to rally with one voice," said Jason Russell, one of the filmmakers and founders of Invisible Children. "We are asking people to lie down and close their eyes with us for one night, so that we can open the world's eyes to this unseen war."

Today, Invisible Children Inc. employs over 150 people in war torn areas and is putting 300 children through school with the financial support they've received. Apart from the film and online blog, Invisible Children's largest advertising tool is word of mouth.

Pratt claims MySpace, an online networking community, as her main tool. She sends Invisible Children updates and bulletins through Myspace to other Northwest students and friends. Pratt has been using Myspace to encourage others to join Seattle's upcoming Global Night Commute and to educate them on the plight of northern Uganda's population of street

children.

"Since we're in college, we can't always give money like we'd like to. The Global Night Commute is a great way to show our support," said Pratt.

In what is quickly growing to be one of the worst humanitarian crises in history, an estimated 20,000-50,000 Ugandan children have been abducted to fight as soldiers or serve as porters or sex slaves. A new report released earlier this month by a coalition of non-governmental organizations last Thursday shows that the current death rate from the war in northern Uganda is three times higher than that in Iraq. Approximately one quarter of all children in northern Uganda over ten years old have lost one or both parents.

You can help! Visit www.invisiblechildren.com to watch movie clips and read about their cause. If you'd like to watch the Invisible Children DVD, please contact student Janean Ikeda at janean.iked@northwestu.edu.

Continued from front...

Iraq war: stories of bravery and reestablishment

job well, despite many Americans' lack of appreciation and support, and is "extremely glad for their safe return."

During Craig and Jared's absence, Janean struggled with the distance between them. Sometimes Janean needed advice from her father, and other times, she says, "I just wanted to hit my brother in that loving-younger-sister way, to cheer him up, but that wasn't possible."

Janean notices that her parents "have taken this time to grow as a couple," and says that while distance can strengthen a relationship, their struggles still exist. She describes the past three years as a "time of growth" for the family, through which the Ikedas have "learned to be strong for each other and to persevere." Though Craig and

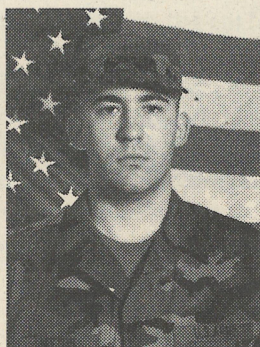
Jared's return has taken some adjustment, Janean comments, "As we all adjust to life together, I can only thank God for His faithfulness through all of this." Reflecting on the past three years, Janean believes that the family has not sacrificed in vain.

On March 19, 2003, U.S. Military and coalition force operations commenced in Iraq, five months after Congress authorized military action. Today, supported by coalition forces which consist of 26 countries, the U.S. Military works to stabilize and to

rebuild the country as conflict with insurgents continues. Two forms of resistance exist: national and religious resistance. An estimated 15,000-20,000 fighters, most of whom practice jihad (Islamic holy war), participate in the resistance movement. In 2004, insurgent attacks on U.S. forces totaled 500 per week; in 2005, insurgent attacks numbered 65 per day. Fatal American casualties, according to the U.S. Department of Defense, total 2,346.

The U.S. Military and coalition forces plan to remain in Iraq until the completion of reconstruction. President Bush

recently remarked that "we will not leave until the country is secure." Interviewed on *Frontline* in February 2006, an Iraqi colonel of the First Brigade predicted, "If coalition forces left, that would be the end of Iraq," because the Iraqis control only 30% of the country. Iraqi Security Forces, comprised of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and police and strongly supported by the U.S., now total 240,000. The partnership of U.S. and coalition forces with the Iraqis is vital for the Operation's success because the partnership combines military strength, cultural knowledge, and a shared vision for democracy and freedom.



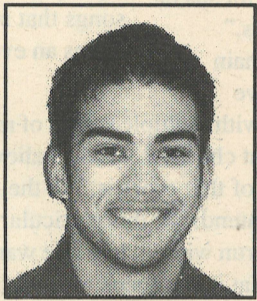
Johnny Beeton

Summer is

Begin your summer by reflecting on the past year...

Graduating seniors share words of wisdom

By Peter Dacanay
Staff Reporter



For most Northwest University students, words such as busy, chaotic, tiresome, and overwhelming are synonymous with college. Bills to pay, jobs to keep, group projects to organize, grades to maintain—these are all but a glimpse into the hectic world Northwest college students face day in and day out, 24/7, as they pursue the golden prize of an undergraduate degree. Difficult though it may be, however, the journey is prime with lessons to be learned and rewards to be reaped.

As the end of the 2005-2006 academic year nears us, this author had the opportunity to ask a few Northwest University graduating seniors what this college journey has meant for them. I asked one simple question: "In light of what you have learned throughout your college experience, what advice would you give to the continuing students of NU?" May the words of wisdom by these students—a few of the many who have weathered four years of finals and countless other academic experiences—provide you with both encouragement and hope as you finish the 2006 spring semester.

Rory Eldridge, Communication: "The most important thing I have learned in college is to know your audience. If you're looking for a job, know your audience (who's hiring you?), if you're giving a business presentation, know your audience (tailor your message to the client), if you are a Christian, know you're audience (not only know him but know HIM, GOD ALMIGHTY)."

Ashley Aberle, English: "My advice to continuing students is actually what my mom tells me (and probably her mom before her).

She always reminds me, 'Ashley, no matter what you do, do what you love.' And since my mom is one smart woman, I listen to her. Of course, we all have classes, papers, and exams

that we don't exactly love, but if you have a goal that you are pushing toward, keep pushing. In the end, you'll [hopefully] be doing what you love. And it will make all that other stuff completely worth it."

Phil Amundsen, Business: "Treat every experience you have as a legitimate preparation for your future. Every class, every job, and every friend is there to teach you something. Don't avoid challenges—seek them out, because those are what you learn the most from. You will learn your limits and stretch them further. This is one thing that I wish had sunk in a lot earlier."

Kathryn Pecota, Drama: 1. Get involved in a play, whether you are a Drama major or not. Be prepared to give up almost all of your time for it, but know that it is completely rewarding in the end. 2. If you can, leave Northwest for a while and go do a study abroad program. I went to Sydney for a semester and it was one of the best decisions I ever made. 3. don't be afraid to step outside of the bubble. There is a world out there and you will have to face it sooner or later, so you had better know what it is about. 4. Eat, drink and be merry.

Stacy Anderson, Communication: "Grades don't define who you are as a person—relationships are just as important. Looking back, I've discovered that, for me, learning is

more about the experiences and relationships that I share with others, such as friends and professors, and not just book knowledge alone."

