

The Truth Journal



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TALON JOURNAL SHUT DOWN

Tearful Former Student Editors Tell All

'these students are incapable of handling the responsibility of an even remotely free press'

BY REGINA PHALANGE

March 15 saw the final breaths of the dying *Talon Journal* as it was shut down by Interim Vice President for Student Development Dr. Kari Brodin.

"It became very clear to us this year that these students are incapable of handling the responsibility of an even remotely free press. The editors have shown signs of radically irresponsible decision-making all year long, and the school felt it was best to intervene," Brodin said.

The Talon has officially been replaced by *The Truth Journal*, which will have strenuously different editorial and writing practices.

Former *Talon* Senior Editor Noelle Bonds tearfully recounted the shutdown process. "One day, I'm getting credit for putting together a newspaper, the next I'm being told those credits will be revoked and my hard work is for nothing!"

Bonds had strong suspicions as to who was to blame for the *Talon's* demise.

"I've left a lot of responsibility with [Meghan Young and Kristie Benner,] the other editors, because I've been in student teaching this semester with the Education department. Looks like they really blew it."

Young, formerly the co-editor of *The Talon*, recounted bitterly over a cup of hot chocolate made by Bethany Strandwitz in the Aerie, "People just don't understand—we have no First Amendment rights in this school! All I've been trying to do is bring a sense of *real* journalism to Northwest, but thanks to our oppressive patriarchal administration, my freedom of speech has been silenced."

Brodin insisted that the journalistic process would not come to a close, but would simply be placed under a strenuous system of accountability. "We will be requiring all future student writers to submit their work to myself and a faculty advisor prior to publication—we will be primarily concerned with checking for factual errors and content which is considered counterproductive to the building of a single-minded, Christian university community."

Amidst much conflict, student writer Kaeley Triller's regular column "Peripheral Vision" has been preemptively banned from any and all future student publications. "We feel Ms. Triller's aim with this column is primarily one of rebellion instead of submission," said *The Truth* advisor Professor Glenn Settle.

In addition to advisor and VP previews, the new student publication will also be subject to the possibility of limited or restricted distribution. "We recognize that students sometimes take our advice as mere suggestion, so it is best if we retain the right to deny distributive rights in the case of a disagreement of printed materials. We have a responsibility to keep our campus free of subversive materials," Dr. Settle explained.

"We believe that with these harsher guidelines students will learn more about true journalism in a Christian context," Brodin concluded. "It's not like journalists at the *Seattle Times* can just write whatever they want! This will be a positive change from that old rag."

Fall 2005: Video Game Ratings To Be Enforced in Dormitories

'our priority as an institution is academic quality'

BY JEREMY RODGERS - Reporter

Beginning in Fall 2005, restrictions will be placed on gaming in the residence halls at Northwest University.

Games rated by the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) as "Teen" or "Mature" will be completely banned.

The "Teen" rating is defined as "suitable for ages 13 and over" by the National Government Board. Games containing mature sexual themes, intense violence, and strong language are rated "Mature."

Randy Bonds Jr. of the NU Networking Department says, "The #1 source of internal ResNet traffic is Halo2." This new rule will target the best-selling video games including Halo, Halo2, and Half Life2.

Also, from this information, it is clear that more time is spent on gaming than academic work.

Kari Brodin, Interim Vice President for Student Development says, "The main reason for implementing this new rule is to make it clear that our priority as an institution is academic quality."

Roy Rowland, Enrollment Counselor, says, "Many prospective students touring the residence halls on Northwest Fridays have taken home a negative impression of Northwest University because of the quantity and the types of video games played in dorm rooms."

Brodin says, "We also want to promote community building by getting students out of their dorm rooms to interact with each other."

If a student is found playing or possessing a "Teen" or "Mature" rated video game, he or she will be fined \$20 and the game confiscated.

Many students in the Residence Halls are unhappy with the new rule. Senior student Jeremy Rodgers says, "I sincerely appreciate the maturity Northwest places with its residents, prohibiting us from material acceptable for seventh graders. I am getting married this summer, so at least I can play Halo2 in my FIRS apartment!"

Philip Snider says, "I'm not 13 years old. My virgin eyes and Christian purity won't be tainted by a game with guns and grenades."

However, some students agree that this rule is needed. Karen Rodgers says, "Too many Christians today are desensitized. We shouldn't be okay with watching and imitating violence and sexuality."

Joel Alford says, "What movies we watch on-campus are restricted. It was only a matter of time until the same thing happened to video games. There's really no harm done. I doubt I'll look back next year and think, 'Gees, I sure regret not spending more time playing video games.'"

Additional Dress Code Expectations Added to Community Handbook

BY CHARLOTTE YORK
Contributing Writer

In order to promote an orderly community life, new dress code rules have been added to the 2005-2006 Community Handbook. Many students, particularly female students, either choose to ignore or are not properly informed of the dress code expectations. Because of this, more specific dress code rules will be in effect beginning Fall 2005.

First, the current Community Handbook states regarding modesty: "avoid bringing undue attention to the body including the length and fit of clothes, and drawing attention to various anatomical features." While this statement is ambiguous, the new rules clearly state: "Skirt length must be equal to or longer than 2 inches above the knee" and "pants with words or logos on the rear end may not be worn on the Northwest University campus."

Second, the current rule states regarding neatness: "includes grooming, cleanliness, and wearing shoes in public places." The new rule states: "Sweatpants, sweatshirts, pajama pants, and hats may not be worn to class or Chapel."

Third, the new handbook defines a clearer distinction between class time and social functions or free time. "Students are encouraged to wear collared shirts, slacks, skirts, and dresses to class. Jeans and sandals should be reserved for casual Fridays and time spent outside of the classroom."

In order to more effectively enforce the new dress code expectations, the Resident Assistants will monitor the appropriateness of dress. Upon first offense of improper dress, the RA will issue the student a written warning. The consequence for a second offense is a \$20 fine, and the third and subsequent offenses will receive a \$50 fine.

Northwest University retains the right to maintain standards of appearance for all students.

Some students question whether the University has gone too far. Student Name says, "We're adults. We can make our own decisions about what is best for us. I think this is the start of a slippery slope. Soon there will be rules about what color of shirt you should wear and what brand you shouldn't wear. Isn't it supposed to be about the intent of the law, not the letter of the law?"

Stephen Janssen says, "Are these rules really necessary or is it just one person forcing their opinion on the rest of us?"

There are students that agree these additional rules are needed. Michelle Snider says, "Some of the girls on this campus look no different than the average high school girl. Shouldn't there be some distinction between a Christian woman who intends to become a professional in the business world or enter the ministry?"

Makayla Reid says, "The dress code right now is too vague. If I am going to be held accountable for these rules, I want to know exactly what is acceptable and what is not - no guessing."

Local church hires promising new pastor

BY SETHLY MACE
Contributing Writer

Recently, a local church was going through the process of hiring a new Senior Pastor to shepherd their congregation. They searched high and low for the perfect candidates to fill the position. The hiring of a pastor, after all, is a very important matter that should be taken very seriously. There are certain criteria that must be met by the applicant.

These thoughts were at the very heart of the board as they went through this process. Some of the applicants did not quite meet the standards that were required by the church.

The first applicant was a Godly man, who pastored in the same place for many years, but he didn't have even one convert, and he undertook unrealistic building projects.

The second was the most promising leader that the board interviewed, but once they discovered that he had an affair with a neighbor's wife, he was removed from the list.

There was another who was a very strong leader, and was definitely anointed, but the mere fact that she was a woman stifled the decision of the board.

The fourth dressed in a very unusual manner, yelled a lot when he spoke, and had a very unusual diet. One of his greater drawbacks was that he was constantly in arguments with denominational leaders.

Then, a man of great reputation and influence was interviewed. He had great times in his past, but when his church reached 5000 members he managed to offend them all, and very quickly his church dwindled down to 12 members. He never really stayed in one place very long, and his biggest flaw: he was single.

The search continued for the perfect man. They looked high and low and found a man of solid reputation. He was conservative, his connections were tight, and most especially he knew how to handle money.

The Deacon Board approved him with a majority vote, esteem, and high praise. The new pastor of this local congregation is named Judas Iscariot, having refused the candidates Noah, David, Deborah, John the Baptist, and Jesus. The church hopes to see great things in his future.

'Campus Park' to become additional parking spaces

BY CHARLOTTE YORK
Contributing Writer

The third phase of the Northwest University Master Plan begins June 1, 2005. Included in phase 3 will be the leveling of the "Campus Park" to add 25 new parking spaces.

Dissatisfaction with parking availability and lighting was recently listed in a campus-wide survey as the second greatest concern of NU students.

