

THE TALON

NOVEMBER 2009

A NORTHWEST PUBLICATION WRITTEN BY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS

VOLUME 2. ISSUE 3



Photo By: Haley King

Business student applies learning from down under
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NU graduate returns as English professor
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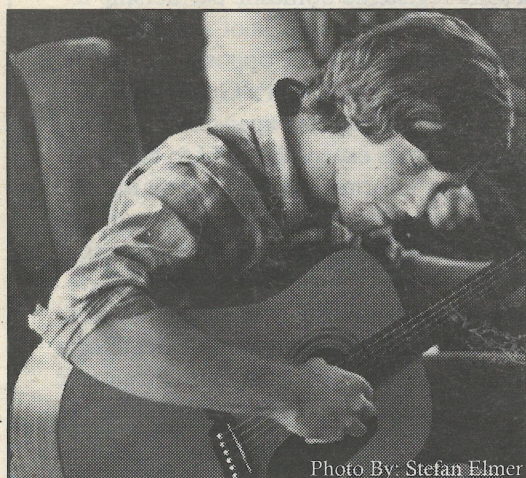


Photo By: Stefan Elmer

Former NU student's music hits iTunes
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NU DELIBERATES AN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL REQUIREMENT



Photo By: Matthew Moroni

Michael Pettis experienced business in Sydney, Australia through NU.

Janie Kliever
Senior Staff Writer

Northwest University is contemplating an international travel requirement that applies to all students, regardless of their major.

"In terms of organizing the travel and building it into the curriculum, we're very close. It wouldn't be that much of a stretch. The discussion is really how it should be paid for," said university provost, Jim Heugel.

NU administrators are considering including all academic programs in a plan that requires every student to engage in cross-cultural travel. These trips would be tailored to give meaning and practical application to each students' majors.

"Most of our students will spend time overseas during their years at NU whether they are required to do so or not," said NU President, Dr. Joseph Castleberry, who originally proposed the plan.

The plan states that after students have attended NU for three years, they will automatically qualify for participation in a trip relevant to their studies during their fourth year.

This means that students who have not fulfilled the three-year requirement, such as some transfer or Running Start students, would have to pay extra fees (similar to NU's current travel courses) in order to participate.

Heugel acknowledges that part of this policy stems from both the desire to attract students to Northwest and to

create an incentive for students to stay for the duration of their college careers.

The most likely scenario for covering the costs of these global experiences would be an increase in tuition. In addition to usual yearly increases in tuition, a one-time three and a half percent surge would be necessary to cover program costs, which is "a big bite to swallow," said Heugel.

The idea is to cover costs completely through tuition to relieve students of the burden of procuring the extra funds typically necessary for studying abroad.

Heugel believes that "the advantage of that approach [raising tuition] is simple—students don't have to find a way to pay a big fee in their junior year, it's been built in; it encourages students to come to Northwest for four years, rather than to transfer here after community college."

Several of NU's undergraduate academic programs have already integrated a global experience into their majors. The nursing, biology, business, intercultural studies, and psychology programs already have a travel requirement that students currently pay for with fees outside of tuition.

The school of nursing sends its seniors on a one-month clinical trip overseas that seeks to integrate learned skills with faith. Biology majors participate in a two-semester combination of research and cross-cultural travel experience. Business students engage in an international business course that includes travel. Intercultural studies majors spend approximately 25 weeks abroad, studying in their region of concentration. Most recently, the psychology program has added an international field study requirement that features faculty-guided study tours in international locales.

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Student Connects College And Career Down Under

Kaitlyn Clouse
Guest Writer

For Northwest University student Heather Edin, business is relationship, whether in a small farm town, the city, or down under.

Edin, a junior, Business Management student from Everson, Washington, finds ways to integrate her learning in every area of her life. Edin says her favorite part of studying business is, "it's exciting; it's real; it's a challenge. I get to see how the world fits together and how it all works."

She came to NU not knowing that her education would take her on a trip of a lifetime to explore business in a cross cultural environment.

This past May, Edin, journeyed nearly 8,000 miles with the International Business class. The travelling students spent seventeen days in Sydney, Australia, studying business firsthand.

Edin continues to see the positive influence of this trip in her daily life.

She not only grew in her knowledge of business techniques, Australian culture, and international relations, but she also learned how to integrate her experiences into her life back home.

"I have a more holistic view of business now. I see how things are interrelated and how it all fits together. That's the benefit of getting outside of the bubble."

The trip not only changed her perspective on business, but also changed her interaction with people in her daily life.



Photo By: Matthew Moroni

Heather Edin utilizes her business skills at home and abroad.

"Before I went to Australia, when I would go on errands I would go in, get what I needed, and leave without so much as a thought to the others around me. Now, I am more open to interacting with the people I run into on a daily basis," said Edin.

"Being an American in Australia gave me the opportunity to be friendly with everyone I came into contact with, hoping to leave them with a good impression of who Americans are. Just because I'm an American with Americans now doesn't mean I can't be just as friendly."

Outside of her normal environment, Edin was more than willing to fully immerse herself in the Australia culture.

"The food was excellent, and I just loved seeing all of the beauty, from landmarks to people."

Edin realized just how important understanding culture is to be successful in the business she hopes to pursue. As she plans to work cross culturally, this trip was especially

beneficial to her future career.

"Just because you have a product that works for one culture, doesn't mean it will be successful in another culture. You have to dig, you must investigate the culture and what they need and work from there," said Edin

She plans to one day use the knowledge she has gleaned from her time at Northwest to start a non-profit organization which will provide clean drinking water to developing nations.

Regardless of continent, Edin's experiences overseas continue to shape business for her, both inside and outside the classroom.

2009 Talon Staff



Photo By: Thien Lai

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Jessica's Political View: Gay Rights and R-71

Jessica Orr
Staff Writer

'Gay rights' is now one of the most widely debated topics in the state of Washington. On November 3, Washington residence voted 'yes' on Referendum 71, a bill that grants homosexual couples the same rights as married couples.

Under the bill, individuals may enter a state-registered domestic partnership if they share a common residence, are 18 or older, and are members of the same sex. Domestic partnership is also available to two individuals of the opposite sex if one is at least 62 years of age, according to the Washington State Voter's Guide (WSVG).

On May 18, 2009, Governor Christine Gregoire signed the expansion of this bill. The bill grants homosexual couples all domestic rights except the right to marry. Rights include health care facility visitation rights, informed consent for an incompetent health care patient, title and rights to cemetery plots, and automatic termination of power of attorney upon termination of the state-registered domestic partnership.

Adopting Referendum 71 gives homosexual couples the ability to use sick leave to care for their partner; the right to receive wages and benefits where available when a domestic partner is injured; the right to receive unpaid wages upon the death of a domestic partner; the ability to receive unemployment benefits; disability insurance benefits; rights and responsibilities related to adoption, child custody, and child support; and rights related to business succession.

Originally, Congress planned to vote on this bill. However, citizens proved they wanted to have a voice in the decision. In July, 2009, 130,000 citizens signed a petition to put the referendum on the November ballot.