Mark Dunning, Children's Ministry: "I learned very quickly that all that I knew about God, Church, People, Community, and Life were all subject to change. . . . I had to, in a sense, start from scratch. The community and faculty provided me with a safe place to do so. "Skepticism . . . must always be coupled with a strong sense of humility. A healthy skepticism is an important part of everyone's life, especially that of a student. . . . I learned through my own error that skepticism and cynicism can shut you off from relationships and growth. Humility keeps your mind in check and open to new ideas and perspectives." He also emphasizes that "DOUBT IS NOT BAD" and "IMAGE IS NOT EVERYTHING"

Jessie Buck, Communication: "There is always time to get those things that you want done, . . . there is always time." **Matt Watson, Business:** "My advice comes to this: you can engage and grow, be idle and apathetic, or fear this opportunity and run and hide. By all means do not be idle, do not let fears or anxieties keep you from engaging in some of the most life altering experiences to come your way. Build relationships, love others, and embrace the challenge to grow."

Desiree Knemeyer, Communication: "Know that you're going to fail! And that for every failed attempt, you are one step closer to success. (Thanks Mr. Mohan!) It is freeing to know that not everyone will love you—you stop trying to please others and allow your focus to be where it ought, on God and His desires for you life. It's all about your attitude. Would CS Lewis call you a grumble?"

Next see the sights of Seattle
Where to spend

By Jeanell Russell
Staff Reporter

Whether you are alone, with family, or on a date – beaches and parks are a great place to enjoy the Northwest sunshine. It is an inexpensive way to find a quiet place or have a picnic. I visited and sought out some of the best parks and beaches in the king county area. **Houghton Beach Park** – 5811 Lake Washington Boulevard

Just a good walk or jog down the hill from Northwest University is the popular **Houghton Beach Park**. Located on Lake Washington Boulevard this park has a children's playground, swimming area, public restroom, beach volleyball, picnic tables, a dock for fishing, and on-site parking. For all you romantics out there, Houghton Beach Park has great sunsets as well.

Bellevue Downtown Park – 10201 4th St NE

Need an oasis after shopping at Bellevue Square Mall, this park is across the street from the mall. When you visit this park it is surprising how time slows down – the busyness of city life melts away. The 20-acre park attracts all people whether you are a student, businessman, or a family of five everyone will have a good time. There is a fun playground, relaxing "reflecting pool... [with a] rushing waterfall," picnic tables, public facilities, on-site parking, and a nice open walking path (www.10best.com). This a great place to visit while in the Bellevue area. **Green Lake Park** – 7201 East Green Lake Dr N, Seattle

Did you know former President Clinton, when visiting Seattle, jogged at

More things to do this summer:

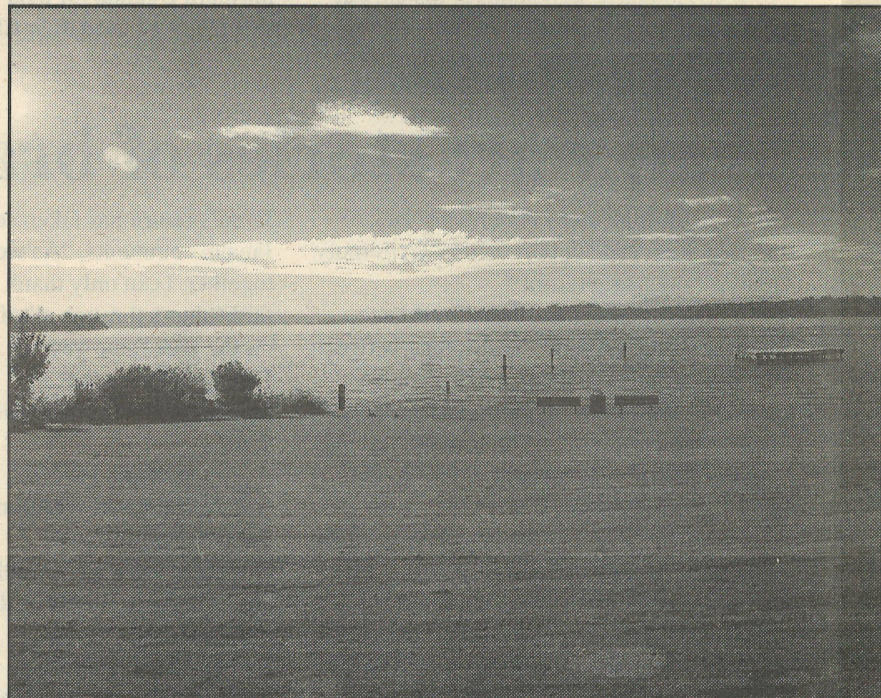
If Folk-Life isn't your thing, consider these alternatives for your free-time:

The Fremont Outdoor Cinema: This establishment plays movies on an outdoor stage each Saturday night throughout the summer. Admission is free and there are concession stands for all you movie munchers. The first show will be on June 24th and will show "Kung Fu Hustle." Other movies to watch include Shrek 2 on July 1st, Labyrinth on July 15th, Grease on July 29th, March of the Penguins on August 12th, and King Kong on September 2nd. The theatre is located at the corner of North 35th and Phinney Ave N. in Fremont, Seattle.

The Seattle Underground Tour: Experience Seattle's buried past--literally--when you visit Pioneer Square and discover the hidden past of our city. Begin at Doc Maynards and take the 45 minute tour under Pioneer Square. The tour guides are friendly, the history is interesting, and the gift shop is full of great souvenirs.

Tubing down the Snoqualmie River: Get some friends together, some inflatable rafts, and voila! A party to go! Just head up Highway 202 through Redmond to Fall City and cross the river on your way to Snoqualmie Falls, but stop about two miles up and dump your rafts in the river. It takes about 3-4 hours to float all the way back down to the bridge in Fall City, but it's a relaxing way to spend a sunny Saturday and a good way to keep cool in the cold river waters.

Hole in the wall: This is an excursion for those with some serious time on their hands. On the Washington Peninsula, near Forks at a beach called Rialto, is a tunnel in the cliff walls carved by ocean waves. This is a 3-4 hour hike from the beach's main entrance but well worth the hike. While out on the Peninsula, visit Hurricane Ridge in the Olympic National Park for some stunning views of the region's mountain ranges. Plan to drive 4 hours and bring some ferry money for this adventure.



Here

Seattle by visiting local parks...
and you time in the sun



Green Lake Park?
One of Seattle's most appraised parks for relaxing, recreation, and picnics. From jogging to in-line skating, this park has plenty of space to offer

active individuals. Green Lake Park has trails and paths, children's playground, public restrooms, waterfront, picnic tables, tennis courts, and on-site parking. Discover Green Lake Park for yourself, it will not let you down.

Robinswood Park – 2432 148th SE, Bellevue

A hidden gem in Bellevue, this park has a lot of land for family fun. The playground is loads of fun for kids. The park also offers nature trails, a pond, large sports field, and on-site parking. The only downfall to this park is the public restrooms are quite a walk from the playground – located near the soccer field. Robinswood Park provides plenty of space for families with young children. This park is my family's favorite.