Plans for additional parking are in the Master Plan. However, many of these plans are in later phases. To help remedy the lack of parking now, an amendment to the Master Plan to add 25 new spaces is expected to be approved by the Houghton Community Council on Friday, April 1.

Of the 25 new spaces, 1 will be a loading zone, 2 will be handicap spaces, 5 will be visitor spaces, 7 will be reserved for staff and faculty, 5 will be reserved for commuter students, and 5 will be available for general student parking.

It is encouraged that students living in the dorms not park in the new lot, but walk to class.

Some students are unhappy about the leveling of the campus park. Jessica Alford says, "The natural, quiet areas and all of trees are part of what makes our campus beautiful."

Ryan Snider says, "What's that saying about 'paving the forest to put up a parking lot'? With all of the recent talk about recycling and being responsible stewards of our resources, I don't think tearing down the campus park is the right choice."

Other students are unhappy that only 5 of the new spaces will be devoted to general student parking. Riley Rodgers says, "I'm glad that there will be parking for commuter students, but what good do 5 new spaces do for the rest of us? There has to be a large scale solution to solve this problem for the long run."

However, Karen Brooks says, "Hey, 5 more is more than we got now!"

Community Handbook to Incorporate New 'Chivalry Code' in 05-06 'Gentlemen' students suspect corrupt motives

BY JILL POLE
Contributing Writer

The Northwest University administration has apparently perceived a serious flaw in the behavior of its students, and has thus resolved to amend the Community Handbook with a huge installment of what is coming to be known as the "Chivalry Code."

This "Code" is aimed primarily at the behavior of male students and community citizens, which is a surprising change from previous Handbook amendments, such as dress code and currently amended curfew rules aimed mostly at women.

The new "Chivalry Code" reads:

Students are expected to remember that they are individual ministers of Christianity both on and off campus, and that their presentation of appropriate behavior is an unspoken witness to their fellow classmates and the people with whom they come in contact on a daily basis.

As such, male students are expected to uphold a standard of decorum in their dealings with female students and one another. Basic examples of this standard of decorum are opening or holding doors, helping female students carrying heavy loads, and showing courtesy and respect in addressing one another.

Female students are expected to show courtesy and respect for one another and their male counterparts as well, showing submission to the courtesies shown to them and receiving them with grace.

Students found disobeying this may be subject to disciplinary action.

Students seem divided in their receipt of the new "Code." Some, like Kristie Benner, feel that the Code is a thinly veiled attempt to subject women to the predominance of men. "Not only is this wrong morally," Benner explained, "it is also unrealistic in our post-modern society."

Others, like Karyn Hiller, feel that the new addition is good. "Last semester, I fell and spilled my books everywhere, and my knee was bleeding. There were at least seven 'gentlemen' around me and none of them helped me up, asked if I was okay, or helped me pick up my books. It's basic courtesy, people. It's not that hard."

Either way, students should expect the University to take the new rules very seriously next year.

The Talon Journal

April 2005

A student publication of Northwest University

Vol. 3, Ed. 6

Ozymandias

I met a traveller from an antique land
 Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
 Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,
 Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
 And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
 Tell that its sculptor well those passions read,
 Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
 The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed,
 And on the pedestal these words appear:
 "My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
 Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"
 Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
 Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
 The lone and level sands stretch far away.

-Percy Shelley
1792-1822

By: John Keats (1795-1821)

When I have fears that I may cease to be
 Before my pen has gleaned my teeming brain,
 Before high-pitched songs, in character,
 Hold like rich garners the full-ripened grain;
 When I behold, upon the night's starred face,
 Huge cloudy forms of a high romance,
 And think that I may never live to trace
 Their shadows, with the magic hand of chance;
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peripheral vision
 mean what you say
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summer movies
 top films of the summer
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 edgy christian website
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When I whistled with mitching boys through a reservoir park
 Where at night we stoned the cold and cuckoo

ministry focus
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 megan greening shares the
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 Apartment residents
 Page 5

student poetry feature
 sampling of student art for
 national poetry month
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all the charmingly drowned arise to cockcrow and kill.
 Once it was the colour of saying

When I whistled with mitching boys through a reservoir park
 Where at night we stoned the cold and cuckoo

National Poetry Month

Many of you have asked
 for student
 art submissions.
 Here it is:
 student poetry
 Page 6 and 7

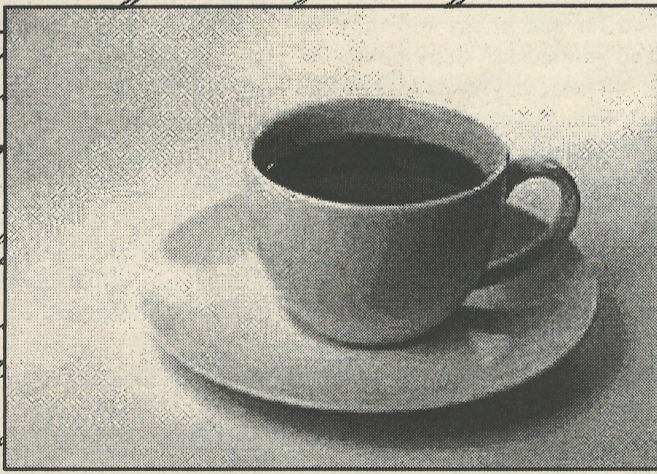
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Once it was the colour of saying
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On a Hill Far Away:

Dorm vs. Apartment Life

BY SARA BOYD
Reporter

Apartment B202, this is my home for another six weeks. As I lived in a campus apartment, I've repeatedly been asked: "Do you like it?" Since many people are now deciding where they'll call home next year, this article is an attempt to give you one opinion on both the merits and drawbacks to dorm and apartment life.

The social comparison could not be more different. The dorms offer a unique experience. Walking down the hall, an open door is an invitation for conversation. There's always someone around who will willingly procrastinate with you. Also, there's either a shopping adventure or Halo tournament waiting. The downside is that there are always people around. A moment of privacy is a privilege that cannot be found. However, whether it's going to dinner or to other school activities, there's a sense of community that is unique to dorm living.

This is not to say that there is no friendship in the apartments. Although there are less people constantly around you, it's easier to deepen relationships with your two or three roommates. The drawback is that due to busy schedules, it is not uncommon to come home to an empty apartment. This can be both good and bad depending on your mood and your personality. In discussing the social aspect of these living situations, it is important to note that with the apartments, having "get-togethers," is infinitely easier. It's effortless to say, "Come over to my apartment tonight." This is not so true of the dorms. For instance, the opposite gender is

allowed over any day of the week. The curfew is midnight on weekdays and two am on weekends.

If it's not the social aspect that will be a deciding factor, then perhaps it is food. Everyone jokes about the cafeteria food, but don't think that cooking for yourself is bliss. Conditions like buying your own food, cooking your own food, cleaning up after you made a mess with your food, make cafeteria food a desired commodity. However, in terms of health, a balanced and healthy diet is easier to have in the apartments if you're willing to spend more time than it takes to make top ramen.

Other practical conditions involve laundry, parking, cleaning, and the issue of independence. As for laundry, it's free, and there is a unit in each apartment. Yet, parking is not so pleasant. Get used to taking the shuttle, because there are more cars than there are spaces. As for cleaning, you'll have to get your hands dirty. Neither parents nor cleaning staff will clean up for you. The last point of reference I will make is that of independence. With the apartments there is no curfew. You can come and go as late or as early as your schedule requires. You don't have to call your roommate to let you in, or sign in with the security guard. You're an adult and you're allowed to act like one.

Whether it's a jaunt up the hill, or a sprint down to class, both the dorms and the apartments offer their own living experience. Don't miss out the dorm experience, but if you've had it, and you are ready for something new, why not choose the apartments?

Debate Finale:

A Year of Success in Review

BY GIDEON COPPLE
Reporter

As the school year ends, the trophy case of Northwest University's Debate team is fuller than ever. Since last September, NU debaters have been bringing home a gamut of awards for their valiant efforts. The team has traveled far and wide, and they've prepared and studied for many hours. At tournaments all year, they've done their best to argue their points passionately.

Last September, NU proudly hosted the British National Debate Team as well as a top team from Vancouver, B.C. in an event dubbed 'The International Debate Smack-Down'. The NU team has impressed the Pacific Northwest, honing their rhetorical skills at venues such as Lewis & Clark College, Lower Columbia College and Linfield College. During Thanksgiving, two NU debaters were chosen to participate in the Sea Warrior Classic tournament held in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Since spring semester, NU debated at Oregon State University and at University of British Columbia. In March, the team returned to Oregon to attend a tournament at the University of Portland.

Recently, two top NU teams competed at the National tournament held at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. Maintaining a nine-year winning streak at Nationals, one proud NU team managed to break into the tournament's final rounds.

