

The Talon Journal

February 7, 2007

A student publication of Northwest University

Vol. 5, Ed. 4

Ice, wind and snow: a stormy season

By Becca Mar
Staff Reporter

High winds, sudden snow and record sub-freezing temperatures disrupted life at Northwest University and across the Pacific Northwest in December and January.

The power outage, which began Dec. 14, interrupted finals during the last week of fall semester and extended into Christmas break. Students who remained on campus during the break faced a new challenge after exams: how to cope with the darkness and cold. Portions of the main campus regained power on Saturday, Dec. 16, but apartment residents waited for power until Monday, Dec. 18.

Kellyn Muller, a student who lives in the campus apartments, said her greatest frustrations were the darkness and cold, the lack of hot water for showers and having to eat out to get hot food.

The shortage of fuel also caused frustration for local residents. Those lucky enough to find an open, functioning gas station settled in for long waits.

Scott Brown, a student from Kenai, Alaska, needed fuel for his drive to Tacoma after final exams but couldn't get it locally. So he drove north, beyond Mill Creek.

"Car lines at gas stations backed up into traffic and intersections," said Brown.

The chaos necessitated police involvement in directing traffic. The first two stations Brown stopped at sold out before he could buy gas—the second time, he watched as the person ahead of him pumped the last of the supply. Finally, at the fourth or fifth attempt, he succeeded. From the experience, Brown realized "how dependent we are on gas and electricity."

"People back home are pretty prepared," said the native Alaskan. "When



Photo courtesy of Kristin Coppersmith

Snow and ice caused Northwest to close on Thursday Jan. 11th.

it snows here, people panic," he added.

The snowstorm on Jan. 10 interrupted the first week of spring semester's classes and caught Puget Sound residents by surprise, causing hours of traffic gridlock.

Julia Young, professor of English, dismissed her Southern Writers class at 4:45 pm, but it was already too late. She did not

anticipate a three-hour journey home to south Bellevue. One hour later, her "empty" light flashed on. From Main Street to Eighth, a five-minute trip under normal conditions, it took her 40 minutes to back-track to a gas station.

By 7:55 pm, Young had arrived home. "Finally slipping down the hill to my house, I whispered, 'Thank you, God,'" said Young.

Snowfall measured from 2 to 11 inches in the lowlands and foothills of the Puget Sound region. Temperatures remained in the 15 – 35 degree range for one week.

On Jan. 11, the day after the snow-storm, Gov. Christine Gregoire requested federal disaster aid for windstorm damage in 19 Washington counties which could total \$47 million. Storm

damage—split power poles, downed lines and hundreds of uprooted trees—resulted from hurricane-force winds which pummeled the West (Destruction Island, near Neah Bay). At Seattle-Tacoma Airport, 370 feet above sea level, the highest gust reached 69 mph – 5 mph below a category-one minimal hurricane. The National

"Be prepared three days in three ways"

Phil Sankey, chairman of Northwest University's Safety Committee, suggests the some of the following:

1. Keep a survival kit in your dorm room or apartment.
2. Research public advisory information about preparedness.
3. Keep your fuel tank full, which adds weight to the vehicle for better traction on snow and ice.

Sankey also points out that in the event of another power outage, during the daytime you can find light, heat, and food in the school cafeteria, which has a generator.

Ready America, a federal organization, recommends that survival kits should contain a three-day supply of water (one gallon per day), non-perishable food, flashlights, a first aid kit and a battery-powered radio. For more information, visit

www.ready.gov/america/getakit/index.html

Campus news

- February 14
Single Awareness 8 p.m.
- February 18
Crossing Benefit Concert 7 p.m.
- February 19
President's Day- no classes
Crossing Benefit Concert 9 p.m.
- February 23-24
Roomies Weekend

...Continued on pg. 2

HSC update: Brick Inscription Program

By Daren Fickel
Staff Reporter

Northwest University still faces \$12.7 million of debt, while they continue to work on the new Health and Science Center.

The original debt was a total of \$18 million. Now, Northwest has two plans to relieve the rest of the building debt.