Idylwood Beach Park – 3650 West Lake Sammamish Parkway NE, Redmond

In the summer, Idylwood Park is my favorite family day at the beach excursion. On 18 acres, this park has lots of space for picnics, Bible study, swimming, or sunbathing. Idylwood offers a playground, canoe launch, fishing dock, a seasonal lifeguard, public restrooms, on-site parking, and sandy beaches – Yippee! You should put Idylwood Beach Park on your summer schedule for a fun day in the sun.

Gas Works Park – 2101 N Northlake Way, Seattle

A historical landmark resides on this 20-acre park on Lake Union. In 1962, Gas Works Park was converted from an abandoned industrial natural gas plant to a unique city park (www.cityofseattle.net). Many parts of the original building were altered, modified, and converted into colorful park features. For instance, the boiler house was made into a picnic shelter that has tables and fire grills. This is a great park includes a large play area, trails and paths, beautiful waterfront view of Seattle, and restrooms. Gas Works Park is a great place to explore with family or friends.

Marymoor Park – 6046 West Lake Sammamish Parkway NE, Redmond

Looking for a big park with lots to do, well look no further, Marymoor Park is located on 560 acres – Ay Carumba! This park offers a 45-foot high climbing wall, cycling velodrome, trails for biking and walking, fields for baseball and soccer, tennis courts, children's playground, 40-acre doggy park, picnic areas, restrooms, plenty of parking, and even a remote-control airplane venue. Wow! That was a mouthful. Great place to play for all age groups. It is a beautiful setting for all occasions.

There are plenty more great parks and beaches in the Northwest area. Make it your plan this summer to discover your favorite parks to visit. I have visited and tested all these parks. I have found myself and my family enjoying God's nature which expresses His glorious creation, and encourages individuals to explore, to relax, and to play. I hope you venture out this summer to find those places in life where you can have a quiet place for prayer or down-right fun.

Finally, plan to attend a local event...

Multicultural festival: Folk-Life Festival celebrates our differences

By Rebekah Proctor

Staff Reporter

If you find yourself daydreaming about summer and pondering over what to do during the break, here's an excellent idea: Northwest Folk-Life Festival. Now in its 35th year, the Northwest Folk-Life Festival occurs every Memorial Day weekend, May 26-29, at the Seattle Center and has been fascinating and entertaining crowds since 1972. The festival celebrates the rich cultural heritage of the Pacific Northwest from places like Montana, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, British Columbia and Alaska. Through witnessing and experiencing the cultures of various ethnicities, the festival seeks to encourage understanding and tear down stereotypes and racist walls. This year Northwest Folk-Life Festival will feature Arab communities of the Pacific Northwest, a population of more than 10,000 in the Seattle area.

People of all come enjoy the music, art, food and hands-on activities unique to these cultures and many from around the world. The festival hosts 6,000 local and regional artists in addition to, exhibits, storytelling, films, and over 1,000 music and dance performances throughout the four-days. There are also food demonstrations, crafts, workshops, book readings and a plethora of participatory activities for all. The Folk-Life



Festival draws an estimated 250,000 to 280,000 people to the Seattle Center and the cost is free, although the suggested donation is five dollars per person per day.

Some highlights to look for include musical performances of numerous genres including hip-hop, blues, country, rock, jazz, Celtic and reggae. Also scheduled are jam sessions that feature particular styles such as French, bluegrass, Cajun, Irish and Balkan. From fiddle showcases and Barber shop quartets to Chinese puppetry and the color and culture of India, the festival facilitates exploration and discovery of new cultures. Among the countries already mentioned, some more nations and cultures represented are Brazil, Japan, West Africa, Italy, Persia, Ukraine, Polynesia, and Scotland.

The Northwest Folk-Life Festival is "dedicated to preservation of cultural heritage and its continual growth and development." Running from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., the festival provides a fun alternative to another trip to the lake or mall and delivers another bonus: you might actually learn something this summer.



Photos by Austin Bennecker

To the Left: Houghton Beach. Above: Alki Beach. Right: Juanita Bay Park.

Around the town with Amy: ethnic restaurants

By Amy Weber
Campus Life Editor

For those of you who enjoy trying something new, want to impress your date, or have not yet finalized your dinner plans for the upcoming Evening Masquerade, your fellow students are here to lend you a hand—or rather a menu. This issue we focus on expanding our palates by visiting the variety of ethnic restaurants in and around Seattle.

Many NU students rave about the Thai cuisine of Jai Thai, located in Fremont as well as a variety of other locations. Meghan Young and Lauren Gardner recommend the Vegetarian Pad Thai. Stephen Potorke suggests “Chao,” a restaurant located in Bellevue while Kortney Thoma frequents “Thai Ginger” in Redmond Town Center. My own personal favorite is the Red Curry Chicken at Thai Kitchen in Bellevue. All of these locations serve excellent food.

Another favorite of NU students is Vietnamese food. We cannot get enough of “What the Pho” in Bellevue. Their noodle soup is a favorite inexpensive and filling meal. Thoma struck gold with the Pho Nuong Restaurant in Seattle. This place specializes in common and exotic meats such as beef, chicken, fish, prawns, kangaroo, wild boar, venison, alligator, bison, frog legs, rabbit, squid and more. All food comes family style (which means everyone eats off of a few main dishes) and you can even have your food cooked on a grill right at your table complete with your



you choose.

If you enjoy Chinese, Lisa Lau recommends the Purple Dot Cafe in the International district of Seattle, which features dim sum and Chinese food. Another option is Kung-ho Chinese restaurant near Factoria.

For the multitude of you who love Sushi, Thoma discovered *Blue C Sushi* in Fremont. Everything passes you by on a conveyer belt and you pick out what you want, just pick it up as it passes you by—eat as much or as little as you want. The best part: when you need a waiter, just press a button at your table and viola— instant service. *Blue C* is a great place for a low-key, low cost meal.

As for Mediterranean delights, Potorke calls “Olive-You” in Ballard “best Mediterranean food ever.” Young delights in the “fantastic” DiNunzio’s in Pioneer Square, where the Italian restaurant is underground with a “very cool atmosphere” and they make everything to order (“they give you a list of ingredients and such that they can cook with, everything is fresh, and you just sort of make it up as you go along”). She adds “It’s a bit overpriced but SO tasty.” I love the festive environ-

ment and tasty food of Buca di Beppo in Seattle. Cassie Crawford recommends Pasta Freska in Seattle. Pasta Freska is like a box of chocolates—you never know what you’re gonna get! At this restaurant the chef visits your table and asks you about your food preferences and comes back with some original creation tailored to your taste buds delight. Here, the art of a good meal is founded on spontaneity and creativity. It’s a little bit spendy, but definitely worth the price.

For a sample of Greek cuisine, Lauren Gardner prefers San Torini’s Grill in downtown Kirkland, while Meghan recommends the pistachio baklava at Meze in Houghton.