Congratulations to the accomplished Debate Coach Gary Gillespie for being named 'Educator of the Year' by the five-state Northwest Forensics Conference, which honors debate educators for their contribution to intercollegiate debate. Such an award is an honor that NU Debaters consider long overdue.

What's next of NU Debate's agenda? The Team looks forward to co-hosting a tournament in Athens, Greece, in late 2005.

MINISTRY FOCUS

SMTs Fulfill Their Wildest Dreams

BY AMANDA WINTERHALTER
Reporter

KIRKLAND, Wash. — This summer, four summer ministry teams, SMTs, will travel around the west coast, presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ.

ACTS, Crossing, Inside Out and ACTS Productions will represent Northwest University in the summer of 2005.

ACTS (Announcing Christ Through Skits) has traveled for 26 years, sharing the gospel through drama at various retreats, camps, conferences, and churches. This year, ACTS includes team leader Justin Winterhalter, Kristin Hingtgen, Amy Burtis, and Peter Gadd.

ACTS writes all of their own skits, and each member contributes ideas. Winterhalter says that ACTS is about sharing biblical truths in a practical, entertaining way. "It's kind of a medium to kids between preaching and having fun," he said. Hingtgen says that she views ACTS as an awesome experience to hang out with youth and make an impact on their lives.

The worship band Crossing, with band members Warren Kinser, Caleb Bryant, Michael Utz, Carrie Flatau, Brandon Richardson, and Christina Mulkey, replaces Poor Man's Offering this summer. Although Kinser is not the worship leader, he is the team leader of Crossing. "I am the magistrate (as they call me) of Crossing," said Kinser.

This is Kinser's third year of involvement in a summer ministry team. He traveled with Poor Man's Offering for two years and said, "It's quite possibly one of the most fun things I have done here at Northwest." Now, as Crossing's "Magistrate," he picks out songs, organizes song lists, leads practices and talks to contacts for summer events.

"So far, everything has gone even better than I could have imagined, and that is because God has been, is, and will continue to be our main focus," said Kinser.

Like Kinser, Inside Out leader Brenda Tesdal also has experience with SMTs. She tried out last year when the children's ministry group was called PB'nJ. "Since all three members were leaving and the team would be taking on a new vision, I felt like it was God letting me know that this was where He wanted me: to be part of a fresh new team," said Tesdal.

Inside Out ministers to children through skits, puppetry, games and creative entertainment. Tesdal said the group has already been involved in a couple of services, and her new teammates, Cody Crane and Jenilee Lefors, are doing an amazing job.

All three girls have a passion for children and reaching the lost at a young age. "I believe as a team we are planting seeds and training them for their Christian walk with the Lord," said Lefors.

Crane said, "In a world where there are so many other alternatives to God, it is critical to share Jesus with them at a young age."

The fourth SMT, ACTS Productions, officially started in the summer of 2004. Abigail Kropp leads the group this year, working with teammates Andrew Pearson and Matt Scroggins. This team ministers through media productions for youth camps, conferences, and Northwest University.

Kropp said of the team's vision: "We live in a media driven society today, and media is the new language we use to communicate. We want to use media as a vessel that compliments the gospel and draws in the younger generation."

This year, SMT coordinators Pastor Phil Rasmussen and Thuy Rider tried a different form of tryouts for the groups. The coordinators appointed a leader to each ministry team, and the leaders viewed applications and gave input to the coordinators.

Each SMT group has a mentor (staff or faculty member) that applicants auditioned with. The mentor gave a list of qualified applicants to the coordinators, who ultimately chose the accepted applicants.

"The new format works well, but I think there will be another change for next year," Rider said. She said they are always looking for effective ways to recruit because interest varies from year to year.

Three years ago, everyone that tried out for SMTs made it into a group, but this year applicants weren't so lucky. Rider said that 50 to 60 students applied for SMTs this year.

Rider teaches the SMT training class, "Top Gun," for which the students can receive five credits. She also schedules and books all of the ministry teams' events. She is excited about this year's teams. "We really have strong teams," she said. "They really are representing the student body as a whole."

SMT members are also excited about their upcoming ministry. Carrie Flatau, singer and keyboardist for Crossing, declared, "It will be amazing to hang out with teenagers for the entire summer, just pouring into their lives and ministering to them not only through music, but through our time spent together at camp as well."

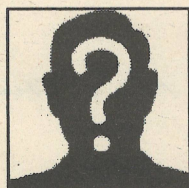
"It is an open door to speak into the lives of this generation, and see lives changed by the love and manifest power of God," expressed Brandon Richardson, guitarist and singer for Crossing.

CAMPUS POLL

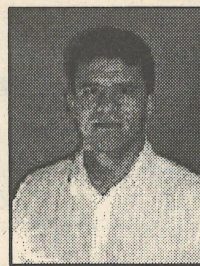
What do graduating seniors plan to do after May?



Julie Gee is looking forward to spending a few days in Hawaii, then heading home to Texas.



Russ Danaher hopes to find a job as a pastor. Eventually he'll travel to Gordon Conwell with his wife to pursue a Master in Divinity.



Angel Esquivel will continue working full-time at a local Bank of America branch for another year, after which he'll enter into the ministry.



Olga Gayvoronskaya hopes to work in an administration position for a while, and she will attend Bellevue Community College to pursue a translator's certificate in Russian and German.

RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

Pass me the parsley, please:
the Tradition of PesachBY MEGAN GREENING
Reporter

He sat forward in his chair, pushing his chin as high as he could. It was his turn, and his little sticky hands were sweaty with the weight of the task that lay in front of him. His father looked toward him, and their eyes met in anticipation. It was his turn this year. He was the youngest at the Pesach table, and the Seder was beginning. Since he was the youngest present at the table, it was his turn to answer the Seder questions. His father looked at his son proudly. He began:

"Why do we eat only matzoh on Pesach?"

The boy squints his eyes, remembering what he and his mother had been working on for weeks. The rest of the family waited, eyes intent on only him.

"Matzoh reminds us that when the Jews left the slavery of Egypt they had no time to bake their bread. They took the raw dough on their journey and baked it in the hot desert sun into hard crackers called matzoh."

His father's smile widened, the answer was correct. Next,

"Why do we dip our foods twice tonight?"

Ooh, that one's a little harder.

"We dip bitter herbs into Charoset to remind us how hard the Jewish slaves worked in Egypt. The chopped apples and nuts look like the clay used to make bricks used in...in...in the building of the Pharaoh's...buildings." Deep breath. "We dip parsley into salt water because the parsley reminds us that spring is here and new life will grow; the salt water reminds us of the Jewish slave's tears.

Smiles. Pride. The family is proud of their heritage. They are proud that their youngest is passing on this Passover, this remembrance of God's faithfulness and mercy to His people. The questions continue, as does the main meal of the Passover.

Most of us know the story behind Passover. About 3000 years ago the Israelites were enslaved by the Egyptians under the rule of the Pharaoh Ramses II. According to the Book of Exodus – Moses was instructed by God to go to the pharaoh and demand the freedom of his people. Moses' plea "let my people go" was ignored. He warned the Pharaoh that God would send severe punishments to the people of Egypt if the Israelites were not freed. Again the Pharaoh ignored Moses' request of freedom. In response God unleashed a series of 10 plagues on the people of Egypt. The last plague was the slaughter of the firstborn of every human and every animal. The Israelites

were commanded to put the blood of a sacrificial lamb on their doorposts, so that when the Angel of Death came, it may see the markings on their doors and pass over them.

Each year, Jewish families all over the world celebrate the Passover, or Pesach, with a Seder meal. Before the Seder begins, the home is cleaned, and cleared of all yeast foods, called hametz. The unleavened foods remind us of the preparedness and hurried departure of the Israelites from Egypt. They did not have time to make bread, but took matzoh and cooked in into crackers on the hot desert rocks. At the Seder table, five main foods remind the Jewish family of five elements of the Exodus. Haroseth, a mixture of chopped walnuts, wine, cinnamon, and apples represents the mortar that the Jewish slaves used to make Pharaoh's bricks. Parsley, symbolizing springtime, is eaten after being dipped in salt water as a reminder of the tears of the Jewish slaves. When I was a child, the parsley was my least favorite part of the whole Passover feast. Who wants to eat parsley, anyway? My favorite part was the eggs, another symbol of spring. A shank bone, or bone of whatever meat was cooked, symbolizes the sacrificial lamb offering. Bitter herbs, such as grated horseradish, represent the bitter affliction of slavery. Apart from the Seder dishes, four glasses of wine are placed around the table. The glasses of wine represent freedom, deliverance, redemption, and release. A fifth cup of wine is placed at the seat of the table which has been prepared for Elijah. During the entire meal, the house door is left open to invite the prophet Elijah to partake in the meal. After the meal, the children are released from the table to search for the Afikomen, which is a portion of sweet matzoh that has been hidden somewhere in the house. Children are major participants in the custom of Passover, for the Lord commanded the Jews to pass the tradition and remembrance of the Exodus on to their children. The Haggadah (the book of Exodus) itself stresses the importance of the Seder as "a spectacle meant to excite the interest and the curiosity of the children." Everything in the Seder is meant to make children curious and to ask questions. My little brother completed all four Seder questions perfectly last year, and we were all very proud. It is an honor to remember the Lord and what He has done for us.