Since the petition was turned into the Secretary of State, some gay civil rights activist groups have demanded electronic copies of the petitions.

In September, a federal district judge in Tacoma ruled against allowing state officials to reveal the names of the Washington residents who signed their names, according to the New York Times.

However, Judge Benjamin H. Settle granted a preliminary injunction that counteracted the secretary's ban on the release of names. He based this ruling on the premise that these identities were "irrelevant" to the election.

Releasing these names compromises privacy and undermines the first Amendment. The government protects those who 'speak up' for gay rights and should do the same for those who 'speak out' against them. Putting individuals in danger for speaking their minds is censorship. Without freedom of speech, we lose freedom altogether.

Comments? Visit eagle.northwestu.edu/talon

Requirement: Cross-Cultural Travel Experience

Continued from page 1

Other schools in the Northwest employ similar programs to enhance the learning experiences of their students. George Fox University in Oregon offers a "Juniors Abroad" program that guarantees a three-week trip to an overseas location to all juniors who have had three consecutive years of full-time enrollment and who wish to participate. Students can choose from 10 to 12 different locations.

George Fox boasts a 70 percent undergraduate participation rate, a percentage that "ranks George Fox among the top 25 schools in the country in study abroad participation" in U.S. News & World Report, according to the university's website.

However, the content of these trips does not necessarily correlate with students' majors at George Fox.

"It's really just that they get a trip, which is still a very positive and enriching experience," said Heugel, "but I think what we're after, learning from them and seeing what they're doing, we would like to do something that is a little more intrinsically tied to a student's academic program. We feel it would just be slightly richer that way."

Currently, relatively few of Northwest's study abroad programs provide credit towards a degree, and the majority fall into the category of general electives. In order to earn credit, many students must spend a whole semester abroad and pay the steep expenses of travel out of their own pockets.

"Oxford is expensive, and because studying internationally is not required for my major, my institutional aid does not apply," said junior Jessie Fast, who will spend next semester in England. "It would have been really helpful

if Northwest supported international study for all students."

Fast explained that she will be earning 17 credits for her semester abroad, most of which will go towards electives. Her travel experience will fulfill only one course requirement.

Conversely, this new plan, if enacted, would provide two to four weeks of degree-oriented, cross-cultural travel experience. This opportunity would be integrated into general education requirements, yet, in content, would apply directly to students' individual majors.

In order to accomplish this, NU leaders would have to revise the curriculum, but the number of credits required to graduate would not change, according to Heugel.

Each trip would contribute three credits toward students' degree requirements.

Administrators believe that such an addition to the curriculum could become an attraction for prospective students and something that sets Northwest apart from similar schools, while adding to the richness of the learning experience at NU.

"Today's world is a globalized world, and the future of America depends on our people being familiar with the world," said Castleberry.

Heugel confirmed NU administrators' desire

to provide students with a "passport" to expand their horizons.

"It's a learning experience, even the mechanics of travel, how to get around the world, how to function in another place, how to learn to interact with people from a different background,

with a different culture," said Heugel, "We feel that would be a skill and an experience that would benefit all of our students, and I think it would define Northwest in a really positive way. To say that every student who comes through Northwest has had this sort of experience, has been stretched academically, intellectually, and

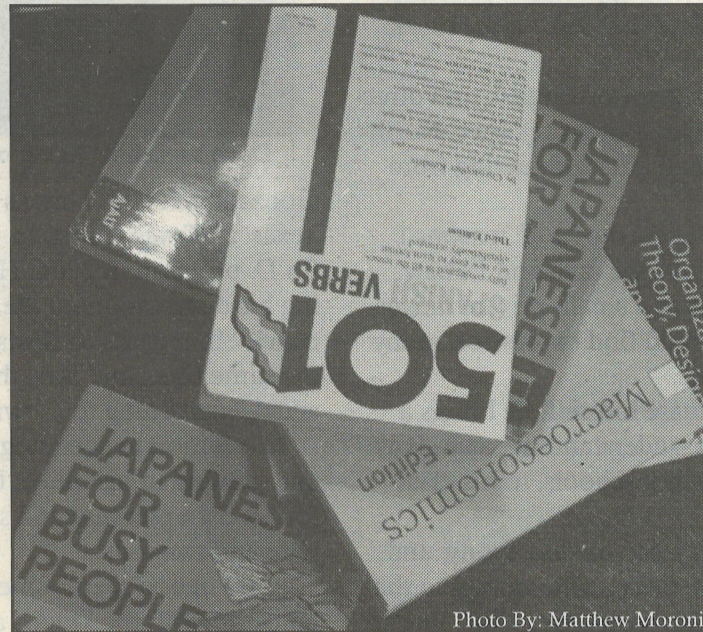


Photo By: Matthew Moroni

Tuition will rise 3-5 percent with new travel requirement.

socially in these sorts of ways, would define our students in a positive way and define our programs in a positive way."

While Heugel emphasized that this proposal is still only in its "talking stages," the issue has been discussed across many levels of leadership, including the student senate. The earliest possible date for implementation is Fall 2011, but more likely a year or two later, he said.

Dr. Heugel welcomes student input in this ongoing discussion. Interested contributors may contact him at jim.heugel@northwestu.edu.

Study Abroad: Students Struggle On Their Own

Jessie Fast
Senior Staff Writer

If we did a survey of campus, most people would say they would like to study abroad. However, not many actually do. Unless the major requires it, or the individual is extremely self-motivated, the process of applying and confirming a study abroad program is not a simple one here at NU. The school lacks a specific office for study abroad, despite the personal growth a student would acquire as a result of the experience.

This coming spring I will be spending the whole semester living in Oxford, England, studying Shakespeare and modern literature, among other things, at the University of Oxford. I am beyond excited and grateful for this opportunity and also for the many professors, faculty, and staff members who made it possible for me to go. However, the process of getting to this point was one of extreme self-direction, questing, and determination, and there are ways NU could make it easier for students to grab hold of this opportunity.

Northwest does not have its own study abroad programs, except for majors like nursing and intercultural studies, for which international education is a requirement. This meant that I had to go through another venue, Best Semester, in order to enroll in a program. This also meant that the person "in charge" of the study abroad program is the university provost, Jim Heugel.

Although he was extremely helpful and supportive in assisting me with my application process, he is also a busy man, and getting to meet with him took me closer to my application deadline than I had intended.

"We find that at our current level of participation we are able to provide the services necessary without creating the expense of a separate

study abroad office," said Heugel. "As provost, I enjoy having my hand in the process. When we reach the day that a larger number of our students are taking part in study abroad, we may need to create such an office."

However, this seems to be a catch-22. If more students participated, such an office would be necessary, but conversely, if such an office existed, more students would participate.

Since these study abroad experiences are not immediately available to most students, a majority miss out on a key factor of developing as a person: understanding other cultures.

One of the main reasons I want to study abroad and live in another country for an extended time is so I can have experiences outside of my 'norms.' I see studying abroad as one step in relieving my ignorance of the rest of the world.

Sam Ade, a Religion and Philosophy senior, is partaking in the same program as I and he shares my sentiments.