For a more Middle Eastern taste, Gideon Copple favors the “superb” Indian cuisine of Houghton’s Shamiana. He also praises the Afghan menu of Kabul on 45th in Seattle and the African fare of Hidmo on Jackson Street in Seattle. Kortney enjoys the Marrakesh Moroccan restaurant in Seattle, where they feature authentic Moroccan meals, floor seating, and ethnic dancing.

A more generally favored food styling, Mexican is the specialty of Tres Hermanos in Rose Hill, Kirkland. Meghan appreciates about their fantastic service, cleanliness, and reasonable prices.

If you want to try something completely new and feast on a meal of appetizers, go to The Melting Pot. They are located in both Seattle and Bellevue and serve fondue, a swiss cuisine. From chocolate to cheese, this restaurant will leave you wanting more even when you leave. It can be pricey, but meals are big enough for two, so go dutch if you go.

Common favorites amongst Northwest students

1. *Dicks Drive In*--locally grown, hand made, and never frozen food. Several locations including Queen Anne Hill, Capital Hill, and Fremont.
Why we love it: Dicks sells cheap food and has a retro atmosphere.

2. *Burgermaster*--an drive-up restaurant that offers fast food without the hype of McDonald’s. Located on Northup Way at the bottom of 108th Ave.

Why we love it: Burgermaster servers super shakes and huge helpings for the money you spend.

3. *World Wraps*--a healthy alternative to fast food serving wraps of several types with delicious smoothies to wash it all down. Located down town Kirkland.

Why we love it: World Wraps combines big taste with little fat and combats the “Freshman 15” with a style.

4. *The Cheesecake Factory*--a franchise restaurant without the franchise feel, serving everything from eggplant to burgers.

Why we love it: The Cheesecake Factory serves huge meals and has over 30 flavors of cheesecake!

LEAP to the other side

By Jeanell Russell
Staff Reporter

You have probably heard the buzz around campus regarding the LEAP students at the 6710 building. It is no illusion; there are LEAP students, and I am one of them. I have been participating in the LEAP program for over two years now. Located a few blocks from the main campus, is an opportunity dedicated to facilitate Graduate and Professional Studies that opens a whole new world for adult learners.

What does LEAP stand for? LEAP is Leadership Education for Adult Professionals. It is a “real-world” opportunity that allows adults the opportunity to receive an undergraduate or graduate degree while still working in a full-time career (www.northwestu.edu/leap).

Who are the students? LEAP is a diverse college setting that educates all walks of life from the common housewife to the business professional. Students have to be at least 25 years old. They can work at their own pace by taking one or several classes at a time to complete their college education.

Arnold Arnan of the class of 2008 says “LEAP is an excellent college opportunity for me because I have struggled with the traditional college program. It has taught me to succeed and gave me the self confidence I need in the workplace.”

Leza Schimelpfenig of the class of 2007 also raves about her LEAP experience: “LEAP has allowed me to get my degree faster than the traditional college education. It offers an excellent Christian world view for the everyday professional. I learned how to apply Christian doctrine with real-world situations, which keeps me on the



God-mindset at work.”

How does the program work? LEAP students have dedicated staff, and academic advisors that personally support and

create an education plan that fits the individual’s needs. The students attend evening and weekend classes, as little as once a week, which fits their busy schedule. Previous college education and work experience is welcomed, but not a requirement. Most previous education, and work experience can be accepted as college credit.

LEAP students have access to on-site computer labs, career counseling, writing assistance, and capability of accessing the main campus library. On LEAP’s eagle home page students can check their email, class schedule, obtain updated information, and log onto the Discovery/Blackboard site. These resources encourage and assist all LEAP students, which makes their college experience worth-while.

What kind of undergraduate and graduate degrees are offered? There are two Bachelor of Arts degrees including Business Management and Ministry Leadership. Students can also receive an Associate of Arts degree, or a certificate in Christian Faith and Practice. LEAP also offers graduate degrees in business, and psychology.

Meet Jed Gosnell

By Kate Dartnall
Staff Reporter

There’s only one person who I felt needed to be exposed in this month’s issue. He has dark hair, a dimpled face, glasses, and dresses as though a woman picked out his clothes. Yes, our new ASB president, Jed Gosnell is more than good-looking; he is a brilliant, warm-hearted, born leader.

Mr. President, describe yourself in three words?

JG: Alive. Joyful. Positive
What’s your favorite thing to eat in the cafeteria?

JG: I like a good ice cream cone- Baby Ruth.

What’s home like for you? Where are you from?

JG: I’m from a really positive place, in Tacoma of all places. My family encourages me, my two sisters—really they are two of my best friends, and my mom and dad. Best part about home, is eating dinner together.

What are your extra-curricular activities?

JG: I’ve played piano since I was in kindergarten. And, I like taking walks.

Ah, music. What do you listen to?

JG: Jazz, right now I’m enjoying Trevor Barnes’ stuff.

Perhaps the most important question, do you Myspace, and if so, how often?

JG: Yes, I get on once a day to check my messages.

It seems that lately, a lot of people have addictions to Myspace. What do you recommend to them?

JG: Everything in moderation!

Now, onto the big kicker...tell me something about you and God.



JG: I think of Him as a Father—that wants to lift me up. Our relationship is a growing process, but I like the way He adds little twists.

What would you

say about something you’ve learned from your relationship?

JG: It’s not about what happens; it’s how you act that is important.

What made you run for ASB?

JG: I was looking for a place to serve and to help people in a meaningful way. So many thoughts (he leans back and rubs his chin). I was looking for a challenge, to turn myself outward and pouring myself into others. I didn’t run because I was looking for popularity. I didn’t want people to pay attention to me. ASB isn’t something I feel capable of leading by myself. I’m looking forward to working on a team, where the other ASB members are so talented.

What are your major plans for next year?