Dr. Don Argue, president of Northwest University, is currently traveling the United States to speak with foundations and organizations to raise money.

At another attempt to raise funds, Northwest students and alumni can participate in the Brick Inscription Program.

Individuals can purchase various sized bricks that will be used for the walls of the Health and Science Center. Each brick will contain the donor's name and an inscription. The inscriptions can vary in length, depending on the size of brick purchased.

A 2 inch by 7 inch brick costs \$200 and will be placed in the blue area, near the entry wall. A 4 inch by 8 inch brick is \$500 and will be found on the second story of the building. The Eagle Wall, also located on the second floor, will contain 8 inch by 8 inch bricks, amounting to \$1,000 each. Finally, on the Wall of Honor, located in a prominent part of the building, donors can purchase a large brick for \$5,000.

More information can be found by visiting the Northwest website:

www.northwestu.edu/hsc

The last building to be added to the Northwest campus was the 6710 building. Northwest purchased the building for just over \$5 million. The previous owners built the building at a cost totaling more than \$10 million.

Trusting that God will again provide, Northwest set out to add to the campus without putting the University in a large amount of debt, according to Argue.

The two programs that will benefit the most from the new building are the nursing program and the science department. Each student, however, will benefit from the new building.

In the last eight years enrollment has gone up 52%. The transfer of nursing students and faculty from other facilities

will provide much needed space for the continued growth of other programs.

The added space will allow Northwest to grow, allowing more students to enroll and eventually adding new programs like pre-med and a graduate level nursing program, Argue added.

Dr. Carl Christensen, the dean for the School of Nursing expressed his excitement for the completion of the building. Currently, "[students] are cramped in our current spaces."

"When we have more students in the classroom; that ultimately means more graduates going out there and sharing their nursing skills and sharing the love for Christ," Christensen added.

...Continued on pg. 2

Artists of faith: *metaphor and mission*

By Professor
Daniel Rice

Featured Columnist



The arts create vision where no sight was previously possible; they blind minds where clarity of vision and good taste once held sway. The arts allow people to experience life and to delineate ideas that cannot be conveyed in any other modality.

The arts can expand the world, the universe, the intellect and the spirit, or they can compress it and smash these things beyond recognition. The arts have the capacity for great goodness. Without the arts, the human soul would linger in academic and spiritual darkness. The arts are the cornerstone of all education. Human greatness is impossible without it.

There are artists who hold open a door of hope to those who have no exit of escape.

For those who use it well, art illuminates all of humankind. And because of this, artists of faith have tools for their mission like no other group in society. If it is true that believers are salt and light in the world, it is particularly true of the skilled, believing artist.

There are wonderful tools available for making art.

We discuss these subjects in *Art Appreciation*, in the traditional program and in *Arts & Culture*, in the LEAP program.

Yet, the greatest tool in an artist's arsenal may be the use of metaphor. Artists continually speak the language of metaphor.

One would think, perhaps, that the world of science, or business would speak less poetically, using more literal speech, and sometimes they do. Yet, scientists particularly rely on the poetic language of the metaphor to communicate complex concepts and difficult ideas.

Astronomers and physicists speak of black-holes, dark-matter and string-theory. Biologists use metaphorical terms like protein-folding, cellular-level, global-warming and many others.

According to Theodore L. Brown, an emeritus professor of chemistry at the University of Illinois, "*Analysis of the language employed by scientists shows that they understand the world largely in terms of metaphorical concepts. Much of scientific thought and practice can be accounted for in terms of the . . . conceptual metaphor, in which abstract concepts*

are understood in terms of deeply grounded physical experiences . . ." **MAKING TRUTH / metaphor in science** - <http://www.press.uillinois.edu/s03/brown.html>

The visual arts primarily use cues, symbols and metaphors to convey ideas, feelings and content.

Enter the artist of faith. Art and mission are sisters in the same family. One could say, without exaggeration, that the Bible is a work of art. It is neither an exaggeration, nor sac religious to refer to God as an artist. To be an artist of faith is to work in a manner that imitates the Creator Himself. What could be a higher calling than this?