"I want to make the best of my education, so I am always looking for those venues that I can take to make it better...If you don't get out and see how other people think and...operate, not just what they believe but why they believe it and how they interpret that into their life, you are missing out on what the human experience is," said Ade.

Overall, the tension of applying was well-worth the satisfaction of taking part in this opportunity of a lifetime at one of the greatest universities in the world. However, if more students realized that they too could take advantage of this opportunity, the campus as a whole would become more tolerant, mature, and well-rounded, not only due to our collected diversity of students, but also the diversity of our international experiences.

Comments? Visit eagle.northwestu.edu/talon

Downs On His Way Up: NU Grad Now Professor

Jessie Fast
Senior Staff Writer

This semester, one faculty member finds himself making the adjustment from former student to professor and colleague.

Jack Downs is a casual, intelligent new professor with a sharp wit, who appreciates not only his position at Northwest but also in the northwest.

As an assistant professor of English and director of the writing center, Downs rejoined Northwest University this Fall after graduating from NU in 1999.

"I came back to NU for the same reasons I came as a student: I love the area and I knew that I wanted to teach at a small, private university where my faith could find expression in my teaching," said Downs.

Being an NU graduate himself, he brings a unique perspective of understanding, as well as his experience from other schools, to his classroom.

"Jack Downs is very personable, funny, and explains American literature colloquially so that the average student can comprehend it... he can relate to students because of his experience as a former NU student," according to Tiffany Maib, sophomore in Downs' American Literature class.

Downs, a former 500 floor resident, spent much of his time as a student not sure what he was doing with his time at NU.

"As a student, I was a bit wayward...I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with my undergraduate education," he said, "I had some great teachers, and those teachers were instrumental in my decision to go to grad school and pursue a career in higher ed."

After graduating from NU, he married another NU graduate and then moved onto graduate school. Finishing his MA in English from

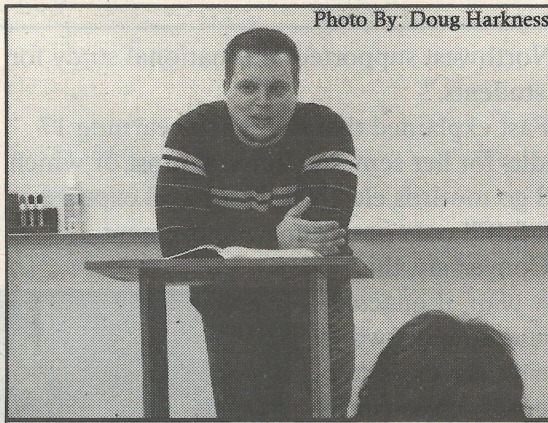


Photo By: Doug Harkness

Downs teaching literature and writing at NU.

Gonzaga in 2003, Downs moved to Fort Worth, Texas, to Texas Christian University for their Ph.D. program in 2004. He is currently completing his dissertation on the history of the English novel, "in regards to British rhetorical theory at the same time, and how those two sort of interacted," according to Downs.

In addition to spending his hours working and grading in his office, Downs enjoys writing for his own pleasure and spending time with his wife and two kids.

"I do like to spend time with my family, so I hang out with the kiddos and we do that kind of thing," said Downs.

Downs and his family spent the past five

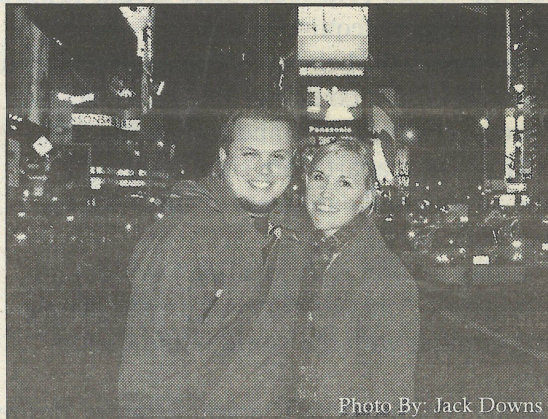


Photo By: Jack Downs

Downs with his wife in New York City.

years in Texas while he was completing his PhD. "You can't even play in your yard, because there are probably fire ants out there, and they will bite you...lots of terrifying, horrible bugs," said Downs.

He also appreciates the beauty of NU's location and is fond of outdoor staples such as camping and hiking. "Five years in Texas...all of my outdoor gear just stayed in a giant bag in my closet," said Downs. "I'm glad to be back where I can go outside."

Since Downs had little time between moving back to Kirkland and the start of school, he is still working out his role in both the classrooms where he teaches and the department in which he works. The helpfulness and understanding of his students and colleagues made his re-entry into the rhythm that is Northwest University relatively easy.

Downs is also a favorite among his colleagues. "One of his greatest characteristics is that he finds such infectious joy in discovery both as a learner and as a professor," according to Julia Young, associate English professor. "I am thrilled that Jack is at NU now as an English prof, and I listen for his laughter in our hallways."

The feeling of appreciation is mutual. "We have a really good English department. With as small a school as we are...we have some really good people," according to Downs. "They've made it really easy to come, step in, and feel like a colleague and not just a former student."

Downs currently teaches Foundations of Writing, Expository Writing, and American Literature I.

Since he was once a student in the very department he now works, he appreciates "the closeness, the community."

"I spent a lot of time with the English people when I was here, so it feels like home," said Downs.

Downs Revamps Writing Center

Jessie Fast
Senior Staff Writer

The addition of Jack Downs to the English department faculty has provided the writing center with new management, and several specialized tutors have made it more accessible to students seeking help with their writing.

The writing center is open for the use and benefit of all NU students, no matter their class, major, or skill level, according to Downs, the writing center director.

"It seems to me that most people that go in there are either LEAP students or ESL or English students...but people who are just, like, writing a paper for a history class, it doesn't even occur to them that they can get help for it, which is just weird to me," said Downs.

This semester has also introduced several specialized tutors to the regular staff of eight tutors.

"Writing is a challenging process...and because it is challenging, seeking feedback from others is essential," said Kelli Graham, ESL tutor.

The LEAP program also has a specific writing tutor, Rick Snyder. "My ultimate goal is to encourage students to enhance and augment their writing abilities while improving a specific assignment," said Snyder.

The writing center is available to all NU students who desire advice and comments on their writing, and tutoring sessions can be arranged both by appointment (appointment sheet located in academic success) and by walk-in. The writing center is located in Williams Hall, near Academic Success.

"Without a doubt, the Writing Center is a great resource for support and improvement," said Graham.

Writing Center Hours:

Monday: 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., 4 p.m.-6 p.m.
Tuesday: 9 a.m.-11 a.m., 2 p.m.-3 p.m., 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Wednesday: 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., 4 p.m.-6 p.m., 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m.-11 a.m., 2 p.m.-3 p.m., 4 p.m.-6 p.m.
Friday: 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m., 4 p.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday: 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



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Ministry

Operation Iraq Blesses Soldiers in Need

Mikayla Helin
Guest Writer

NU students are gearing up for another record breaking year of giving for Operation Iraq.