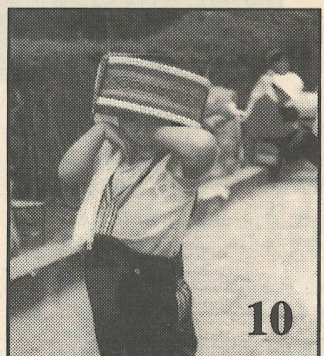
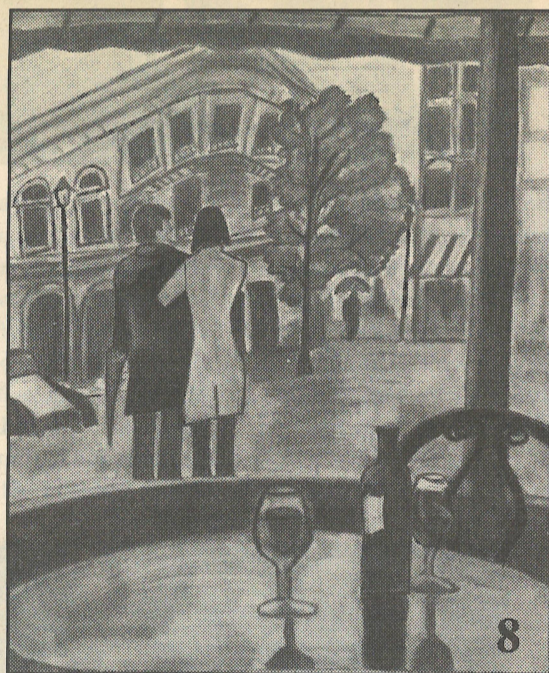
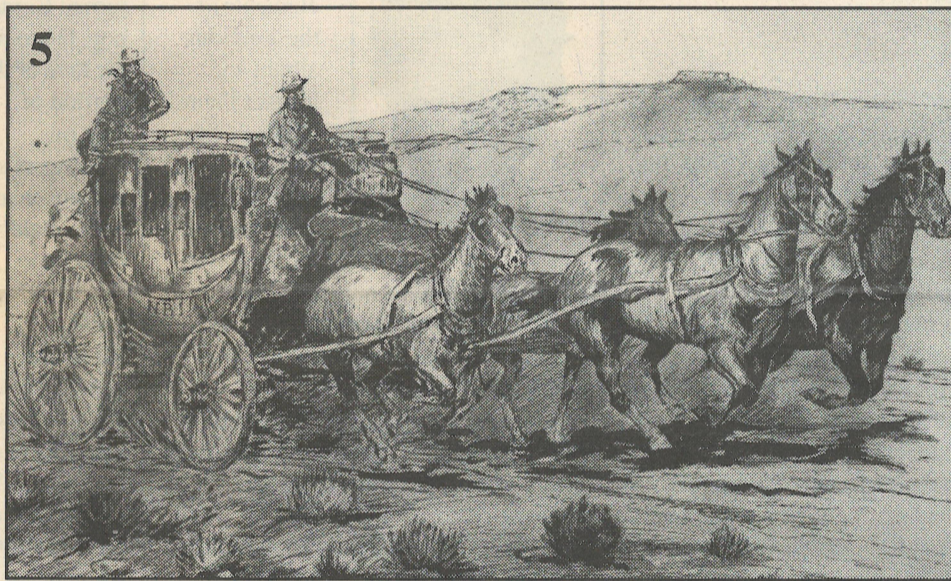
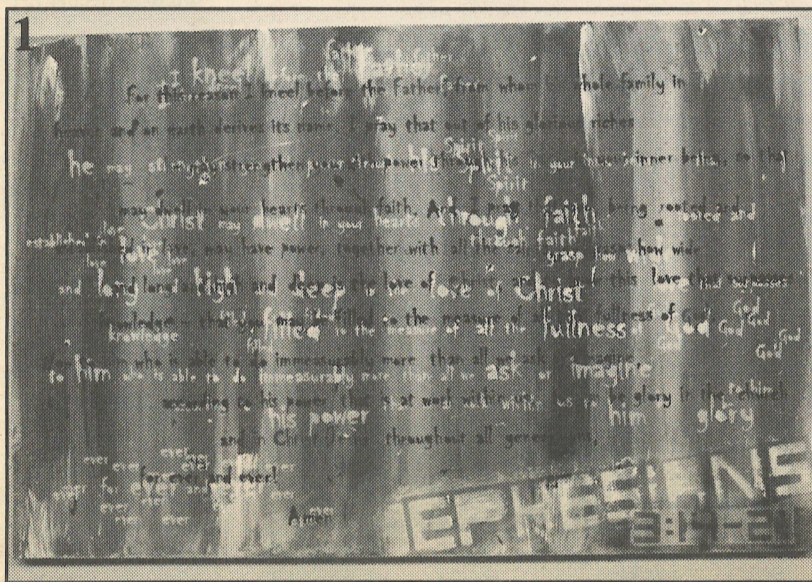
JG: To help others know God and know people. And to encourage each other. What is a human being without relationships? And I’d like to make prayer a priority. It’s not about bringing glory to me, my life and even my service in ASB—is fully about bringing glory to God.

Currently, Jed Gosnell is preparing for next year and working with the new ASB team. He will also meet with several students who have ideas and concerns for the fall.

April 5th
--
April 21st

Located in Rice Hall and Dickey Plaza, this year's Spring Art Show featured many students, faculty, and employee works of art. The Art Show also served as a reception for many student activities including the Wind Ensemble concert and the "Romeo and Juliet" play. Community members and students alike cast votes for their favorite work of art while gazing at these unique products of human ingenuity.

Art Show



Artists:

1. Brian Ellis
2. TRS
3. Maria Jose Palacios
4. Sharon Jessup
5. Rev. Clifford Hobson
6. Rosemarie Kowalski
7. Bethany Shaw
8. Kelly Clarke
9. Sean Loomis
10. DeAnn Helland

Roy Lichtenstein exhibit at the Henry Art Gallery

By Steve Potorke

Arts and Entertainment Editor

For more than four decades, Roy Lichtenstein has produced many of the eye-catching and colorful pieces that fit the "pop art" genre. Hailed as one of the most prolific and well-known artists of the last century, Lichtenstein is most often compared with Andy Warhol and many of their works tend to model each other. One cannot help but notice the clean, unobscured lines and silhouettes of the prints, as though they are more built for the advertising word than the artistic community.

Currently, 77 of his works—including a mixture of screen print, hand-painting, etchings, woodcuts, and lithographs are on exhibit at the Henry Art Gallery at the University of Washington. He was an adamant and hard working artist, as a twenty-minute film at the end of the exhibit presents so accurately.



Roy Lichtenstein produced his pieces full-time until his death in 1997, and even then some of his projects were uncompleted.