Dr. Bob Stallman, professor at Northwest University, teaches a class entitled, *Old Testament Metaphors for God* and his doctoral dissertation explored the use of metaphor in human communication. Stallman points out that literal language may not be as effective as language that employs metaphor.

It is not hard to see from the Bible, that God uses metaphor to communicate eternal truth—which humans would probably have no way of comprehending if stated in literal vocabulary.

For example, anyone can stand up and talk about the sins of their peers. However, 2 Sam 12:1-14 shares a different way of doing so.

The wise prophet Nathan stood before a backslidden King David (who was probably in no mood for a theological conversation) and told a heartbreaking story about a shameful injustice committed against a gentle-hearted man. As Nathan finished his brief narrative, the king was infuriated and demanded punishment of the offender. It was only then that Nathan was able to say, "You are the offender."

By means of that story, David is brought to comprehend the shocking nature of his own sin. The result: repentance, forgiveness and the tender restoration of his relationship with God. A simple creative story softened the calloused heart of a sinful man.

It takes an artist of faith to present truth for someone to turn back toward their Creator. Nathan accomplished this with a single story. What the mere knowledge of God's Law could not produce in David's heart is quickly accomplished by arranging a few appropriate metaphors and creating an image in the king's mind.

In the right hands, art is a powerful tool for righteousness.

Wise and believing artists will remember this. They can help people find

their way to God, and in doing so, help them re-enter the process of spiritual formation.

I am continually encouraged by Christ's words that all of heaven rejoices whenever a soul is saved. Art can be the bridge over which one travels to their salvation.

For example, the Bible uses metaphor to clarify that wealth does not make us more human. Seeking affluence, position, power, prestige, control: none of these things or make us like Christ; quite the contrary. There are many pictorial warnings in scripture against these dangers.

The disconnection of Abraham and Lot and Christ's parable of the foolish rich farmer are metaphors that warn us against worldliness. The Bible tells us that the love of money or of any of these things, will produce sin in our lives, and which makes us less like Christ.

John goes so far as to say, "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:15

We should beware of what we love, for what we love we will seek.

In the end, there is only one thing that we should be aiming at; to learn to love. i.e. to be like Christ. Artists of faith ought to ultimately aim at a single goal: point the way to Divine virtue and nothing else.

A believer's art certainly can include the immanent, visa vie the struggle, the ugliness of our fallen condition. However, it

can never be without transcendence, the hope of redemption and the fact of the resurrection.

To make art without a joyful expectation is to ignore the assurance of hope. This is a lie. The artist of faith must never lie.

On the other hand, to depict a transcendent art that hides the struggle of this world and the agony of the human condition is flippant, shallow, irresponsible and deceptive. This may be the worst kind of lie. Human struggle must never be trivialized. It is real, and it generated great sorrow in the heart of our dear savior. It was part of his *passion*.

May there be a pox on every form of faith that refuses (deliberately or by neglect) to embrace the Divine passion.

Believing artists are God's tools for speaking into the church and the world. Their task is to help others "see" from God's perspective. They, through the language of metaphor, help others imagine true realities and new possibilities. They compose pictures that can illuminate concepts which "literal" language cannot approach. They can show us the way to love our neighbor and love our Creator. They can open the door of escape for those who wander misplaced through a dark and dehumanizing world.

The arts provide a tremendous advantage to our missional approach of life. Why would any Christ-follower neglect potential to do good to humankind?

...storms continued

Weather Service does not have an official record of the wind speed in Kirkland, but estimates that the wind reached the upper 40 to lower 60 mph range.

Wind readings for most Eastside locations, especially more rural areas, depend on homeowner's personal weather situations. In nearby Duvall, one family's weather gauge recorded wind gusts in the 90-100 mph range, peaking at 104 mph after midnight on Dec. 15.

Power crews from California, Utah, Kansas and Missouri provided aid for the Puget Sound region. Even Oregon and B.C. pitched in despite their own damage. The power outage lasted anywhere from 24 hours to two weeks, depending on location. Puget Sound Energy described the windstorm as a "natural disaster of historic proportions."