More packages have been sent to soldiers overseas by Northwest University and Operation Iraq in their seven years together than by any other organization in the northwest, according to Vice President of Campus Ministries, Phil Rasmussen.



Heather Fried, Jen Lubanovici, and Krissa Partridge pack finished boxes.

"I would really like students to write personal letters, and I would like us to give gloves to soldiers to help them do their work," said Rasmussen.

Ruth Ann Young founded the organization, Operation Iraq. This event is dedicated to sending "goodies" to American soldiers serving in Iraq. Books, snacks, and toiletries are only some examples of what NU students have sent in past years.

In an effort to bring "home" to the soldiers, the packaging goal this year is to ship 8,000 boxes to Afghanistan, just in time for Christmas.

"We want to show our troops that we deeply care and appreciate their service. Being thousands of miles away from home, they sacrifice not only their time, energy and even their lives, but also being away from their families and friends on days like Christmas," said Roxy Lubanovici, assistant to campus ministries pastor. Lubanovici is organizing the



Loree Forney fills a box with books and other treats at the 2008 Operation Iraq event.

event this fall.

"I'm stoked," she said about taking on the challenge. "I've been amazed at how much students look forward to Operation Iraq and how passionate they are about it. It's a fun-filled, exciting time we have to come together as a community and do something to show our gratitude and appreciation toward our troops."

Students each year choose to participate in this event and give it their all, according to Lubanovici.

"I don't think it's overdone at all," said Northwest student, Michelle Brown. "Anything we can do to help them [American soldiers] we should, 'cause they are fighting for our country and are away from their families, and they need love."

With Christmas time approaching, all the preparations are being made in order to ensure that this event is not only effective, but also fun for the students.

"We want Operation Iraq to continue to be a fun experience of reaching out to our troops and showing them how grateful we are for what they do," said Lubanovici. "I've had the opportunity to be a part of Operation Iraq during my four years at NU, and never once did I regret it. I loved that I was personally able to package boxes, knowing that each one was going to an individual who wasn't able to be home with his or her family during the holidays."

Lubanovici encourages students to participate in Operation Iraq this fall. "We're looking forward to another exciting and successful year of the event," said Lubanovici.



Photos by Satomi Ito

Marathon Prayer a Success

Racheal Arteaga
Ministry Editor

Twenty-four hours of concentrated intercession and worship. Students joining together to cover the Northwest University campus in prayer. A marathon event—every thought, every breath dedicated to lifting up the campus, the year, and every prayer need submitted by students in the last seven weeks.

October 16 and 17 marked the second anniversary of the Prayer-a-thon. From 5 p.m. on Friday night to 5 p.m. on Saturday, students and faculty alike gathered in both the chapel and in locations on and off campus to participate in the event. Every hour was covered, both by students and faculty. Alums of Northwest University also participated on Friday night, an encouraging reminder that this campus is continually in the prayers of past students as well.

Formerly known as "24-Hour Prayer," the name was changed to the "Prayer-a-thon" to convey more of a community aspect. Students participating in the Prayer-a-thon were not required to stay the full 24 hours, but were encouraged to spend any time they could in conscientious prayer for Northwest University. As a slideshow of quotes, scriptures, and prayer requests was displayed on the screen, worship music played softly inside the chapel as students came together to pray.

The event was created and hosted by the Campus Ministry prayer in-

terns, Tirza Magdiel, Natalie Dooley, and Devon Carroll. "It's not just the prayer team or campus ministries' job," said Magdiel. "We're a campus full of children of God, and every single one of us can pray. And every single one of our prayers have power. We believe that in order for change to happen in our lives and on our campus, we have to start praying. All of us."

The main purpose of the Prayer-a-thon was to increase awareness of the power of prayer. We believe that when we gather together in God's name and ask, our prayers are powerful and do not go unanswered. When the Ark of the Covenant was brought to the temple, as recorded in 1 Kings 8:27-30, Solomon prays for God's anointing, "Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is making to you today. May you watch over this Temple night and day, this place where you have said, 'My name will be there.' May you always hear the prayers I make toward this place. May you hear the humble and earnest requests from me and your people Israel when we pray toward this place. Yes, hear us from heaven where you live, and when you hear, forgive."

This prayer is not limited to a weekend in October—continually pray for your fellow students as we study, work, and live together this semester. May our hearts be united as we lift up our prayers together, supporting and encouraging one another. As 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Too Legit: Men's Conference 2009 Reflections from the Vice President of Ministry

Mikel Adame
Guest Writer

Men's Conference 2009 was Too Legit! It was a weekend filled male bonding, tons of fun, and life changing encounters with God. Although dodgeball was unfortunately canceled due to a thunder and lightening storm, about 60 men showed up to the chapel service on Friday night to worship with local worship band Canvas and hear a dynamic message from speaker Mark Zweifel, District Youth Director of Alaska.

"I will always remember Men's Conference 2009 because it is the weekend I learned how to slay the bears in my life," remarks sophomore Kramer Rasmussen as he recalls the Friday night service.

After the service, the men engaged in a dodgeball tournament and Bouncy Boxing. After dodgeball the men enjoyed freshly made popcorn and cotton candy in the Gray/ Beatty lounge while watching a movie,

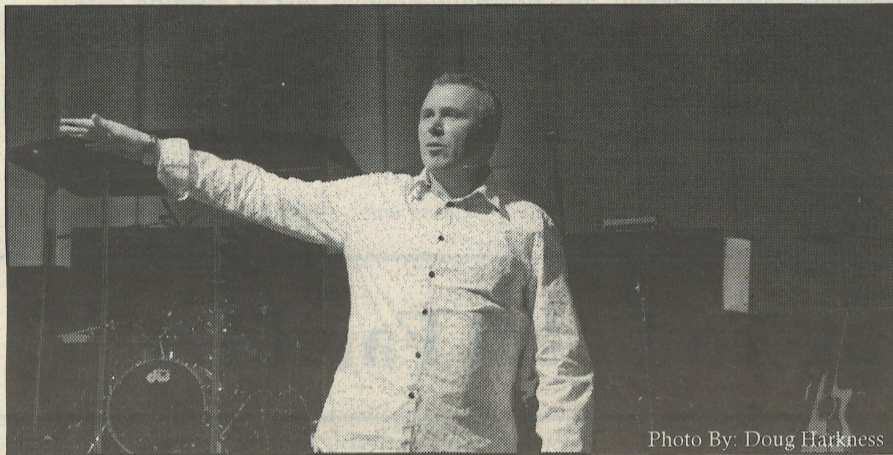


Photo By: Doug Harkness

Mark Zweifel was the lead speaker at Men's Conference this year.

eventually falling asleep in the lounge.

During the Saturday morning service, Zweifel gave practical tips on how to be a man of God. After a break for intramural football, the men met again for the last Chapel service.

"What an honor to worship with men who are passionate about their God and their world! Northwest University's best days are ahead because of events like this and because of the anointed men of NU. I can't wait to serve alongside of them in the near future," said Peter Blue, member of Canvas.

"God did an amazing work in the lives of the men at the Men's Conference. He is raising up a generation that will anchor their family chain, not yank it," said Zweifel.