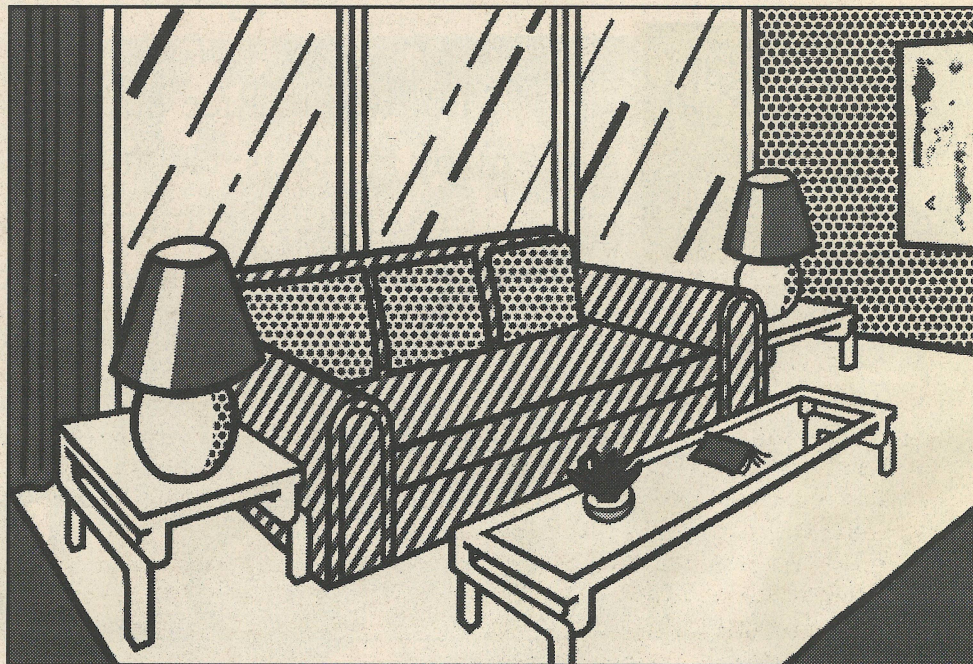
"From portraiture to abstraction to modern art history, Lichtenstein left no style or subject untapped." So...if you're looking for something to do this spring season, go check out the Roy Lichtenstein exhibit and immerse yourself in an artist who is well-deserving of praise.

Price: Free to students with school ID

Where:

University of Washington
15th Ave NE and NE 41st Street
Seattle, WA 98195

When: February 25—May 7, 2006



www.henryart.org

Roy Lichtenstein's exhibit at the Henry Art Gallery displays 77 pictures of his pop art designs. The above is an ideal living-room art piece for a pop art connoisseur.

Iceland's Sigur Ros

By Joe McQueen

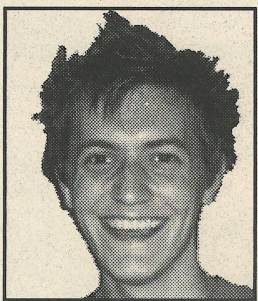
Opinion Editor

Sigur Ros, or "Victory Rose" in English, released their most accessible album to date in September of last year. *Takk*, the Icelandic band's third full-length record, swirls and swells its way through eleven of the year's best tracks. Sigur Ros' spacey tones give way to beautiful songs crafted around infectious melodies.

Sigur Ros formed in Iceland in 1994. Jonsi Birgisson (vocals and guitars), Georg Holm (bass), and Agust (drums) landed a record deal as teenagers with their first recorded song. In their formative years, the band achieved amazing popularity in Iceland, releasing their debut LP, entitled *Von* ("Hope") in 1997. The band then gained Kjartan Sveinsson (keyboards) and replaced Agust with Orri Pall Dyrason.

With the new members, Sigur Ros geared up for their next album, *Agaetis Byrjun* ("Good Start"). Released in 1999, *Agaetis Byrjun* drew the attention of the British press and gave Sigur Ros international merit. In 2000, the band began touring outside of Iceland and opened dates with Radiohead among others. After the tour, the band built their own recording studio in Iceland and began working on their 2002 release, an untitled album. The band scored an American record deal, releasing *Agaetis Byrjun* and their untitled album stateside. Amidst growing popularity the band released *Takk* in 2005.

With this release, the band remains true to their trademark sound of shimmering piano, glistening guitars, and ethereal strings. Yet, Sigur Ros achieves greater warmth with *Takk*. Their last release, the untitled album, re-sounds with an empty bleakness hinted at by its wordless title. *Takk*, however, takes all of



the most powerful elements of the previous album and infuses them with new life. The glorious anthems of *Takk* replace the haunting

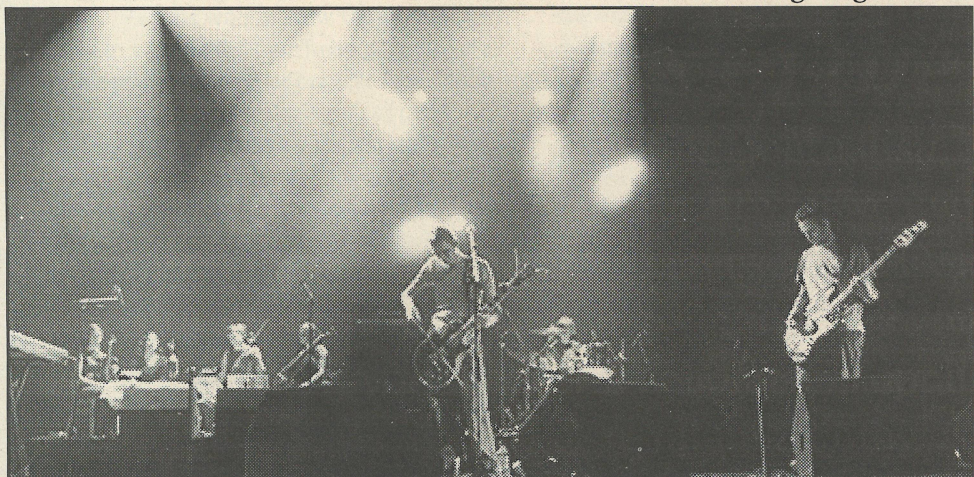
ballads of the band's nameless record. The brighter tones of drums and horns now fill the space previously occupied by droning electronic noises.

Takk is a solid album from start to finish. As with all Sigur Ros albums, there are a lot of empty or more minimal moments, but these only serve to highlight the brilliant climaxes. The best tracks are "Hoppipolla," "Gong," and "Glosoli." These are the most accessible and least abstract tracks of the album as well.

Takk has received positive press for the most part. *Mojo*, *Pitchfork*, and *Rolling Stone* all praised the album and rightly so. *Mojo* says that where the untitled album held back *Takk* is uninhibited. *Rolling Stone* went so far as to compare Sigur Ros with Coldplay. Sigur Ros' popularity is no doubt growing, especially in the states. The band's music was recently featured on two mainstream American films, *Vanilla Sky* and *Life Aquatic*. The band's unique sound has certainly found a larger audience.

As far as my recommendation goes, I would tell anyone interested in unique music to give Sigur Ros a listen. Fans of Radiohead, Mogwai, and Spiritualized should defiantly check *Takk* out.

www.morgenutgaven.com



Continued from front...

Romeo and Juliet

turned Romeo into a quintessential emo-boy, listening to his I pod as he pined after his love of the week. Due to the smaller

portion of men on Northwest's campus many of the male roles were cut. The Ladies Montague and Capulet absorbed the lines of their husbands. A

female played the role of Mercutio. This created a love triangle between her and Romeo that was reminiscent of Eponine and Marius. Indeed, tweaking the saying of Mercutio's lines slightly, made one wonder if perhaps Shakespeare wrote that nuance in himself. The fiery Tybalt was likewise portrayed by a woman, with just a hint of a dominatrix.