Winter officially ends on March 21.

...HSC continued

The Health and Science Center is scheduled to be ready for classes and faculty before the start of the fall 2007 semester. Contractors are currently working on pouring a concrete roof, removing internal scaffolding. Soon, the plumbing, electrical, and mechanical teams will prepare the building for further development.

During this time period, students will be able to see site grading around the building, which helps recreate the beautiful landscape of Northwest University.

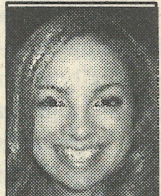
What can be expected for the future of Northwest's campus?

Argue shared that Northwest has plans for building a Pavilion, a Student Center which will house a cafeteria, snack shop and larger book store. Also, they plan to build a larger chapel to accommodate the growing campus and expected enrollment increase.

The Talon Journal

Editorial Staff

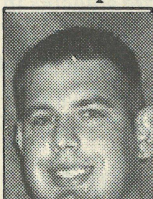
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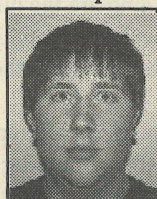
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We encourage letters to the editor, though we do reserve the right to refuse publication of any anonymous or vulgar submissions. Letters can be sent to us at talon@northwestu.edu or delivered to our office in the Pecota Student Center.

Basketball diaries: Aaron Sawyer's story

By Rebekah Proctor

Staff Reporter

At 6 foot 8 inches tall, Northwest University's star Aaron Sawyer may intimidate people on the basketball court, but outside the gym he's a mild-mannered middle child from Shelton, Wa.

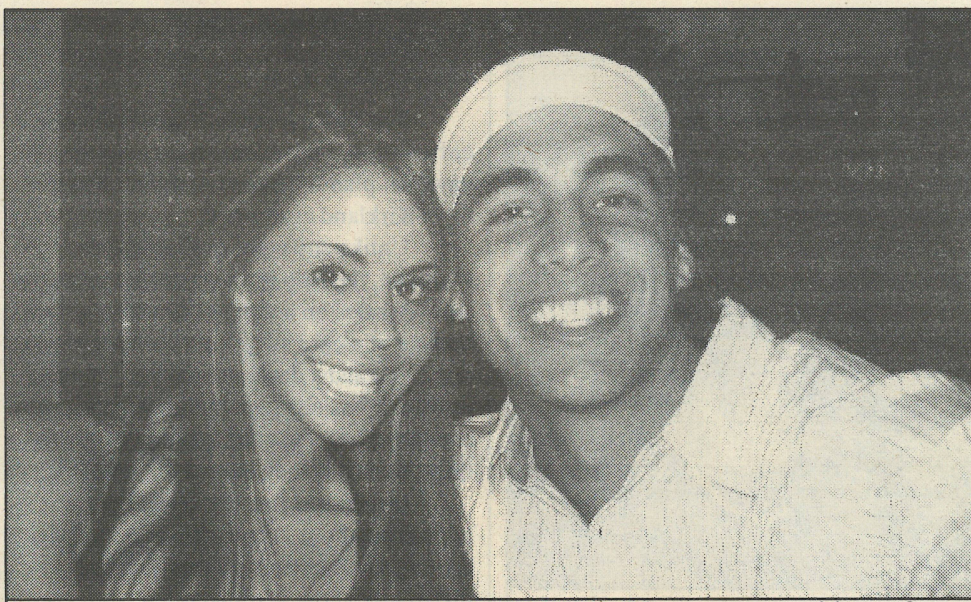
Finishing his senior year of basketball and college, Sawyer cannot believe how fast his time at Northwest University has gone. He thought he would only stay for one or two years, but friendships with teammates helped keep him around. And Sawyer has contributed greatly to their success.

He averages 17.5 points per game, 8.17 rebounds and shoots 50% from the field. He has scored roughly 1,908 points during his career at Northwest University.