Men's Conference ended with a drawing for a Nintendo Wii, a perk for all the men who attended all three services throughout the Conference. Brian Nielson, winner of the Nintendo Wii said, "God moved powerfully at Men's Conference this year, and me being the little pig that I am went 'Wii-Wii-Wii' all the way home."

Men's Conference 2009 was a lot of hard work and took a lot of planning, but it was all worth it, not only because it was fun but also because it truly was a life changing event that blessed the men who attended and will leave a lasting impression upon their lives. My favorite part was the last service where God moved powerfully and filled men with visions and dreams. I really believe the men that were there committed to answer the call God has placed on their lives and to see those visions and dreams become a reality. I hope the Kirkland, Bellevue, and Seattle area does not look the same this time next year because these men have stepped up to be the powerful men of God created them to be and will share His love with our neighbors across the street and around the world.

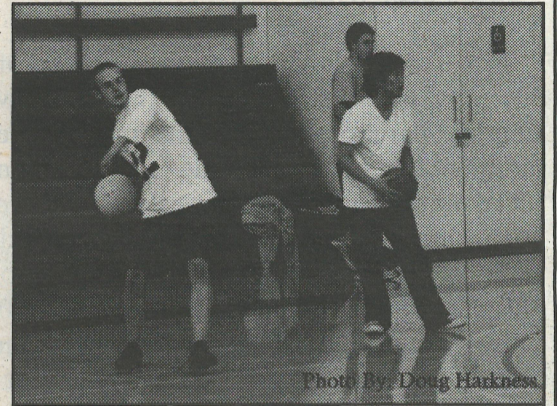


Photo By: Doug Harkness

Men participated in activities like dodgeball.



Graduate School is not for the faint of heart

Mars Hill Graduate School is no exception to that rule.

MHGS has invited me to step out of my comfortable theology and reformed my faith in a beautiful way. As a result, I have found new strengths and come to cherish profound weakness. *I am learning to listen well, speak truth, and to do so with the humility that comes from loving the story of my gifts and failure.*

These days many of us are about the work of redefining what it means to be the Church by holding loosely to the traditions that have informed our best worship and worst fears. We view the stories of God's people as gifts to the church of yesterday, today and tomorrow. *MHGS students like myself come to understand how to live out of the Biblical text in a way that responds to the call for continual healing in the Body of Christ.*

Abigail Jimenez

3rd year Master of Divinity Student



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Photo By: Doug Harkness

Peter Blue and Canvas lead worship at Men's Conference this year.

Have something you'd like
to see in the Talon Ministry
section?
Contact Racheal.Arteaga08@northwestu.edu
with suggestions

Roomies: Not What It Used To Be

Jessie Fast
Senior Staff Writer

Just around the corner, on the weekend of November 13-14, is campus' pervasive social event: Roomies. However, over the past few years Roomies has morphed from the time-honored tradition of having one's roommate create the supreme 'ask,' to becoming an event littered with social drama, with an emphasis on creative dating.

Northwest is not alone in perpetuating this tradition, nor is it a recent addition to the social calendar. According to Tia Troutman, former vice president of student activities from 2006-2007, and Dani Banke, VP of activities from 2007-2008, Roomies has been around for quite a long time. "I know my friend's parents who went here had it, and several other schools do it and have done it," said Troutman.

"Roomies had been known for their huge group dates," said Banke, "I believe the concept originated with the idea of 'brothers ask sisters,' with everyone on a floor assigned to a 'sibling.' It was originally just a friend thing, a brother-sister thing."

This concept went along with the initial notion of having your roommate ask your date out for you, and of getting a date for your roommate. "Let's say you wanted to go with this certain boy, and your roommate would go and ask that guy for you, and that was the whole intent of Roomies," said Ryan Gilbreath, the current VP of student activities.

"I think it's a lot more entertaining when your roommate does it for

you," said Troutman. "We tried to make it something where your roommate asks. It's classic and awesome not to even tell your roommate who you asked for them."

Although this formula is now basically extinct on today's campus, the roommate is not an obsolete tool for some askers. "In the past I have helped my roommate in the process of setting up for him to ask," said Gilbreath, about his own experience as the "roomie" in the aptly named social experiment.

In recent years, the point of Roomies has become to push the creativity of the askers in their attempts to win the acceptance of the askees. The SAB board is in charge of promoting Roomies, and as students go about asking their intendeds, they can email their unique methods to SAB. The board then determines the winner of the "most creative Roomies asking."

This shift in focus from a roommate asking for you to you asking yourself can be attributed to several factors. "The dynamics of the campus change a lot, and we have more majors that attract both male and female students, so there is a smaller guy to girl ratio than when it originated. It used to be a full weekend, and normally now it's just an evening date," said Banke. "That mentality has been lost completely, where your roommate would ask, not you ask someone out to Roomies."

"When I started, the roommates did quite a bit more, and it's always been fairly creative," said Troutman. "The point was that Roomies was a humorous adventure."

Comments? Visit eagle.northwestu.edu/talon

NU Provides Thanksgiving To Local Families

Danielle Diamond
Guest Writer

Northwest University students have the opportunity to provide a traditional Thanksgiving meal to families with a terminally ill child by donating to an on-campus food drive.

Sonja Korum, women's area coordinator, is heading up the food drive. She is coordinating with Candlelighters of America, an organization that works with families who have a child suffering from cancer.

"They have heard of Northwest University and were very excited that NU was reaching out to them and wanted to do something," said Korum.

The families who will receive these donations are struggling with medical bills and the hard reality of possibly losing a child. Korum is passionate about helping these families during the holiday season.

"There are so many families out there that can't [have a traditional Thanksgiving meal], they have a sick child...they just don't have the money," said Korum.

Money donations, in addition to non-perishable food items, also help. Korum plans on buying the perishable items, such as milk, eggs, and the turkey, with the money she receives for this cause. Korum insists that even the smallest donation can help put food on the table for these families in need.

Korum is fervent about getting the NU community involved and helping others. She explained that this food drive is just the "kick-off" for more community events here at NU.

"With our NU Focus topic this semester being Social Justice, one seminal aspect of the definition of social justice is meeting basic needs, which definitely includes sustenance. Thus, it was a natural fit to include the food drive as one of the opportunities for service.

They have expanded it to a campus-wide event, to allow all the students, faculty, and staff to participate," said Jessica Daniels, director of resident life.

Korum is in contact with many organizations around the Seattle area in need of volunteers, including Seattle Rescue Mission, Tacoma Rescue Mission, Bridge Disabilities Ministry, and The Jubilee Center. Korum said she is excited to work with these other organizations, but right now she is focusing on providing struggling families with a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

Korum is currently looking for people interested in volunteering. She will eventually need help organizing and packaging the donated food the week of Thanksgiving. Anyone wanting to help can contact Korum either by phone or via e-mail, available on the Eagle website.

The donations can be placed in bins that are set around the campus.

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Wind Ensemble Gears Up for Christmas

Kathy Boone
Guest Faculty Writer

As Christmas time approaches, Northwest University Wind Ensemble is gearing up to perform their yearly Fall Concert.