Despite the slightly modern variations, the story basically remained the same. So did the hard work put into the production of the show. It's said that it takes ten people backstage to put one onstage, that was no less true with this production. Lisa Peretti-Stephenson

directed the show, somehow managing to arrange the schedules of the twenty-member cast and staff. Candice Vance acted as a dialect coach, teaching us Americans how to get our tongues around this foreign language. Borwick choreographed the fight scenes, teaching us how to kill and be killed. And of course, our beautiful stage manager Martha Tracey kept us organized and on-time for our entrances. Meghan Young acted as production assistant, filling in for Lisa when needed, arranging costumes and props, as well as completing a

sundry of other production tasks.

After countless hours of rehearsals, Thursday night (opening night) came, much

too quickly for some. Though it seems that is always the case in the theatre. Feeling ready for a show on opening night just never seems to happen. Yet, somewhere in between the final dress rehearsal and opening night

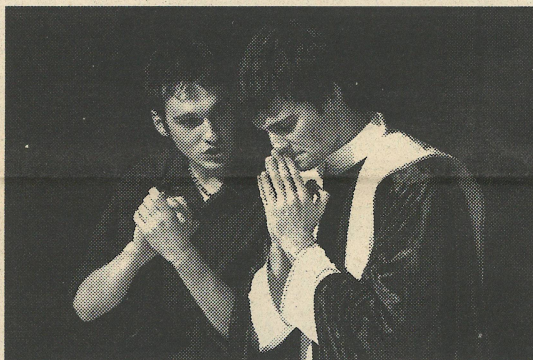
something magic happens to make everything work, and as always, St. Genesius was generous, lending us his grace for the night and the show succeeded. Lauren Gardner as Juliet was beautiful and sweet, Tim Kowalski as Romeo romantic and lovesick, Meghan Young as Mercutio bawdy and boisterous, Dustin Larson as Benvolio steadfast and faithful, Michelle Miller as Tybalt fiery and bold, Starla Reynolds as

Nurse funny and caring, Gideon Copple as Friar Laurence pious and wise, and Miguel Aguirre as The Prince regal and noble. Of course, this is not to say all was flawless. There were moments of brilliance, lines were flubbed, mistakes were made, but then that is live theatre. It is the place

where we all learn to be imperfect "parading our imperfections in spite of our fears, with one hope in mind: to play true to the end."

Our labor has not been in vain. Our portrayal of this tragedy has made women cry and men skirm in discomfort. Our director Lisa Peretti-Stephenson even cried, which is a rarity.

Additional cast and crew include: Derwin Pasley, Sarah Pemberton, Marlyn Chakwera, Debbie Hanks, Lowell Perry, Alicia Covey, Kate Elliott, Christine Henry, Skye Holzinger, and Carrie Adkins.



TOP TEN

Arts and Entertainment editor Steve Potorke's picks for movies, books, and music.

Movies:

1. Taxi Driver (1976)
2. Repo Man (1984)
3. Sid and Nancy (1986)
4. Mean Streets (1973)
5. Harold and Maude (1971)
6. Raging Bull (1980)
7. A Clockwork Orange (1971)
8. The Deer Hunter (1978)
9. The Breakfast Club (1985)
10. Dog Day Afternoon (1975)

Runners-Up:

1. Scarface (1983)
2. Forrest Gump (1994)
3. Cool Hand Luke (1967)

Books:

1. The Holy Bible
2. Maniac Magee—Jerry Spinelli
3. Cannery Row—John Steinbeck
4. Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas—Hunter S. Thompson
5. Wise Blood—Flannery O'Connor
6. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn—Mark Twain
7. The Book of Five Rings—Miyamoto Musashi
8. Nine Stories—J.D. Salinger
9. On the Road—Jack Kerouac
10. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings—Maya Angelou

Runners-Up:

1. The Jungle—Upton Sinclair
2. Once There Was a War—John Steinbeck
3. Bird by Bird—Anne Lamott

Music:

1. Self-Titled—The Velvet Underground
2. Ramones Mania—The Ramones
3. The Curtain Hits the Cast—Low
4. Bug—Dinosaur Jr.
5. Cheap Thrills—Janis Joplin
6. Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness—The Smashing Pumpkins
7. Q: Are We Not Men? A: We Are Devo!—Devo
8. Substance—Joy Division
9. Portrait—John Denver
10. Keep It Like a Secret—Built to Spill

Runners-Up:

1. Surfer Rosa—The Pixies
2. Today—Galaxie 500
3. Complete Discography—Minor Threat

Have an A&E article idea? You can write for The Talon!

Email us at: talon@northwestu.edu

“Transamerica” transforms perspectives

By Princess Deccico
Staff Reporter

Transamerica is an intense portrayal of the life of a transsexual and is filmed in such a way that it presents a documentary feel. Felicity Hoffman, who won two Academy Award nominations and a Golden Globe Award for best actress in her role as Stanley, is faced with the challenging task of playing a man who wants to become a woman by means of an operation. Stanley, who goes by “Sabrina” or “Bree,” is under psychiatric supervision and needs their permission to undergo the sex change operation.

Just before Stanley is cleared for the procedure he gets a call from a 17-year boy, who claims to be Stanley’s son. Before Stanley can go ahead with the operation to finally become Bree permanently, he must face the “skeletons in his closet” so-to-speak. Stanley flies out to New York to rescue his son from jail, all the while posing as a (female) Christian social worker. They then venture on a journey driving across the country: New York to LA. For most of the movie Stanley keeps the secret that he is both male and Toby’s father.

The viewers later discover that Toby’s stepfather sexually abused Toby for years, giving reason to his running away to New York and living on the streets as a male prostitute. There are many bizarre twists and turns through out the entire movie; however, the portion of the movie where the audience is introduced to Stanley’s family is the aspect that makes this movie worth seeing. When one sees the personalities of the members of Stanley’s family and after an interaction with his mother, one can begin to understand why Stanley is the way he is. A moment of being able to relate resonated with my brother and I as we watched the



family dynamics unfold before our eyes. By the end of the film I had gained a new insight into homosexuality that I may never have gained any other way.

In the end, Stanley is forced to tell Toby who he is, and the anguish of confusion is solidified in Toby, in that, when he gets to LA, his goal is to go into the porn business as an actor. The conclusion of this film is both sad and misguided in almost every aspect, but understandable given the background of both characters.

This film is filled with graphic scenes, language, nudity, and plot twist that really make one’s stomach flip with uneasy confusion. It is a R rated movie and is strongly discouraged for anyone who may not be able to handle the content of this movie. However, as Christians living in a world that is corrupt in a way where Stanley’s story is reality, I would encourage any Christian who is confused about the life style of transsexuals/homosexuals to see this movie yet approach it with caution



www.apple.com

as it does contain some graphic content. This movie offers a perspective that most Christians, and people in general, would never get unless they are personally involved in a situation such as this and for this reason I recommend it.

