Volume 53 - No. 16

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God"

March 2, 1999



Campus

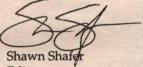
### **Column One**

Week Seven: Did anyone notice how stressed out most people were over this last weekend? I can't remember when more people were so ready for Spring Break to come marching right in.

So many people sick, depressed, behind in work, relationships, etc. and it all just keeps piling up. All we want is a good, warm and sunny day. Spirits lifted considerably the last time Sol dared to peek through the everpresent layer of clouds surrounding the greater Treasure Valley. Beautiful Boise and Noxious Nampa couldn't be better paired in this incongruous but altogether seamless pit.

Don't worry if you couldn't follow that last bit, I'm having troubles myself. That's why I see no reason at all why the absence or rather the lack of the existence of a cover story in this issue to be at all surprising. The alignment of the full moon and the rising of the four planets in the night sky can only spell constellations.

Dismay not, there are two blue moons here in our midst, in one year no less, January last and March the present. This hasn't happened since Kennedy was president and won't happen again until 2018. Behold the power of cheese.



Editor

### **Publication Info**

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Other information about *The Crusader* may be obtained by contacting our offices. We are located in room 218-219 in the Student Center on the campus of Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, ID.

The Crusader NNC Box C Nampa, Idaho 83686 (208) 467-8656 Fax: (208) 467-8468 crusader@student.nnc.edu

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# Computer improvement fees

### A \$50 technology fee to be added next fall

#### by Mindy Oldenkamp Crusader Staff Writer

If you have ever waited ten minutes to get logged onto a computer only to have it freeze up on you, if you have spent an entire night typing out an important term paper only to have the computer tell you that there isn't enough print credit available for you to print, or if you have tried to access a web site and the server will not let you on, then you are among the majority of the students realizing that the computer labs and technology on campus leave something to be desired. However, the problems have been recognized and plans are now underway to make the improvements so desperately needed in the technological area of NNC's campus.

A 50 dollar technology fee has been instituted in an effort to help pay for some of the costs that will arise as improvements are made upon the campus in the area of computers, servers and access problems. Originally, a fee of a hundred dollars was to be required, however, after being put to a vote, the administration agreed to go with the 50-dollar fee. Students will be required to pay this fee beginning in the fall of 1999. However, the fee will have already been put to work throughout the summer.

Earlier this term, students were asked to fill out a technology survey, asking questions as to which areas on campus students felt would be best suited for improvement if a fee were to be put into place. The results of this survey were then compiled and presented to the Student Technology Committee so it could be decided whether or not a fee would be instated, how soon, and what areas would be focused upon first.

The overwhelming results were concentrated in the same areas, and the committee selected the top three priorities, as chosen by the student body through the survey, for the areas in which the fee would first be put to work. Erik Kellerer, heading the Technology Committee, said that "The students were united on the top three areas of improvement, and "The students were united on the top three areas of improvement, and the committee just decided to go [with them]." ~Frik Kellerer

the committee just decided to go with those areas, number one by far being a new server with more disc space available." The present server has caused access problems, and has been known to crash, and Kellerer stated the committee would begin to put the first of the technology fee to work in that area.

The second priority of the Tech Committee is to have all the dorms on campus wired and ready for computer access in all the rooms. While many of the dorms on campus have complete wiring already, there are still areas of campus lacking the accessibility. "We are receiving bids now, and are waiting to find out costs, but hopefully all of the dorm rooms will be wired for acWhat: \$50 technology fee per term When: beginning in the fall of 1999 Why: to update the campus computer system Who: Technology Committee voted last week

cess completely during the summer and set to go by the fall term." Kellerer said.

Thirdly, students called for the ability to access their accounts from off-campus locations, specifically meeting the needs of offcampus students. Kellerer stated that there were many decisions to be made in the area of off-campus access, but that it too would become a reality by fall of 1999. Bids are still being received in this area as well, but the hardware should be purchased and in place during the summer. Some of the options regarding off-campus access included an allotment of online time such as 20 hours per month included in the fee for off-campus students, or the requirement of an additional fee for unlimited access from an off-campus location.

Upon completion of the first three priorities, the survey provided additional areas where the fee could be well used. Students called for more print credit, something that Kellerer said would most likely happen without delay, and a staffed person to help answer questions and aid in the solving of problems regarding the computers. "While this position would not eliminate the existence of the T.A.'s," Kellerer said, "It would become someone to help install programs, answer questions and train the T.A.'s to better handle problems in the labs." These options are viable, however, they will most likely be accomplished further down the road. Another possibility also included improvement in the mini labs, which anyone using the computers in Ford or Morrison Hall know would be well appreciated.

Although the technology fee presents yet another cost to pay at registration, it creates an easier, less frustrating environment in the computer lab. Kellerer said that one of the main priorities of the Tech Committee was to have the top three areas updated and improved during the summer, before the fee is required in the fall. Therefore, the money has already been put to good use before it is even paid.

### The Luv Auction raises spirits and funds



Junior Jeff Parker struts his stuff at the Luv auction, accompanied by Sarah Hughes and Stephanie Wirick.