Graduated Fine
Policy for New
ApartmentsBY NOELLE BONDS
Editor

KIRKLAND, Wash. – Effective Date, cars registered to Northwest University parked on 53rd Avenue will be issued a \$20 fine.

In order to approve the Master Plan, NU agreed to prohibit parking on 53rd avenue as a show of goodwill toward its Houghton neighbors. Now facing pressure to comply with these terms, Interim Vice President for Student Development Kari Brodin has implemented a new graduated fine plan.

The first offense for parking on 53rd will be a ticket for \$20. The second offense will be a ticket for \$50. The third and subsequent offenses will be \$100. In addition, there will be citations for vehicles not properly registered and for improperly displayed permits.

After a meeting on Thursday, March 17 in the Community Room in Apartment Building D in which students were invited to discuss, suggest, and vote, Brodin and the Student Development staff decided to initiate the graduated fine plan.

Parking on 53rd is only part of the larger problem of inadequate parking in the New Apartments.

Students at the meeting made suggestions to improve the New Apartment parking such as implementing a "No Visitor Parking" policy, adding loading zones, allowing after hours access to the Chapel parking lot, and "renting" empty or additional parking spaces from FIRS residents.

For questions or comments, contact Dan Hickman, Extended Community and Residence Dean.

To recycle or not to
recycleBY RACHEL HOPKINS
Reporter

Can Northwest University become more environmentally-friendly? The Environmental Sciences Department and a small group of student and staff volunteers think that it is possible. Professor Steinkamp and his crew plan to implement a campus-wide recycling program.

Northwest is among the last universities in the country that *don't* have established recycling programs.

The new initiative is currently in the planning and research phase. Volunteers need to draft a proposal and submit it to the Northwest administration. Ultimately, the administration will decide whether or not NU will start recycling its trash.

The new program will include: placing several trash bins around campus designated for recyclable trash, including most forms of plastic, paper, and aluminum.

What can *you* do? Please sign the recycling petition that volunteers will submit to Northwest's administration. Also, *use* the recycling bins that are on campus.

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Professor Steinkamp, Lab Assistant Angela Epp, or student Yuri Semenyuk.

Help Northwest become a more environmentally-friendly institution.

CALENDAR

Mondays
Talkback Debate Group
Dickey Plaza
7:00p.m.

Thursdays
Career Development Seminar
H-110
11:00a.m.

Fridays
Lighthouse Ministry Group
Aerie
8:00p.m.

April 1,2, 4-6
Spring Drama Production
"Charley's Aunt"
M-1
7:30p.m.

April 3
Daylight Savings Begins

April 5
Ambassadors to Kirkland
3:45p.m.

April 6
Grad Psych Info Session
6710 Building
7:00p.m.

April 8
Jazz Concert
Chapel
7:30p.m.

April 9
Triumph Prison Ministry

April 15
Northwest Friday

Spring Concert/Wind Ensemble
Chapel
7:30p.m.

April 22
The Evening
Qwest Field
6:00p.m.

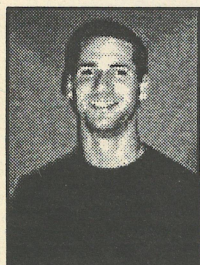
April 27
Awards & Honors Chapel
Chapel
11:10a.m.

April 29
Last Day of Classes

Graduation Chapel
Chapel
11:10a.m.

April 30
School-wide Yardsale
Tennis Courts
All day

CAMPUS POLL



Mark Paulson will move back home for about a year. He plans to work in construction for a while, and then he will go into business.



Evan Muxen
Following the birth of his daughter later this year, he and his family will transfer to Oklahoma where he will attend Officer Training.

APRIL

National Poetry Month

student poetry submissions

Life is a Tree (Oct. 2004)
By Catrina Millhorn

Life is a tree
Or rather, a view
A symbol for me
A symbol of you
The branches are wide
Random and long
Some groan with their weight
Some whistle in song
So many leaves
So many lives
Some long to be free
Some reach for the sky.
Many do not see
A few do not know
Of the others that be
Of the others that grow
But they share the same heart
The same roots feed them all
Each one is a part
Even after they fall.

Rain to Shine (March 2004)
By Catrina Millhorn

I want to think and think some more
I want the rain to shine
And the sun to pour.
I want rocks to bloom
And flowers to skip
Across deep waters
Where Turtles slip
In and out of their shells
Dancing naked and free
Toasting each others'
Newfound agility.
I want darkness to hold me
And light to shine through me
I want to challenge all those
Who thought they knew me.

Come and try
To make logical sense
Of my heathen prayers
And guilty innocence.

There is mystery none
Though much unknown
They are not the same
Though they share the same tone.

Come and find me
And lose me and find me
Walk ahead
Then step behind me.

Lend me descriptions
But please don't define me
Show me the light
Without trying to blind me.

Ask me some questions
And i'll ask you more
Let us wonder aloud
And then argue some more.

So come along with me
And lose and rejoin me
We can only keep
What we don't hold tightly.

Someday: Soon
By David Hall

On my arm, I see the black scripture,
Dormant on the insipid skin,
Latent like a skeeter on a blue pond.
Around the back, between the shoulder blades,
The image of two crossing lines
Spells out: CERTAIN DAMNATION.
To my right,
In a small office confined by
Pious (books, elegant furniture, bibles)
And
Pomp (awards, certificates, family pictures)
The muck of last year's spatbles
Solidify into laws and moral code.
I lean back, unabashed that his complexion is darkening.
You're out of place he says.
Maybe I am
Maybe I am not
Maybe I am not a
Maybe I am not a Christian
Maybe I am not a Christian here.

With Everything That's In Me
By David Hall

"Rest in peace, dear child,"
he says as you are lowered in the ground
while a small group gather to send
you off. If only you had been able to survive
the misfortune of divinity long enough to see
that this was not a mistake; this was to happen to you.

Born an orphan, thrown out by the one
who brought you into the world,
you never had a chance.
Not one.

Found by people who cared enough to nurture, you
grew up blue eyed and blonde haired, oblivious to the mar
you would soon come to know.

"Rest, child,"
he said as he slipped out of the room to tell
the waiting that you had death running through your veins;
slow suffering that saves its best for last. "Oh my God,
They said.
Oh my God

The years came and went:
new faces
new doctors
new reports

High school was a fight; the kids didn't understand
the chair, the shape, the short time remaining.

I did.
I did nothing to help you.
I moved away, away from the tension, the doctors
away from you.

Time had its effect on you, withering your fragile body,
divine death pumping through. The years turned to months,
the months days,
the days hours, the hours minutes.
What comes after minutes?

"Rest in peace, dear brother,"
I said as you were lowered into the ground
as a crowd gathered around to see another casualty
of misplaced healing.

The ABC's of
The First Conversation
By David Hall

Ozymandias
I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: About this time nineteen years ago, a
Baby boy was born, and you
Cuddled him in your arms. You never
Deprived him love, for the greatest
Example of your love was giving him up
For adoption: you were not yet twenty, unable to
Give him what he needed. You
Hurt when you had to say goodbye, but
Inside you knew your gift was
Just perfect: your
Kindness. The
Little boy grew up with a different life, a life with a
Mother, a father, and a
Nurturing home full of joy, love, and care.
Oh wow, you say,
Pulling back your tears. You
Quietly tell your little boy how much you love him.
Reaching for a tissue you tell him
Simply that, you have always loved him.
These words make the boy, now a man, happy because he
Understands that your love is a
Vivacious love,
Whole hearted, and simplistic.
X O X O. Your little boy says, "Thank
You for being a
Zealous mother. So, tell me about yourself."
-Percy Shelley
1792-1822

By: John Keats (1795-1821)

When I have fears that I may cease to be
Before my pen has gleaned my teeming brain,
Before high-

Hold like vic-

Of the

Huge cloudy

And think

Their shadow

And when

That I shad

Never have relish in the fancy power

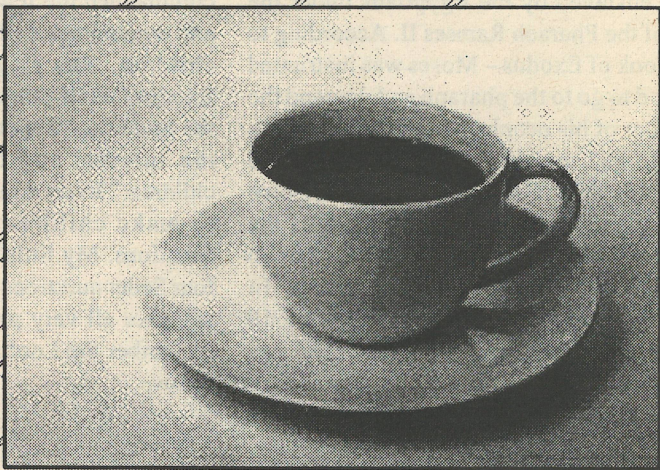
Of unreflecting love; - then on the shore

Of the wide world I stand alone, and think,

Of the love and Fame to nothingness do sink.