Despite the subject matter of this movie and its uneasiness, one does leave the theater with a better understanding and, hopefully, the ability to relate to people like Stanley.

“Crash:” one of last year’s biggest hits

By Karyn Hiller
Assistant Layout Editor

This year’s “Crash” was nominated against “Brokeback Mountain,” “Capote,” “Good Night, and Good Luck,” and “Munich” for “best picture.” While I would not normally advise anyone to subject themselves to a movie rated R for language, sex, and violence, the rating was worth enduring for the perspectives on human nature. (Plus it did receive an Oscar for best picture.)

“Crash” revolves around ingrained racism, and looks at how each character is racially prejudiced, and yet each becomes a victim of racism. All the characters portrayed represent a different nationality and different social economic background, claiming America to be home, with each character somehow “crashing” into each other.

“It’s the sense of touch. In any real city you walk, brush past, people bump into you....[not in L.A.] we miss the touch so much we crash into each other just so we can feel something....don’t you think that’s true.” This line creates the opening scene. As it starts you see tire tracks on a city road which has been lightly touched with snow. Soon the tire tracks fade into a blur of car lights fading into white, blue, then to orange and lastly red to signify cop lights. This quote spoken by actor Don Cheadle creates the essence of the movie. Each



character crashes into some racial encounter.

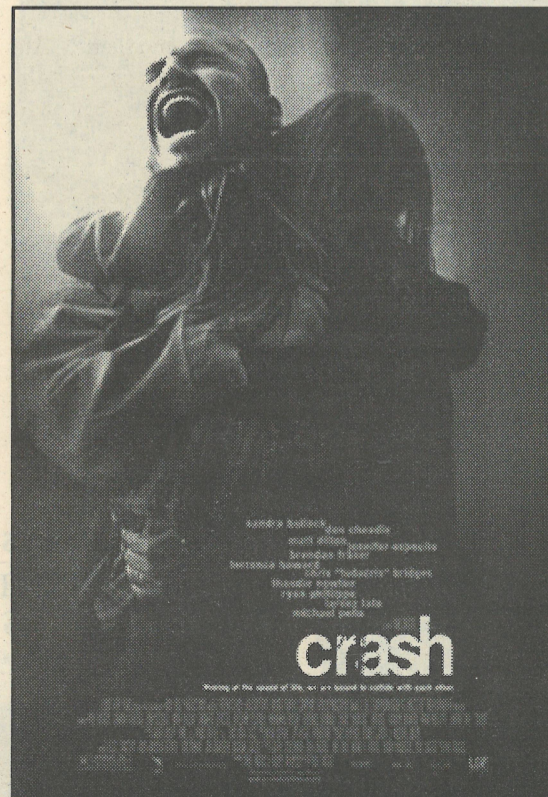
The actors include Shaun Toub, who plays a Persian shopkeeper; Sandra Bullock,

the wife of a district attorney (Brendan Fraser); Michael Pena, a Mexican-American locksmith; Don Cheadle, a cop whose partner, Jennifer Esposito, portrays a Latina woman. Finally, Matt Dillon plays a racist cop with a rookie partner Ryan Phillippe who decides to ride in a different car due to the awkwardness of being Dillon’s partner. Thandie Newton does a great job portraying the wife of TV director Terence Dashon Howard. Larenz Tate plays Chris “Ludacris,” who in my opinion has the biggest character change.

Although the film takes a gritty look at human nature—the endless amount of swearing is unnecessary along with the nudity scene. Some of the sexual content and the violence is completely understandable given the film’s approach, but overall it was dramatized. The way the film is shot is very realistic, drawing you in with

the characters.

This film explores the darker side of human nature, the violence, discrimination, anger, isolation, and ignorance that lies beneath the shell of every person. Overall, “Crash” is a great film demonstrating how actions can come full-circle affecting, anyone you come in contact with.



http://movies.yahoo.com

Track and field update

By Karyn Hiller
Assistant Layout Editor

Two of NU's own, Leonard Randall, and Kjerstein Bailey, broke their life time records at a 10k meet, taking them to the NAIA championships in Fresno California. Leonard won finishing with a time of 31:22.2 by his unending, dogged persistence. Leonard said that he is really looking forward to the finals.

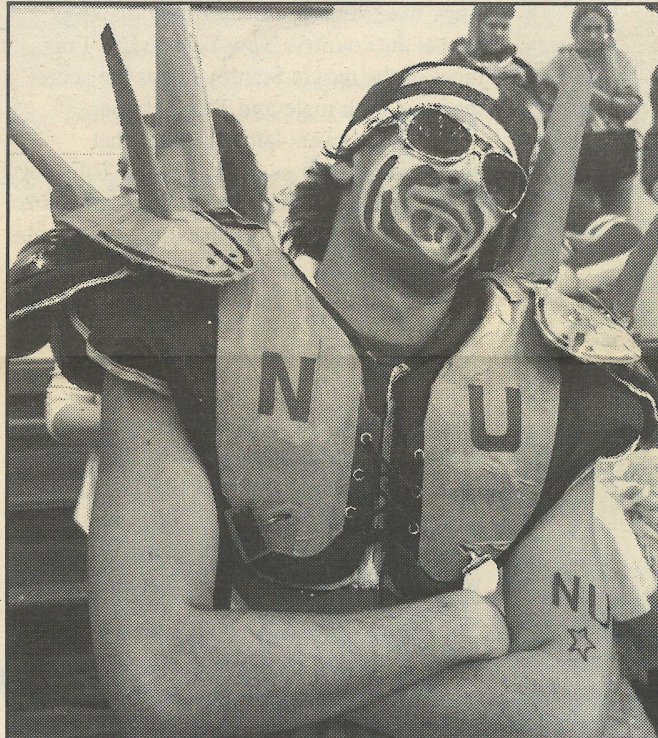
Randall says the season's highlight has so far occurred two weeks ago with his 10k time. "It was great that all my team mates were cheering me on... All of us

have been working really hard. The team is growing well together. We support one another and cheer one another on. We have grown a lot and we have a great team dynamic... We have harder work, and then we have places where we can bear the fruit of hard work."

Coming events for the track and field team include a meet in central Washington, a meet in Oregon, and several smaller ones. With more meets and a championship in the near future, the track and field team is likely to have another successful year.



Highlights from this year's sporting events



All photos are from the Homecoming game against Oregon Institute of Technology and were taken by Austin Bennecker.

"Since coming to AGTS, I've been challenged intellectually, but I'm also learning a lot myself and growing in my relationship with God."

– Mike Burnette,
M.Div. Student

ASSEMBLIES of GOD
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY
Biblical Answers • Empowered Ministry • Global Impact

WWW.AGTS.EDU • 1-800-467-AGTS

Your advertisement could be here!

The Talon Journal offers competitive prices, printed issues, and online issues to all of our customers. If you would like to advertise in *The Talon*, call us 425-889-5357 or email us at talon@northwestu.edu.