Currently, Sawyer is leading the team in points and rebounds. He is second in the Cascade Collegiate Conference in blocked shots, third in total rebounds and sixth in scoring out of the ten teams in the conference.

"Humble, well-rounded, a quiet leader who puts the team first," Van Dyke describes. "He's athletic, a great shooter, an excellent player and, again, he puts the team first," he added.

Sawyer says that God played a role in his decision to come to Northwest University four years ago. Due to a thumb injury during his junior year at Shelton High school followed by a disappointing senior year, not many recruiters looked at Sawyer to play basketball at their schools. Western Washington University and



Aaron Sawyer and his high school sweetheart Jill

Photo courtesy of Aaron Sawyer

Seattle Pacific University considered him briefly, but it was Northwest University's coach, John Van Dyke, who snatched up Sawyer's talent.

During his freshman year, the men's team kept losing and Sawyer wanted to quit. He came home from practices tired and discouraged. To our advantage, he continued to persevere and play. Gradually, with each passing year, the men's team improved their record.

In 2003 their record was 14 wins 18 losses, the following year: 18 wins and 14 losses, and in 2005, 19 wins and ten losses. The 2006-07' season stands overall at 18

wins and 7 losses and in the Cascade Collegiate Conference, the division to

"a quiet leader who puts the team first"

which the men's team belongs; their record is eight wins and five losses.

"When we beat nationally ranked OIT at home last year and playing in the conference championship game," Sawyer

said of his best memories from Northwest.

Even though Sawyer has played organized basketball since the first grade, and loves the game, he views his time on the men's basketball team as a means to an end.

"I'm not the type of guy who eats, sleeps and breaths basketball," he said with a smile.

Basketball has helped him financially to earn a degree in Business Administration and taught him some essential lessons.

"Success can be found in basketball, and more importantly, in life, through commitment to hard work, the desire to continually improve, and above all, possessing a teachable attitude," Sawyer said.

Sawyer likes basketball, but truly appreciates his time away from the game.

He likes to spend time with his high school sweetheart and enjoys time to draw and cook. If he's watching T.V., his favorite show is "Scrubs" and deems "Garden State" as his favorite movie.

He likes to listen to rap music before playing a game, but off the court and especially in the summer, he enjoys the music of Jack Johnson. In the off-season Sawyer plays almost any sport, including tennis,

football and soccer. Sawyer says that "all food" is his favorite, but especially enjoys Hawaiian plate lunches.

Sawyer's father is actually from Hawaii and every summer his family visits the islands and surf. In fact, the ancestors from his father's side came to Hawaii as missionaries from China. Sawyer himself was raised in a Christian family, who owns a golden retriever and has attended church all his life. His dad is an elder at a Baptist church in Shelton, his older brother and younger sister both pursued their passion for music; one plays guitar and sings, while the other is a pianist.

When asked about plans post graduation, Sawyer laughs and gives the common reply of most seniors, "I don't know." He may use his degree for an internship in the Seattle area.

However, his immediate dream is to play basketball overseas for a couple of years, preferably in Greece.

To continuing students Sawyer gives these words of wisdom: "Quicker than you think, you will be gone from this school and hopefully you will have learned something. Enjoy your time here while you can, and take advantage of the opportunities presented."

My homeless friend

By Maria Delessandro

Contributing Writer

If my father could see me now, he'd probably wisk me back home and not let me out of his sight for months.

I've thought this to myself before, while hugging a homeless man, who must appear strange, dirty, diseased and possibly even unsafe to those who don't know him.

Upon further acquaintance, however, it becomes apparent to anyone that he is kind, gentle, and interesting. We have things in common, he and I, and find plenty to talk about. Especially music. I'm always listening to his CDs or, for instance, asking him his opinion of Chris Cornell's recent solo album.

This homeless man is D. I don't know his real first or last name. Many of the homeless people I know go by street names, to make their illegal activities harder for the police to track.

I've known D for over a year. D is a permanent fixture on Broadway in Capitol Hill. I've run into him countless times, on the street or at the Capitol Hill Value Village.