Once it was in the colour of saying

Once it was the colour of saying



The Short Life and Violent Death of the Sleep Cycle

(for Johnny)

By Steven Potorke

I.

I just took a nap.

For ninety minutes
I left the business of this world.
No colors, sounds or smells anywhere
Were prodding me, well. . .not consciously

Odd. . .by taking it
That would mean that I possess it.
Nothing could be further
From the truth.

I am slightly more rested now,
But the feeling that I am not
Going to catch up from this
Little siesta sits patiently,
Knife in teeth.

And so begins the school year;
Fifteen minutes here, an hour
And a half there. There is
No return.

II.

I took the snake out of the bag.

A circadian rhythm is not something
One can establish by pure will power
In a matter of days; It takes weeks,
Continual effort-sweat, and frustration.

The snake cocks its head,
And determines how much I
Enjoy certain activities, what I
Remember and who I talk to.

Ozymandias
Golden summer, a time when
My person can adjust easily
Sleep falls like a quick thunder
And all is well. Two vast and trunkless legs of stone

Now it begins. . .my gaunt
Cadaver will make the descent into
A dependence on continual naps. I will
Be sensitive to light and own my headaches.

A man out of a sleep cycle is a dangerous thing;
He spits the rationale of a Kerouac poem,
Stares incessantly into trivial objects
Little stimulates and nothing satiates,
The hand that modeled them, and the heart that fed,

And on the pedestal these words appear:

"My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"

Nothing beside remains. *At the Wharf*
By Steven Potorke
Corduroy lines of flowers light the way, offerings from the union's fifty.
The salt, like the wharf it self, adheres to flesh.

Fish, candy, cologne, fruit, useless wares, honey, tramps, oil.
Shout the good shout! Advertises for the sea creatures.

I duck into the restroom.
Wreak the filth, tile and urine never looked so sharp.

The man behind me has a harmonica in grip,
Bottle of rubbing alcohol in the other.
He takes violent sips and eyes me.
Like I done him wrong.

JADED

By Kaeley Triller

Jaded,
Like the one word answer you gave me
When I asked you what was wrong.
It's the lines seemingly tattooed on your forehead,
A searing pinprick of ink for each dream forsaken.
Jaded is how you shove your hands
Into the pockets of your oversized Levis,
How you stir the imaginary pile of dust
With your steel-toed boot, bite your lip, maybe your tongue,
And fix your sullen gaze on anything but me.
It's the circles in which we argue.
Jaded doesn't feel like anything.
It stares at you with taunting eyes and speaks in awkward silences,
"Things will never be the way they were."
Like the joke about the chicken who crossed the road,
It's weary of trying.
And so are we-
Jaded

AMBITION

By Kaeley Triller

O for a light to penetrate all night
And fire to quench the deepest winter snow,
For faith to grant my grounded heart its
flight,
The will to follow where He'd have me go,
To never hold back what I know is true,
To let His promises assure my heart,
To do to others as He'd have me do,
And thus, to them, His kindness to impart.
To choose the path in keeping with His will
With steady step consistent in His way,
To live by what I know, not what I feel,
To gladly learn to trust Him and obey.
O for a faith to grant me all these needs
And footsteps that would follow where He leads.

Acid Rain

By Becky Wilson

evening fades from grey to black.

the soldiers stand unmoving,

oak-stiff arms,

stony eyes

set in cold expressions.

the attack begins,

m
e
l
t
I
n
g
d
i
s
s
o
l
v
i
n
g,

eating away the figures;

leprous forms standing in the dark.

now morning,
the soaked and muddied ground
tells of a great battle.

silence fills the humid scene.

my creations lay in piles

like slushy corpses,

slushy corpses that begin to pool and puddle:

The Defeat of the Snowman Army.

PERIPHERAL VISION

BY KAELEY TRILLER
Columnist

"Words mean more than what is set down on paper. It takes the human voice to infuse them with shades of deeper meaning."
- Maya Angelou

If the human voice is responsible for assigning meaning to words, it can also be argued that the same voice is liable for the erosion of that meaning. Words lose power with overuse. Just think about the word "gay." Originally used to describe a cheerful disposition, now "gay" almost always refers to homosexuality. Words lose their meaning if we let them. The statement holds true within the "Christianese" language as well.

Take "miracle," for example. When I think of a miracle, I think of Jesus walking on the water. I think about how he turned water into wine or how he fed five thousand hungry people on a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish. These events were undeniably supernatural. Today we toss the word around and use it to describe a Cinderella story hockey team. When Suzy wakes up to discover she no longer suffers from her sinus infection, she declares herself "healed," and it must be a miracle. "Miracle" coincidentally happens to be the name of my favorite perfume, perhaps because it is unbelievable how good it smells? In all seriousness, though, with so many supposed miracles, nothing seems so miraculous anymore.

And I always squirm when people declare that God has "spoken to them." I know God speaks to his people through His

Word, through other believers, and through the mysterious coincidences that illuminate personal situations. But until I have my own burning bush moment, I will remain hesitant to put words in God's mouth. Last year I was informed by a friend that God told her my basketball team would advance to the NAIA national tournament. Apparently, He lied. I also knew a girl who came to Northwest boldly declaring that God had sent her here to marry a pastor. When graduation day rolled around I watched this girl march down the aisle with a diploma in a hand that, strangely enough, lacked a diamond ring. When God truly speaks, should there be any room for question that it was he who did the talking?

We need to employ our brains not only when God speaks to us but also when we speak to God. Ever noticed the excessive number of times we tend to use the Lord's name when we pray? Now the God we serve is gracious, and I'm sure it probably doesn't bother him as much as it bothers me, but think about it. If someone were talking to me, I might be a bit distracted if the conversation went something like, "Dear Kaeley, thank you for your kindness, Kaeley. Kaeley, I love you, Kaeley. You are so good, Kaeley," etc. We use God's name as filler, in place of "um", when maybe even a silent pause may be more appropriate. The Jewish scribes who copied the Old Testament manuscripts considered the name of God to be so holy that it should not even be written. God's name is holy, and while he is our friend, He is also the Creator of the entire universe, and a degree of reverence is in order.

And what about the songs we sing

to him? Since my arrival at Northwest, I can honestly say I've developed an appreciation for the worship songs we sing in chapel. I'm old school, and I know the Trinity Hymnal like the back of my hand, but I've grown to really enjoy contemporary praise as well. There are a few lyrics, though, that make me feel like I'm singing a love song straight from the eighties. Words like "Hold me in your arms, never let me go" or "A huge bell I ring" just don't cut it for me. I can appreciate the sentiment; I'm sure the people who wrote these lyrics did so whole heartedly. But that's not enough. We are to love the Lord with all our heart, strength, and MIND. And at Northwest, we carry the call heart, HEAD, and hand. I earnestly believe God wants us to actively engage our intellect in his worship, and I think we can do better.

I realize I've appointed myself as the word Nazi and that some of what I've said may come across as a slight bit anal-retentive. But these seemingly minor details create monstrous repercussions. It has gotten to the point that even the word "Christian" has lost its power. Originally the term referred to someone so sold out for Christ that he or she often proved willing to risk an excruciating death in order to remain faithful to the name of Jesus. Today that label costs its wearer very little. Anyone who believes in God can be a "Christian." It's about time to reclaim the title and prove that it actually means something. And it starts with the little things. It starts with a decision to engage our minds, to "hold every thought captive," and to make a decision to genuinely mean what we say.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ELECTION ENDORSEMENT

Dear Editors,

I am writing today because I am appalled by the March 4, 2005 article entitled "Our Vote for President of the Bubble." This article is strikingly unethical in a number of ways. First, regardless of whether or not *The Talon Journal* is directly funded by the University, it is given an office and website by the University and is, in effect, a subsidy. As such it is a conflict of interest for *The Talon Journal* to endorse a candidate for any ASB office. This is essentially the same as if a government sponsored newspaper endorsed a candidate in a presidential race. Note if *The Talon Journal* was a completely self-funded paper and was not supplied with an office and website by the school, then it wouldn't be such a problem.