The Wind Ensemble is composed of students from all disciplines at Northwest University. They play piccolo, flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, soprano sax, alto sax, tenor sax, baritone sax, trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, string bass, percussion, and keyboard.

Currently, we have 20 members. The students come from all disciplines: nursing, music, ministry, education, you name it. The typical Wind Ensemble will have minimum of 34-35 players (one on a part), so we are filling in some of the missing instrumentation with a keyboard player, Emily Lickey, playing the sounds through a computer program.

In the past, we have hired professional musicians to fill in the missing holes. This year and in the years to come, it is our goal to build this ensemble from within the university. Many



Photo By: Shannon Kestner

Students practice for the Fall Concert in Wind Ensemble.

students who played an instrument in high school don't think they will have the time to play in college, or be good enough. This simply is not true. We offer scholarships for gifted players to participate in the Wind Ensemble, whether

or not they are a music major or minor. We want anyone who played in high school to join us. I know there are enough students on campus to fill this group, and it is my prayer that will come to pass in the very near future.

All of the students who currently play in the Wind Ensemble are excited, as am I, to use the musical gifts God has given us as an offering back to the Lord in praise of his generosity towards us. We are also excited to watch the Lord answer our prayers regarding our instrumentation needs.

For Christmas, we will be dividing into smaller ensemble groups and may be traveling around campus playing Christmas music on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 2:00-3:15 PM. Look for us in the lobbies of the various buildings on campus after Thanksgiving.

It's such a joy to prepare and perform Wind Ensemble Music. It is not only a privilege, but we have fun at the same time. Music energizes us, it teaches us, it soothes us in ways that words and other activities can not. If you are a student at Northwest and played an instrument at the high school level, you should consider joining the Wind Ensemble for the spring semester. You may e-mail Kathy Boone at kathy.boone@northwestu.edu, or come by my office on Wednesday's after 12:30 and before 3:00, I'm usually available to chat. I'm in A-16 -- that's below the Chapel.

Our Fall Concert is on Friday, November 13 at 7:30 PM in the Chapel. We will be playing "First Suite in Eb" by Gustav Holst; "Selections for Kiss Me Kate;" "The Stars and Stripes Forever," a woodwind quintet by Beethoven; "New York, New York," arranged for trombone quartet; "A Baroque Overture" for saxophone quartet; and a percussion ensemble.

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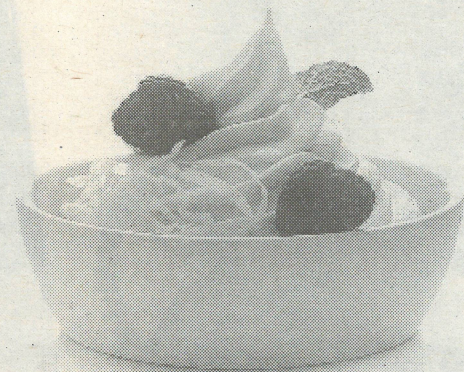
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Athletics

Cross Country Running Short

Josh Desimone
Staff Writer

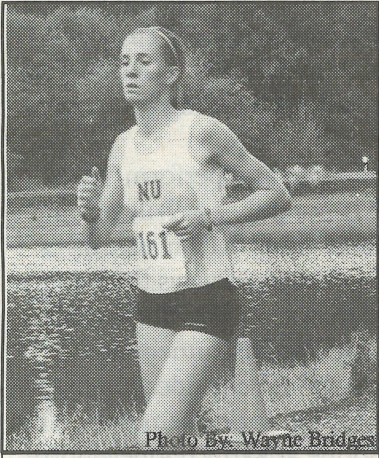


Photo By: Wayne Bridges
Paige DeLapp runs at a meet.

As the cross country season is coming to a close, the men's and women's team find themselves low on numbers but big in spirit.

"Our guys are full of heart, but not numbers" said senior men's captain, Tyler Hart.

Currently, the men's cross country team only has four guys who are healthy and running, while at least five runners are required for competition.

The women find themselves in a similar situation, as they also are running only four girls.

"We are a really good pack, probably 3rd or 4th in the conference. We just need one more runner," said sophomore women's

captain, Lindsey Wagner. "We would do some damage with a full squad."

Even with the low numbers, the teams are training hard and hoping for this year to be a strong building year for the program.

"We have been training like a Division 1 program; we have been wearing ties to meets, and are going to train all the way through Nationals week even if we don't make it just so our bodies are used to that long of a season. It's a rebuilding year."

Although the men's and women's teams are currently ranked in last place, the athletes on the teams are still looking at making it to nationals.

"I think we're going to surprise a lot of people if we can stay or get healthy by that date [Nationals]. We have a handful of runners that I think have a good shot at qualifying for the NAIA National Championships, which will be held in Vancouver, WA on Nov. 21st," said head coach, Mark Mandi.

Injuries Plague Fall Sports Teams

Shayne Fite
Guest Writer

Brittney Marshall, senior captain for the Northwest University women's soccer team, is now chained to the sidelines by her new knee brace after suffering a major knee injury this season.

Marshall is far from being the only injured athlete this fall. The injury bug has spread through NU's fall sports athletes faster than the swine flu outbreak hit the Pacific Northwest.

She was also gearing up to play the guard position for NU's women's basketball team. During a soccer match this season, Marshall ruptured her ACL.

"There were three season ending injuries this fall, including a lumbar spine and two knee injuries," said Athletic Trainer, Larry Brown.

Almost as if the injury was contagious, Wilbur Velasco, a starting central midfielder for the men's soccer team, tore his meniscus.

"These injuries have impacted two of our fall sports teams because these injured players were among our best players on each team," said Brown.

The soccer programs were not the only fall sports teams to suffer from this wave of injury. The volleyball team experienced a flurry of ankle sprains this season (4) and a sprained shoulder.

"So far all of the injuries have healed enough to allow the players to continue to play. Certain players are not able to do certain activities, but all and all, the team has held up well," said Head Volleyball Coach, Jessie Dietrich. This is Dietrich's first season coaching the Lady Eagles.

"We only had one injury that kept a player from playing in the weekend matches, and that was Shelbe Kukowski's ankle sprain. Anytime that a starter is not in their spot it affects the team. That means that another player has to take over a spot that she is not used to," said Dietrich.

The long list of injured athletes this fall also include: Breanna Covey, Kacie Simpson, Noel Meyers, Elizabeth Perkins, Grace Brigham, Rachael Harris, Mindy Nation, Hannah McGraw, Stephanie Cummins, Jordyn Wilson, Lexi Haynes, Luke Fischer, Marc Hotzfield, Matt Walton, and Nathan Jung, among many others whose information could not be disclosed by the Athletic Training Staff.

"Bad luck, bodily sacrifice. Our team had to reorganize and restructure our formation a lot being without so many of our best players," said soccer freshman, Nathan Jung.