D is 32, though he looks to be in his late 20s. He has been a drug addict on Capitol Hill for six years. He has stringy blond hair and would be attractive if his skin was not gnarled from the years of drug abuse and rough living, and perhaps if he didn't have large abscesses on his arms. D is generally quick to smile, and usually enjoys to sit and chat over the biggest cup of coffee money can buy, depending on how high he is and on where he is in the

up-and-down cycle of his drug of choice, speed.

D is from the South. When addressing a woman, he often affectionately called her "Boo," as is apparently the custom where he's from. I swear that he is one the most traditionally gentlemanly men in Seattle. He calls my friends and I "ladies" and prefers not to use profanity around us. He prefers that no one use profanity around us, and tells them so, often announcing to the other people standing on the corner of Broadway and Olive, waiting for the light to change, that we are his Christian friends.

He considers us among his true friends and thanks us for listening to his

"D is the kind of lovable man that is so easy to hope and pray for"

dumb stories for the last three years.

This is only my second year of consistently participating in Lighthouse, but D has known students from Northwest University for years, from the long tradition of Northwest students going out to Capitol Hill to the homeless.

He is always singing—sometimes quite loudly—to the chagrin of many passers-by. He likes a variety of music, mostly alternative, metal, punk rock, rap and he has a special affection for our local music gods Pearl Jam and Nirvana.

D's mother is very ill, which pains him deeply. The only time I've seen D cry was when he was asked about how his mother was doing.

D still has fairly traditional Southern-Christian ideas about God but he is not a practicing Christian, to my knowledge. I have never started a conversation about God with D, though I have been present when my friend Sara Tady has.

D got into King County Drug Court program recently, which is a program for recovering drug addicts that allows them to avoid some jail time if they participate in the program. They are provided with counseling and with classes teaching them about their past addictions and about how to get a job again and integrate back into society.

They are provided with medical care and some sort of housing, often a room at a clean-and-sober house. They are required to go to groups like Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous and to do community service. They are also highly monitored, with frequent court appearances, police calls and random "UAs" (Urine Analysis). For someone who is fresh out of prison, this is a great program. But you have to be clean to participate, which D wasn't.

I haven't seen D for weeks, since right before his first court date—he could be in jail, in rehab or on the street out of sight. I pray he's in an inpatient rehab. I pray he's alive and okay.

D is the kind of lovable man that is so easy to hope and pray for, but who has been traveling for some time down a seemingly inevitable path toward untimely death, which dashes my hope for him.

D says he is tired of being a homeless drug addict. He says that he wants to be done with that life, but I know that getting clean is not easily done, especially in his environment.

Please pray with me for our friend D.

Lighthouse is a student-led ministry to the homeless of Capitol Hill.

Students meet each and every Friday night in the Aerie at 7:30pm and, after prayer, drive to Seattle, where they spend time with the homeless, often buying them a meal or a cup of coffee. Please come!

Just show up or email

maria.dalessandro@northwestu.edu or

golennygo@yahoo.com for more

information.



Film review: *Freedom Writers*

By Ryan Monahan
Staff Reporter

"Freedom Writers," directed by Richard LaGravenese ("Monster-in-law" and "Erin Brockovich"), is a powerful must-see drama in which Hilary Swank delivers the best performance of her career.

It's soon after the 1992 riots in Los Angeles and gang violence is on the rise in public school. In the film, Long Beach's Wilson High School is selected to participate in a "voluntary integration program" in which students of varying races come together despite their differences: or at least...that's the plan.

The film is based on events centered around the real-life teacher, Erin Gruwell (Swank). She's a first-time teacher who steps optimistically into a world where she is way over her head. She comes to teach English while her students' biggest concern is making it through their day without dying.