It is completely ridiculous, and brings *The Talon Journal's* journalistic integrity into question, when the paper endorses a candidate before nominations even took place. How could you honestly write that James Matthews is the best candidate for ASB when you didn't even know who the other candidates were? Did you interview the other candidates, find out what their platforms were, or research their histories? Of course not! As is so typical of Northwest University, *The Talon Journal* picked the first guy who came along and quickly developed a sycophantic relationship with him.

Furthermore, you never really tell us anything about what Matthews' platform is, only that the Lord is calling him to the ASB. In the end, I don't think any damage was done since Matthews ends up coming off as 'God's gift to the ASB.'

If you want to write a serious article on the ASB elections, why don't you question why we don't have open elections or why the elections can't be contested. With the edition of the latest endorsement debacle, our ASB elections are starting to look more like those of a corrupt banana republic.

Sincerely appalled,
Nathan Chambers

Note: edited for length.

PRAISE FOR 'PERIPHERAL'

It's about time somebody was real and authentic. I am thankful that Kaeley mentioned in her column (March 2005) that she took the time to care for a person that needed a friend. I hope no one overlooked the responsibility of every believer to look for opportunities to share the love of Christ with everyone. I hope no one was stuck on the bit where Kaeley was "closing her tab." Thank God she was there, sharing her faith with someone who might not otherwise find it in a church. Think about it. Raising a cold one to Kaeley!

Grace,
Bill Berger

I wanted to write and say a large thank you to Kaeley Triller for her article (Feb. 2005). First of all, it immediately invoked emotion in me from the first sentence, so as a journalist, she succeeded in holding and maintaining that grasp on the reader. I was at first dismayed, that yet again, I hear more complaints about school, chapel, or a plethora of other things. But no, she deftly switched positions, a position that hold true with the Bible. I am eternally sickened by the "Seeker friendly" churches. I enjoy

Tuesday chapel (I also run powerpoint every Tuesday for chapel) because of the uniqueness of each message. We have an incredible group of faculty at this school who seek to pour into us. Too often they are resisted. Bless you, Kaeley, and the rest of you, Talon staff.

-Tyler Cronk

Dear Editor,

I want to applaud Kaeley Triller's article "Here we are now: entertain us", and also point out that I am pleased that Tuesday teaching chapels have been added this year. Many new students have not experienced the constant barrage of guest speakers that made up chapel last year. At least twice a month speakers would build sermons upon our "Carry the Call: Head, Hand, Heart" theme. Generally, the guest speakers were repetitive. I was glad when I heard that faculty would begin speaking. Here, at our fingertips are people with a wealth of knowledge and spiritual wisdom, and more importantly, they know the audience. I often felt last year that most speakers could only guess and try to find relevance with us, often unsuccessfully. I also know several students from more traditional church backgrounds who appreciate the teaching and worship style of tuesdays. To me and many others, tuesdays are anything but boring—they are a reflection of the diversity of our campus. We have the benefit of hearing sermons that are both spiritually and intellectually satisfying from a group of teachers who know us well. Not very many audiences get that kind of well-tailored message.

-Kate Elliott

The Talon
Journal

APRIL FOOLS!

All of the contents on pages 1, 2, 11, and 12 are fake. Please don't email, call, or write any one with your questions or concerns.

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

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

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MOVIE REVIEW

Upcoming Summer Blockbusters

BY BETH OLSON
Reporter

Summer's the season for special-effects-heavy action movies, teen-oriented thrillers, "chick flicks" and kiddy-friendly cartoons. This year's pending lineup appears to be no exception. If you're looking for a way to kill a few hours between your summer job, summer classes, family vacations, and beach trips, you might want to check out these upcoming big-screen, mainstream releases. I'm not saying they're necessarily going to be brilliant – that's not the point of summer movies. Rather, think entertainment.

MAY

May 6 – *Kingdom of Heaven*. Directed by Ridley Scott (*Gladiator*). Starring Orlando Bloom, Eva Green, Liam Neeson. During the Crusades of the 12th Century, Balian of Ibelin, a young blacksmith in Jerusalem, rises to protect his people from foreign invaders.

May 20 – *Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith*. Directed by George Lucas. Starring Hayden Christiansen, Natalie Portman, Ewan McGregor. As the Clone War continues, Anakin Skywalker finds himself dangerously close to the Dark Side of the Force, and he comes into conflict with Obi-Wan Kenobi.

JUNE

June 3 – *Lords of Dogtown*. Directed by Catherine Hardwicke. Starring Heath Ledger, Emile Hirsch, Johnny Knoxville. Young skateboarders from the streets of Venice, California hone their craft in empty suburban swimming pools, ultimately creating a worldwide sensation.

June 10 – *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*. Directed by Doug Liman. Starring Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, Adam Brody. When John and Jane Smith discover that they both lead double lives as assassins – and that they have just been hired to kill one another – the once-bored couple catch a spark.

June 17 – *Batman Begins*. Directed by Christopher Nolan. Starring Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Ken Watanabe, Liam Neeson, Gary Oldman, Morgan Freeman. A revelation of the origin of Batman and his emergence as a crusader against evil in Gotham City.

June 24 – *Bewitched*. Directed by Nora Ephron. Starring Nicole Kidman, Will Ferrell. Samantha Stephens cannot resist using her powers to remedy problems she encounters with her husband Darrin.

The Dukes of Hazzard. Directed by Jay Chandrasekhar. Starring Seann William Scott, Johnny Knoxville, Jessica Simpson, Willie Nelson. Good ol' boys Bo and Luke Duke, with a little help from their cousin Daisy and Uncle Jesse, antagonize and outwit the authorities of Hazzard County, Boss Hogg and Sheriff Coltrane.

JULY

July 1 – *War of the Worlds*. Directed by Steven Spielberg. Starring Tom Cruise, Dakota Fanning, Tim Robbins. As Earth is invaded by Martian war machines, one family fights for survival.

July 15 – *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Directed by Tim Burton. Starring Johnny Depp, Freddie Highmore. Young Charlie Bucket wins the chance to tour the most magnificent chocolate factory in the world and meet the man behind it all, the eccentric Willy Wonka.

Happy Endings. Directed by Don Roos. Starring Lisa Kudrow, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Jesse Bradford. In Los Angeles, three separate matters entwine, bringing together ten different people.

July 22 – *The Island*. Directed by Michael Bay. Starring Scarlett Johansson, Ewan McGregor. A man who discovers that he is actually a "harvested being" attempts to escape from the utopian facility where he and others are kept. His only ally is a woman who's pregnant with her "sponsor's" child.

July 29 – *The Brothers Grimm*. Directed by Terry Gilliam. Starring Matt Damon, Heath Ledger, Monica Bellucci. Folklore collectors and con artists Jake and Will Grimm travel from village to village pretending to protect townsfolk from enchanted creatures and performing exorcisms. They are put to the test when they encounter a real magical curse in a haunted forest with real magical beings, requiring genuine courage.

Good luck finding a decent flick to attend in August – the pickings look exceedingly slim. However, with school picking up again later in the month, movies may not be your biggest concern.

Thanks to imdb.com for their extensive database of upcoming movie releases – check the site for complete listings.



Photo by Merlin Quiggle

Holly Strandwitz, Melissa Steinert and Brandon Clark perfect their timing in a final rehearsal of "Charley's Aunt."

Charley's Aunt opens tonight!

BY RYAN JONES
Reporter

KIRKLAND, Wash. - In "Charley's Aunt", written by Brandon Thomas and directed by Lisa Peretti-Stephenson and Brandon Clark, is set in Victorian late 19th century. Two young men seek to marry the women that they fall in love with, but find that it is hard to overcome social conventions. Will the men get lucky and marry the two ladies or will they leave the set empty-handed? Find out in the upcoming installment of "Charley's Aunt" brought to you by the Northwest University Drama Club.

Highlights of the play:

1. Love stories between the men and women
2. Returning actors and actresses, including Neil Allender, Tim Kowalski, James Matthews, Brandon Clark, Melissa Steiner, and more.
3. Victorian era themes
4. Some education on interpersonal relationships.
5. Comedy
6. Religious themes, such as a picture of Jesus in the background.
7. Hilarious quarrels taking place between the characters, such as Charlie getting jealous when Amy gets affectionate towards Lord Fancourt
8. And More...

Opening night is Friday, April 1 at 7:30p.m. in Millard Hall. Show times are April 1, 2, 4-6. Tickets: Adult tickets are \$7. NU students with ID cards and children age 12 and under are \$5.

xxxchurch.com: a Christian Porn site?

BY DAVID HALL
Contributing Writer

What do church and pornography have in common? How about a thriving ministry? Many people ignore pornography addiction and sexual sins. Yet, at xxxchurch.com, those who struggle with infidelity, pornography, masturbation, and other forbidden areas are welcomed and helped.