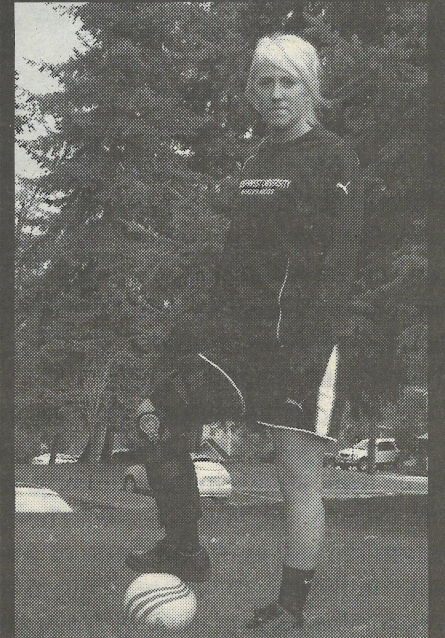
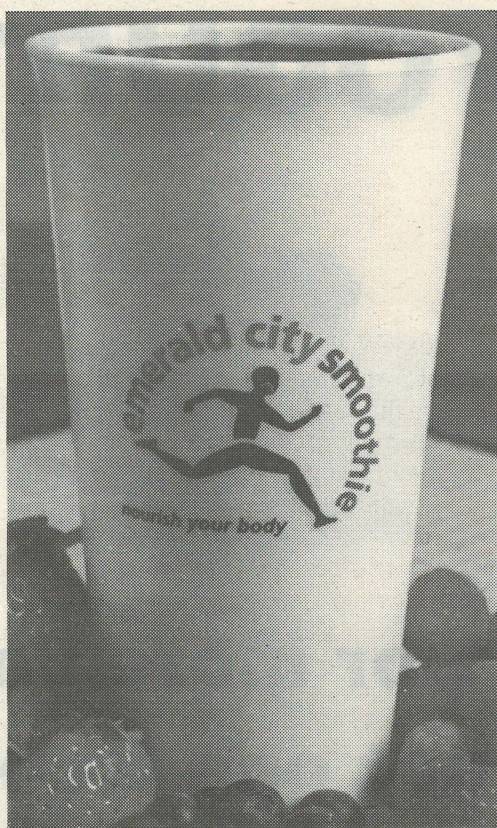


Photo By: Kirsten Phillips

Marshall sidelined after injury.

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New Machine Speeds Recovery

Alexa Breidenbach
Guest Writer

Northwest University provides a fully equipped training room which, combined with high tech-machines and rehabilitation practices, can help heal and prevent injuries for students and athletes.

Larry Brown is Northwest's athletic trainer and has been attending to injuries at the school for the past two years.

The training room offers a large supply of machines and supplies to help prevent injury as well as treat them. "We have STEM, sound machines, laser machines, hydrotherapy, ice therapy, rehab techniques, strengthening and stretching, all to help prevent and treat injuries," said Brown.

The newest addition to the training room is the Cold Laser machine that has been very popular with injured athletes in the past month. "The laser has the benefit that it can go through more tissue and get deeper into the affected area, so it can reach different layers that the STEM and other methods can't reach," said Brown.

The Cold Laser uses ultraviolet light that attracts cells in the body, which ultimately align tissue in proper form. Larry uses the laser on a daily basis and believes the injured area may be "stronger than before you damaged it."

Former Student Makes His Way to iTunes

Josh Desimone
Staff Writer

Former Northwest student John Leckenby has recorded a four song EP that is now available on iTunes, titled "Make You Stay."

"Warning to future artists that want to be on iTunes: it doesn't happen in a day!" said Leckenby. "I submitted my artwork, album, and tracks in May, and I am now just getting up on iTunes."

Through his music Leckenby has returned to his roots. "I started out playing classical, and then rock, and now I'm returning to my roots and playing a lot more acoustic. Now I'm starting to miss playing rock. So, we'll see where that goes," said Leckenby.

"My music is often a better reflection of what's inside me than who I am socially," said Leckenby. "Lyrically, it is an overflow of life experience; it doesn't always come out in story form. I have songs that are about epic moments, things that are just becoming a big part of my life, God, relationships."

Getting his stuff on iTunes is a catapult for Leckenby. He is continuing to write. "I am really excited about some of my most recent song writing that no one has really heard yet," said Leckenby.

Recently, Leckenby decided to travel to McComb, Mississippi, to help out a close friend remodel his house. But what he didn't know was that this trip would also help remodel him and his music.



Photo By: Stefan Elmer

Leckenby makes his debut on iTunes with his EP entitled "Make You Stay."

"It's a life changing type of thing. I've been able to get away from everything I know, stepping away from all the securities, and finding there's bigger things out there," said Leckenby.

Leckenby's music is very soothing. It has a slow acoustic pace with charming lyrics. The song, "Romance of the Pines," has got to be one of my favorites out of Leckenby's selection on his MySpace page. It is a very calming acoustic song that really puts you at ease.

Leckenby said that he writes about extreme pain and extreme hope, which he said often walk hand-in-hand. His music, "Shepherd's Song," is a song about the church. "I had an image of these weak sheep in a fold, with strong muscular wolves, circling, ready to tear at the sheep that are sick and weak," said Leckenby.

The line, "But the Shepherd knows," gives hope. "In spite of all the negativity we can sometimes feel about the state of things, it's still the body of Christ, the Shepherd

still knows, a dark scene but still a lot of hope from that last line," said Leckenby.

Check out his MySpace or Facebook page for concert dates and times. And don't forget to pick up his four song EP from iTunes.

Black Friday: Worth It?

Andrey Malskiy
Guest Writer

Has the economy hit you hard this year? Are you feeling anxious about holiday spending? As people put a tighter grip on their wallets, retailers market seductive prices.

Major retailers are sprucing up this holiday season, not in just holiday décor, but in wallet-friendly prices. Retailers are coming up with new ways to reduce overhead charges. Many are crossing over to the online realm, according to Anne D'Innocenzio of the Associated Press.

It is well known that Black Friday is the busiest shopping day of the holiday season. But is it worth it? That is for you to decide. In my experiences, it is not worth standing out in the cold, waiting for the store to open, only to stampede into the store like a pack of wildebeests.



Delfino Nerira, a freshman at NU, holds a grim view of Black Friday.

"The year I went in Bakersfield, California, a lady did get put in the hospital because of the huge rush," said Nerira. Indeed, Black Friday has incredible sales, but by no means is that an excuse to stampede over other people.

For this reason alone, Christy Wolyniak, a student at NU, avoids the crowds.

"I love sales, but not enough to surround myself with hundreds of other delirious people, pushing past me for a good deal," said Wolyniak.

Others, such as Ryan Martin, student at NU, holds a free-for-all mentality. "If there are good deals, I'm down with it," said Martin.

Black Friday comes to a matter of preference.

This year, going the nontraditional route might be your best choice. With the added benefit of being safe and secure in your own home, you can come out with the better deal.

Retailers, such as Wal-Mart, Target, and Amazon.com, are offering lower prices online because of reduced overhead. When shopping online with major retailers, don't forget to look for free shipping, price matching to other competitors, and daily specials and sales.

Many local specialty shops to restaurants to hotels are offering bargain deals. Many local deals can be found online through Groupon.com or Halfoffdeals.com. Happy shopping!