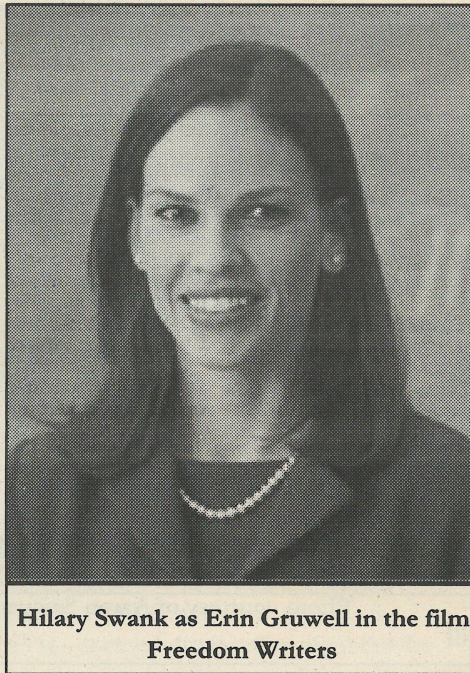
To viewers, the characters were strangely credible. Hilary Swank was by far the most convincing, especially because she plays a real person.

As Gruwell, Swank ardently seeks to make her students' lives better. Throughout the process however, her marriage begins to deteriorate. LaGravenese's addition of this subplot shows a dichotomy of interest; you can't have your cake and eat it too.

The young actors that play Gruwell's students do exceptionally well in their roles. The sullen and angry teenager may not seem hard to portray, but this young cast does it quite well.

April L. Hernandez, who plays Eva, is brilliant. Eva is one of Gruwell's most troubled students who sees many friends and family members either die or go to prison for seemingly no reason at all. Gruwell struggles to reach this white-hating Latina girl who simply longs for a better existence.

As a viewer, I was bothered by two aspects of the film. First, the other educators are portrayed as calloused, self-serving bigots who seek after only what is beneficial for them and are so diametrically opposite to Swank's character that I almost



Hilary Swank as Erin Gruwell in the film *Freedom Writers*

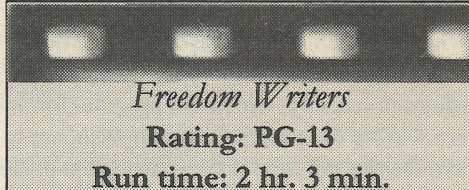
couldn't help despising them.

Also, the film, at first glance, looked suspiciously like "Dangerous Minds," a movie in which Michelle Pfeiffer plays a teacher similar to the character of Erin Gruwell. However, by the end of the film, my mind was entirely changed. Now, "Freedom Writers" is on a plane unto itself in my mind.

Overall, "Freedom Writers" is a jewel of a movie. It teaches both a lesson of hope and triumph through a raw, yet refined, depiction of gang violence and depravity that prevailed in LA during that time.

Unfortunately, it is doubtful that the film will get the respect it deserves. This is partly because the film preview poster looks like it is pieced together on a computer by a 2nd grader; and because the marketing strategy was virtually non-existent, not to mention the off-season January release date.

Regardless, I would recommend, without reserve, that anyone see this movie.



Book review

Eats, Shoots & Leaves: *The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*

By Christa Silverberg
Contributing Writer

Lynne Truss is a stickler. For those of you who aren't familiar with the term, it can also be defined as "Grammar Nazi." Think of Professor Debbie Pope or Professor Jack Wisemore and you're not far off.

Yes, Truss believes her mission in life is to save the world from bad punctuation, to patrol the streets with a bottle of correction fluid, obliterating all unnecessary apostrophes from signs offering "CD's, Video's, and Book's" for sale. However, to avoid arrest for defacing private property, she has written a book instead.

That's right. A book about punctuation. BOOORRING! At least one would think so.

But under the influence of Truss's biting sarcasm and wit, commas and apostrophes come alive in a way that brought her book, *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: the Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*, to the top of the New York Times Best Seller list in 2004, an unusual place for a grammar book.

From the simple use of a question

mark to the mind-boggling nuances of colons and semicolons, Truss humorously teaches readers how to construct sentences in a way that would evade even Debbie Pope's notorious correction pen.

But this book is not only about the correct way to place those dreaded semicolons.

Truss also writes about the history of punctuation, of how Western language originally had no punctuation until some ancient Roman chap decided that putting various marks at the end of sentences would make them easier to read.