The website declares, "xxxchurch exists to bring awareness, openness, accountability and recovery to the church, society and individuals in the issues of pornography and to begin to provide solutions through non-judgmental and creative means".

With a society that is sexually explicit, it should come as no surprise that a vast number of Christians struggle with sexual issues. Some Christians might be afraid to admit their struggles, feeling like they are the only ones with such problems and not knowing to who to turn to.

The founders of this website, Craig Gross and Mike Foster, realized there was a need to assist these people. With the help of xxxchurch.com, those who struggle with sexual sins can now seek help from those who know how to assist them.

At first glance, xxxchurch.com seems like a joke. Slogans such as "Jesus Loves Pornstars" and "The Number One Christian Pornsite" have caused others to view the ministry negatively.

The founders rebut this attack by saying, "No one talks about porn. It's taboo. We use phrases that will attract attention and shed light into such sensitive issues."

A highly effective ministry opportunity xxxchurch.com has begun is the X-Watch program which is a downloadable program that emails a list of questionable websites viewed over two weeks to an accountability partner. It is meant to initiate conversation about the struggles of sexual sins.

"It really works," Gross says. "We find that people are more willing to talk when they are faced with the issues at hand. X-Watch does just that."

It is refreshing to see an outlet for those who battle sexual sins. It is also refreshing to see that Christians are continually seeking new and effective ways to meet human needs and share the liberating message of Christ's good news.



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Senior Nursing student Rachel Leach experiences life changing mission to India

BY KORTNEY THOMA
Reporter

After four years of dedication to the Northwest Nursing program, Rachel Leach got to fulfill a life long dream to visit India and use her love and knowledge to experience how nursing fits into full time ministry. On February 3, 2004, Leach boarded her plane for India and a four week experience she will never forget.

Week One

Two days after leaving Seattle, Leach finally arrived in Calcutta India, where the reality of poverty hit her from the moment she left the airport. "My first experience with beggars happened as soon as we stepped out of the airport. There are professional beggars that hang around populated places. The sad thing is that they are usually working for someone and have to turn in all the money they get at the end of the day."

As they left the airport, Leach and the other students got into the Mission of Mercy vehicle and went to the Baptist Missionary House where they would be staying. She would be living in a room with eight beds and two bathrooms, where the students were fortunate enough to have toilets and hot water, although for a shower they used a bucket and a scoop to pour water over themselves.

The car ride to their home for the next four weeks, was an interesting experience for Leach. "Honking is incessant! Traffic is absolutely crazy! There are no markers for which lane goes where and people, motorcycles, taxis, bikes and buses simply cram their way into any tiny space they can fit in while honking. Even if there is no where to go, they will just sit there and honk. With six million people in a thirty six square mile area, Calcutta is over stimulating!"

The next day the students hit the streets where the meet and greet of people was very different. "I am so used to making direct eye contact, smiling and shaking hands, but you cannot do that here with the males. Men will call out, 'Hello!' and that is like a cat call for them." Leach says she was very glad that they traveled in groups because she would not have felt safe walking around by herself. Simply shaking hands with people had it's dangers. "No one should shake anyone's left hand. Instead of using toilet paper, they use their left hand out on the street." Leach used a lot of hand sanitizer while in Calcutta.

Later that week the students went to Mother Teresa's orphanage, a place where many children were paralyzed. Leach says, "It brought tears to my eyes—such sweet babies laying in beds, not able to move anything but their head and some moving their arms. I held one little boy in my arms and he smiled. It was so good."

One night, Leach came to terms with her heart when she saw a beggar on the street. "There was a skinny little man sitting almost cross-legged on the side of the street. He had a little bit of a beard and a little white hat. His skin was leathery and he had a little white tunic on, sitting on a little cream colored mat, counting his coins, lost in his own little counting, until he saw us passing by. He looked up quickly and started singing just as we passed. It was so cute and his eyes were so childlike that it really made me smile and feel sad at the same time. I wanted to sit down and rock back and forth and sing with him." Leach was beginning to fall in love with India.

Leach also got to partake in the Mission of Mercy Feeding Program. There she fed people and took lots of pictures of them. She says they loved seeing what their picture looked like on her digital camera. "They would call out 'Auntie! Picture!'—'Auntie' is an

endearing name for a lady, a nice name—I loved it! One woman said, 'You are a good lady, a good lady.' That really blessed me." She has wanted to help at this feeding program for a long time. "It was a fulfillment of one of my dreams."

Week Three

Leach spent another half a day at Mother Teresa's Orphanage where she massaged the legs of children with cerebral palsy. "The Sisters of Charity provide no medical help, they just feed, bathe, shelter and give them some attention. The children with CP could improve a lot if they had daily stretching and massaging."

She also went to a Tropical Medicine hospital. "We saw some patients with dermatitis and some other nasty fungal infections. Some diseases were caused by sand flies. About eighty percent of the patients had AIDS. The most common occupation among people with AIDS is truck drivers who go on long trips and stop at brothels on their way."

At Mother Teresa's Home for the Destitute and Dying, Leach saw many more helpless people. "There was a room full of emaciated—very thin—men of all ages. They were lying or sitting on blue mats. In another room people were lying in rows, many with IV's in their arms and volunteers feeding them. I sat and talked with one lady, actually I listened. She pattered her mat for me to sit with her and she held my hand and began talking to me rapidly in a soft voice. She'd ask a question and I would just keep eye contact, nod, and once in a while say 'ha,' which means 'yes.' She thought some of the things she was telling me were funny because she would squint her wrinkly eyes and laugh and lean back and then start talking again. She might not have been in her right mind, but she really just wanted the company of someone. I can still see her sweet wrinkly face and feel her hand grasping mine.

"One woman was eating rice and curry with one hand from a tin plate and with the other she grabbed my hand. She had no teeth at all and didn't ever look at me. She kept looking ahead at nothing but she wouldn't let my hand go. I tried talking to her with no response, but she kept grasping my hand. Like many others, she didn't talk but touch, and having someone with her was very comforting."

Down the street from the Home for the Destitute and Dying was a crematorium where Leach saw three bodies be carried in, not in caskets, but on wooden beds with flowers and incense. "The crematoriums were two huge oblong ovens with doors that shut on either side. Before the bodies were put in there and the door shut, the family would all gather around and do a little ceremony. They also have a natural cremation place beside the one we went to, where the son actually lights the body on fire, and all of the family stands there and watches it burn all the way. Little kids here are introduced to death at a very young age. The bodies were not hidden from the children at all, in fact the children were right up next to the wooden bed, touching the dead body."

Evangelism is hard in a city like Calcutta. "There are just too many people and they don't think they need missionaries. Missionaries from other countries have a hard time breaking through to people in big cities, but are very effective in villages if they learn to live and eat and work with the people for a long period of time, which gains respect."

Week Four

Leach, in her last week, went to small fishing villages in a town called Puri. The small villages Leach visited were on the Bay of Bengal. "There were little shanties made of mud and grass with no doors, some naked children running around, women cooking over fires, dogs and cows everywhere, and I walked past a big pig. I couldn't stop smiling at everyone. I felt the greatest sense of joy being there. You know when you go out with friends to do something, like go to a movie or go out to eat, it is fun but in the back of my mind it seems I know I'm wasting time or money or doing something that is not going to make a difference for eternity, but while I was there I felt like I was in the perfect will of God—it was a very fulfilling experience."

In this village was a small one room clinic with one bed. The clinic has three doctors and no nurses or fancy equipment. Leach says it would be a perfect place for community health nursing. She went to a church service there, which had an outdoor 'chapel' that consisted of five benches and one light bulb that hung off the side of a house. "There were about 250 people sitting on the ground and some standing. All the children were in front just staring at us."

Leach got to preach at the service too. "I had to have an interpreter and preached about Jesus being anointed at Bethany by the prostitute lady, about how our lives should be like the expensive perfume broken and spilled out, saving nothing for ourselves. Afterward, all these women came up to me and motioned for me to put my hand on their heads and pray for them, and then a guy came up to me and handed me some little packages of jasmine oil and fish oil and wanted me to pray for him. I found out later they asked the pastors

there to pray over their fishing stuff, that God would bless them and make their businesses successful."

Leach's favorite part though was when the pastor and she went from hut to hut in the dark and prayed for people. "A woman brought her baby and the pastor had me lay hands on the baby and pray for them. We prayed in these little huts with only the light of a lantern or a flashlight. It was one of the best experiences of my life."

In hindsight

Leach returned to the states with a desire to help more. "I want to go back for several short term trips. I don't think I will be living there, but I am open to anything. I want to do short term trips, to go on a medical team or a church team, and leave having equipped people to care for themselves. If we leave without training them, then we have left them in the same condition they were in when we came."