2012 Raises Questions

Amy Angleton
Guest Writer

A new movie, an ancient civilization, a prophet, and a solar alignment all have people thinking about the end of the world.

The movie, "2012," is about global disasters occurring on December 21, 2012, the end date of the Mayan Calendar.

That same day the sun will align in the center of the Milky Way. This alignment occurs every 26,000 years.

The History Channel's special, "Nostradamus 2012," explored the many predictions surrounding the date. The possibilities range from a historical shift, to solar flares, to volcanic eruptions, to the end of the world.

Jay Weidner, an expert from the show and author of "Secrets of Alchemy," questioned how all these different people said the same thing and why their predictions are coming true.

Ron Herms, professor of Apocalyptic Literature, said, "The 2012 thing is important. It tells us a lot about people's psyche and our culture's preoccupation with the possible end of the world, but I don't think it gives us any accurate information in terms of what will actually happen on those given dates."

"There will be some final future end of life as we know it in some way, but this idea of setting dates just completely misses the point."

He said the best thing Christians can do is to become better acquainted with history.

"The biblical position is humility, that we can't know, and trust, that God is good and he will sort it out," said Herms.

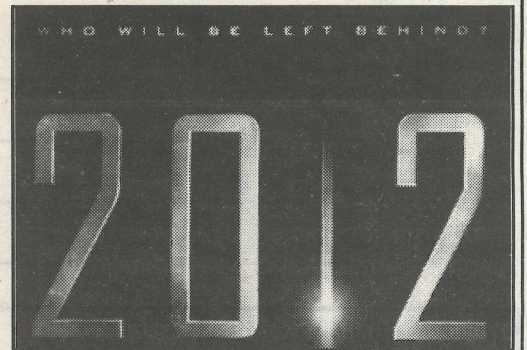
However, he encourages students to see movies such as "2012" to engage their friends in conversations about apocalyptic themes.

Students also have different views about the 2012 prophecies. Senior Rainz Cullen said he thinks there is enough evidence to suggest some solar activity may occur, but some of the predictions are extreme and unlikely. He also said he doesn't think Christians will take any of the warnings seriously.

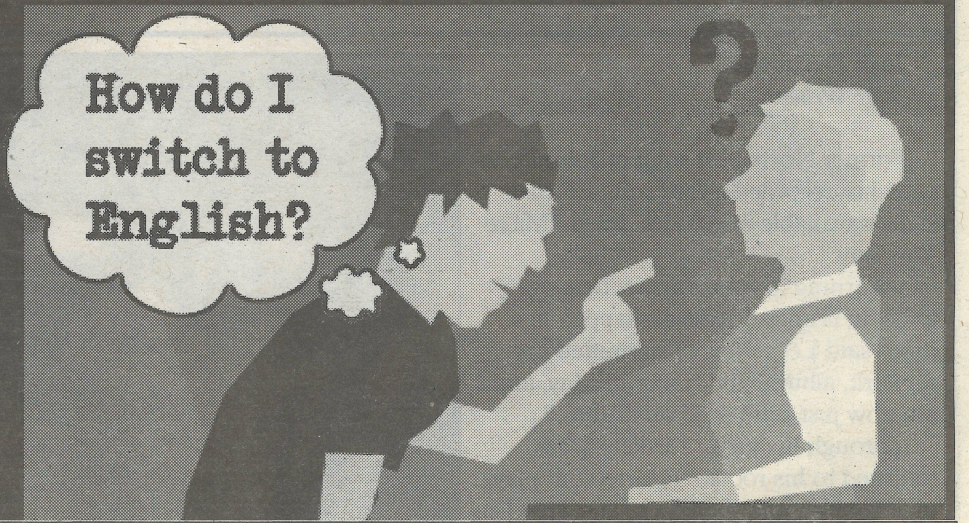
"Sometimes we get stuck in our Christian perspective, we don't even consider other perspectives," said senior, Inna Semenyuk.

"I forget that it [Jesus' second coming] could be soon. It could be any day. It could be in 2012. It could be tomorrow," Semenyuk said.

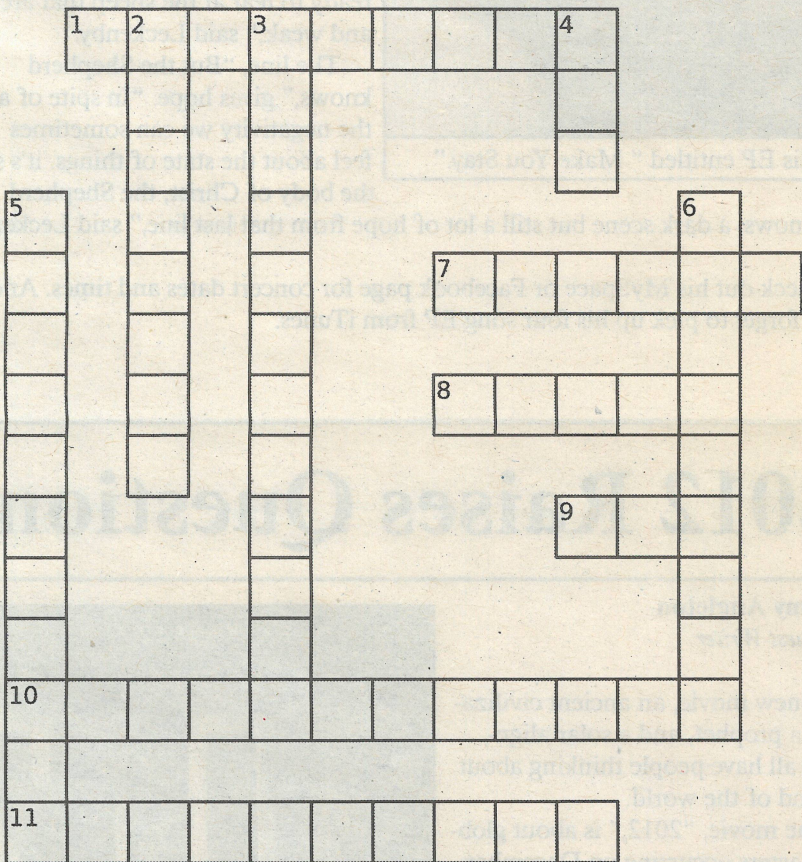
The movie, "2012," set to come out November 13th 2009, stars John Cusack and Amanda Peet.



Mistake # 47 To Avoid While Studying Abroad: "American" isn't the only language.



Crossword: NUisms



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|---|---|
| <p>1 Across
where you take that certain someone you like to get to know them</p> <p>7 a place of good food</p> <p>8 the hangout spot on campus</p> <p>9 acronym for when you go out to coffee with someone of the opposite gender</p> <p>10 what you are known as if you are always in perks</p> <p>11 what discovery and directories is known as</p> | <p>2 Down
a place for people to gather, watch volleyball, and study</p> <p>3 ...or your money back</p> <p>4 acronym for the best week of the year</p> <p>5 what you do after the volleyball teams scores</p> <p>6 a body of water that inhabits a bowl of green</p> |
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