A few hundred years later a forward thinking Italian guy went a step further, deciding that a "tadpole number-nine dot-with-a-tail" should indicate a pause in a sentence, thus giving us the comma.

For the more practical types who don't give a fig who invented the comma but would much rather know why they



Cafe review: *Terra Bite lounge*

By Kate Dartnall
Editor in Chief

Terra Bite Lounge, a newly opened coffee shop, introduces an innovative payment plan for the sake of their downtown Kirkland customers.

Unlike any other café or lounge in Kirkland, the Bite is a non-profit business that operates on a voluntary payment basis. Instead of a card swipe and cash register, price lists and a decorated tip jar, a humble gray lock box sits next to the barista counter. There, patrons can pay whatever they choose, if they choose to pay at all.

Owner and founder Ervin Peretz explains that this simple payment model is for the customer and makes them feel differently about getting coffee.

"Here, you pay what you feel comfortable paying and afterwards, feel like you've done something good."

Also a software developer for Google, Peretz came up with Terra Bite while sitting at a bar in Vietnam. Peretz plans to run the Bite as an upscale non-profit, non-stigmatizing and stress free environment. They don't advertise, support any political or religious message or ask for anything but what you'd pay anywhere else. Terra Bite claims they will serve anyone, even those who cannot pay or do not pay at all.

Peretz expresses that if the Bite doesn't force people to pay and a customer chooses not to, the person may have a change of heart and some genuine personal growth.

So far, there have been no abusers of the voluntary payment method. However, Peretz claims that the Bite keeps an accurate count of people and money that comes in to monitor success daily. As a nonprofit organization, they donate to non-stigmatizing charities and pay the baristas.

Terra Bite's director, Susan Allsup, is usually the friendly barista behind the counter. She brews Café Dante coffee, makes chili, toasts bagels and smiles at everyone who comes in the door.

"After I ordered my coffee, she then offered me other food items too," said a

Lake Washington High School student Laura Tan.

Tan and her other Lake Washington peers often hang out at the Kirkland Teen Center. Just a few blocks down, on Kirkland Avenue and State Street, Tan and her friends have found a new place to get coffee.

"I paid. Promise," added Tan.

Peretz's business plan includes more than a voluntary payment attribute. At Terra Bite, customers can use Wi-Fi Internet and play Xbox or PS3 games on a flat screen television. Peretz has utilized his own software wit to create a new kind of coffee lounge environment.

The Bite's logo is the face of a 1950's man wearing a 21st century robot-tech headset, with a pipe hanging out of his

"Smarmy and in the know"

mouth. Peretz describes the logo as "smarmy and in the know."

As Peretz looks to continue adding software technology to the lounge, some customers aren't sold on mixing technology wit with a coffee shop.

"It has a weird vibe going on right now," said Northwest junior Kristin Coppersmith.

According to Coppersmith, she likes to go to Terra Bite Lounge strictly for the good coffee, as the lounge is cold feeling and too empty to feel like a real coffee shop.

Coppersmith is just one of the many residents who have watched Kirkland's café scene radically transform within the past two years. The audience that once sat in Triple J's Café moved to Kahili Coffee down the block. Then, Seattle's Best Coffee closed and Reality Coffee made an honest attempt to compete with Kahili. Now that Starbucks replaced Reality Coffee, Terra Bite is curious to see how this will affect business.

Peretz shares that he'd like to have another Terra Bite location up and running in Bellevue, Redmond or Kirkland by late this year.

outside the English department really cares where commas go?

Truss sums up the answer by stating that punctuation is not "an arbitrary system of notation known only to an over-sensitive elite who have attacks of the vapours when they see it misapplied. The reason to stand up for punctuation is that without it there is no reliable way of communicating meaning."

Whatever you write, from essays to business reports to lesson plans, you risk miscommunicating to your audience if you don't know where to place that comma. So if you've got to brush up on your punctuation skills, you might as well have a few laughs in the process, right?

Silverberg is a staff librarian at Hurst Library.

Find the book in the Hurst Library at Dewey number 428.2, T873e, 2004.