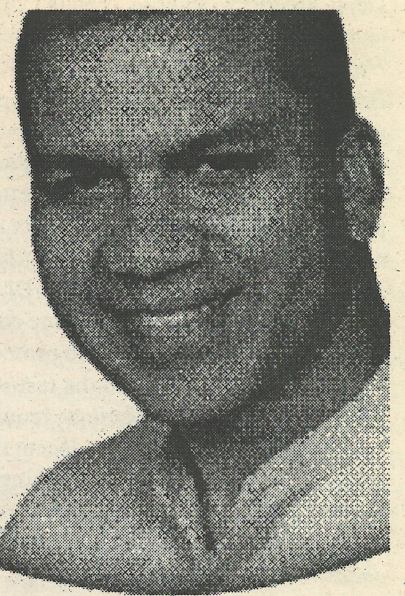
But is Leach in the same condition as when she left? "Since I've been back I've had peace in knowing that he has control over all life, over life and death, also confidence in who I am and my calling. A missionary is someone who will live a constant, passionate lifestyle for God no matter where they are. Even if I don't know why God does things, even though I don't understand how there can be such need and poverty, He is a good God and I can trust Him. I want to live a life worthy of the calling I have received. Lord help me to make the most of every opportunity to share the love of Christ, here or in another country like India.

To see testimonials and pictures of other crosscultural nursing trips, visit: <http://eagle.northwestu.edu/academic/nursing/ministry/>

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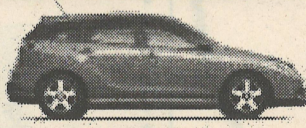
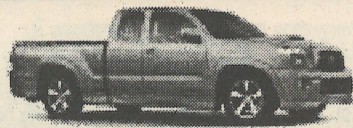
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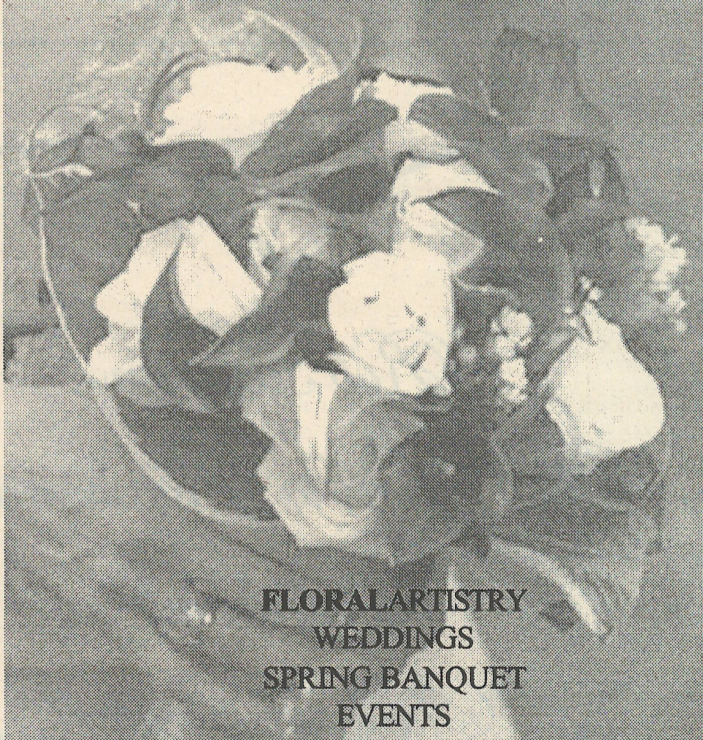
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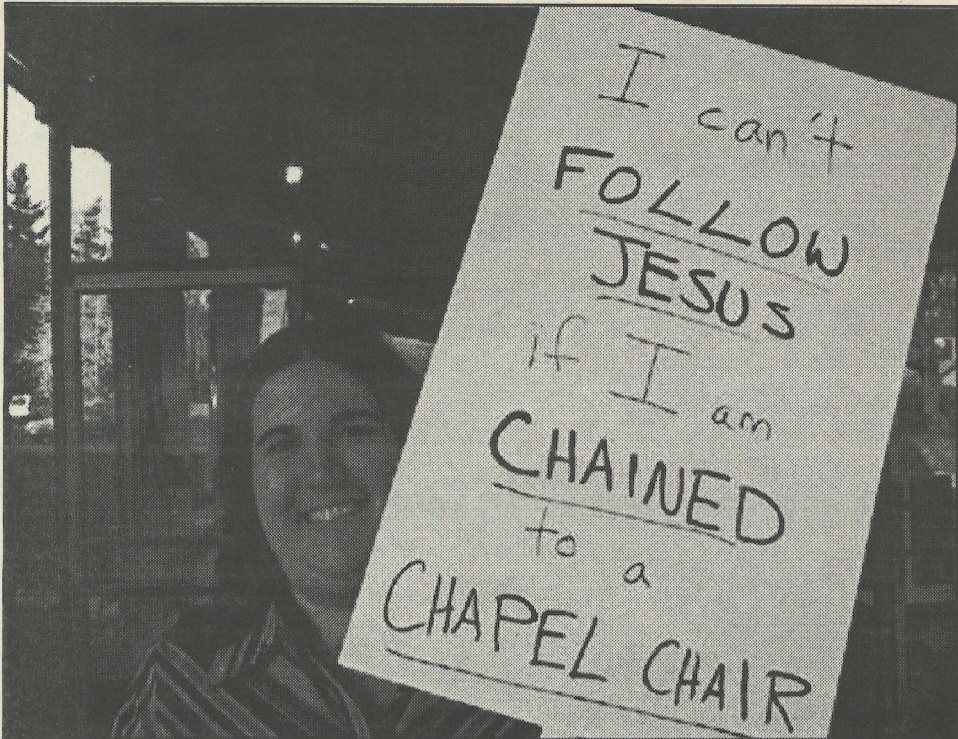


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Becky Wilson holds a handmade sign during the one-person protest she planned.

Senior Student Stages Chapel Protest at 'God's Calling'

BY GRETCHEN TUMULTO
Contributing Writer

Senior student Becky Wilson has had it with Chapel. And in traditional college-student-versus-the-system style, she's decided to stage a protest.

"I feel God was calling me to protest during my last semester here," Wilson said during a pre-protest, one-person press conference. "So when my chapel exemption request form was denied this semester, I knew it was a sign: a sign that only I could carry."

Among Wilson's complaints are the mandatory status of Chapel, the "inflexibility of Chapel hour time," and what she perceives as the "numbing effect of Chapel speakers on the spiritual life of the student body."

"I'm hoping my protest will wake up the Chapel zombies," she declared.

"Required Chapel is just dictated spirituality," she continued. "I'm not sure if my Chapel attendance is recorded in the Book of Life, but I was a Catholic for twenty years. That's got to count for something."

Wilson is hoping that her passion will incite other students to join or support her cause. However, she doesn't have great hopes. When asked if any other students had communicated an interest in her protest, she shrugged, and said, "Eh."

In the event that her protest is met with deaf ears, Wilson won't be fazed. She already has another protest planned before school is out.

"I will also be organizing a protest against graduation. After six years of collegiate education I'm unable to find a job; so six years must not be enough."

Becky Wilson is a product of the English department.

Campus Golf Club launches protest

'If we ask for a mile, maybe we'll at least get our inch back'

BY CARRIE BRADSHAW
Contributing Writer

The Campus Golf club, its permission to play recently revoked on account of dangerous low-flying tennis ball projectiles, has launched a counter-offensive attack. They have applied to become the Campus Grenade club.

"We won't pull the pins," promises club leader Jeremy Rodgers, "unless someone threatens to pull the plug on our new game."

Taking their complaint to the Student Council, chaired by ASB President Lindsay Fosner, the cadre found an unexpected ally in the former Campus Knitting club, whose activities were banned last year due to the inadvertent puncture of a beanbag chair. Erstwhile knitters Student Name and Student Name, inspired by the golfers-turned-guerillas, are threatening a switch to fencing.

"If we ask for a mile, maybe we'll at least get our inch back" is the philosophy espoused by the innovative student activists, who asked to be identified as the *Freedom Fighters* and the *Epee-Centers*. "We really only want to knock a tennis ball around, or make a sweater, while we pray for one another. But drastic times call for drastic measures."

Resident Directors Nathan Moser and Andrea Ide bring up the opposing point of view, however. "The whiz of tennis balls and the needle-holes in the lounge furniture are just a few of the detriments to N.U. student life posed by these radicals," shouted Moser, momentarily abandoning his normally cool demeanor.

Ide concurred. "A properly conducted fencing tournament or grenade toss, officiated on a Friday night in Perks, would be vastly preferable. I hope they never return to their former pursuits."

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