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#### Campus

# Language study programs offered through NNC

**NNC Language** department offers study opportunities in Mexico, **Costa Rica and** Europe

#### by Melissa Tennyson Crusader Campus Editor

There are several foreign study program opportunities for NNC students that are supported by the language department. There are three primary opportunities for language study through NNC

A Spanish program in Cuernavaca, Mexico at The Center for Bilingual Multicultural Studies has made an agreement to work with NNC. The Coalition for Christian Colleges and Universities offers a Latin American Studies Program in San Jose, Costa Rica. Also, two NNC professors, Michelle Marshman and Gina Lytle-Hassan are taking a class of students to Paris, France and London, England this summer in a European Study Abroad program

The Spanish program in Cuernavaca, Mexico offers a "Group-5 System" for students. This system operates on the policy



Virginia Imlah studied this past summer at The Center for Bilingual Multicultural Studies in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

that no beginning or intermediate Spanish class will hold more than five students

This is a complete immersion Spanish language program, designed to develop conversational fluency in the shortest possible time. Each class is conducted by a native instructor sworn (as the students are) to speak only Spanish

NNC Spanish professor Newell Morgan shared, "We have had a formal agreement with The Center for Bilingual Multicultural Studies for a year. I like it because it is total immersion: the student is taught entirely in Spanish, and lives in a Spanish-speaking home. It's a somewhat protected environment. The school is closedcampus, the faculty are high quality and the facilities are excellent."

Students in the program live with a Mexican family. There are students from all over the United States, Canada and Western Europe. A testimony to the program's quality is its affiliation with many American universities of high quality.

Since I have seen their syllabus," shared Morgan, "I know how to verify the quality of the classes, and I can help students choose classes that are appropriate and helpful." Two students, Michelle Wisecaver and Mindy Bales, have applied to attend the Mexico program this summer.

We also work with students who go out of the country to travel or study," Morgan continued. "We work on an individual basis, to create a study program specialized for these students." For example, senior Lonnie

McConnel traveled extensively throughout Peru last summer. Morgan worked with McConnel to receive study credit for his experience.

The European Study Abroad program offered this summer by NNC will be attended by approximately 13 students. History Professor Marshman shared, "this will be a study program intended to introduce students to the wonder of Europe. It is not just a tour, but a hands-on, enriched learning experience."

Marshman shared that her first introduction to Europe was through a similar Study Abroad program during her undergraduate studies at Seattle Pacific University. It has been her dream to develop a similar program for NNC students.

Professor Lytle-Hassan went to France with an American Studies Program, and then lived there for 20 years. Together they will teach this program. Marshman will teach a History of Modern Europe class, and Lytle-Hassan will teach a French Contemporary Society class.

During the four weeks that students will be traveling, they will keep a homework journal. The primary concern will be total cultural experience.

For the first two weeks, students will stay in a youth hostel in Paris, France. They will visit the Louvre Museum, the Sorbonne University, the Latin Quarter, the Eiffel Tower, the D'Orsay Museum, Notre Dame

and St. Chapelle and the Rodin Museum. They will make day trips to Normandy and Versailles.

In London, the students will visit the British Museum, St. Paul's Cathedral, Windsor Castle and Oxford. They will also attend a classic play, "The Merchant of Venice," as well as a modern play entitled "Art." The program is scheduled for June 14 to July 9, 1999

The Latin American Studies Program in Costa Rica offers students an opportunity to experience Latin American culture firsthand. In this program, students study Latin America's rich history, religion, economics and politics. They also work intensively on the Spanish language. Included in this experience is the fact that students live in home with a Costa Rican family.

There are several specialized tracks in the Latin American Studies Program. The International Business track offers management and marketing classes during the fall semester. The science track offers tropical science and global sustainability classes during the spring semester. The english track offers language and literature classes during both semesters.

Students in the Costa Rica program will be observing the culture and traveling. The recommended credits offered for this program are six semester credits for language, six for seminars, and four for service/travel. The total estimated cost is \$7,750 per semester, including travel.

#### Thiefs caught by students and police This is a reminder **Teenage boys** the two boys were messing truck and stole his stereo as well "I want to thank around with door handles of sevas several CD's. They confessed for those break into car eral cars in the parking lot of this to the police. The police apthose who kept interested Corlett Hall. When asked what parently made a deal with the in working Saturday night they were doing, the boys boys, saying that they'd let them

by Melissa Tennyson Crusader Campus Editor

Imagine strolling peacefully across campus on a late Saturday night, to be suddenly surprised by a group of people running toward you. Two young teenage boys fly past you as you hear someone shout, "stop them!" This is exactly happened to Josh Dooley at 1:00am on Sunday morning.

Dooley recounted, "I came down into the soccer field and noticed Matt Sanders and P.J. Wybenga running after two guys. Someone yelled 'Stop him!' I ran

their eyes open to protect our campus." -Neil Weaver

after one and caught up with him by the student center."

Security officers Jody Lanham and Greg Cobb showed up on the scene. Cobb helped Dooley to catch one of the boys by the business building. Lanham and Sanders caught the other by the prayer chapel.

This mad chase began when Tim Barras and Julie Satta noticed mumbled something about "looking for someone." Barras warned Wybenga that the boys looked suspicious.

Several minutes later, Wybenga walked out into the parking lot and noticed that they were playing with the door handle of a red Toyota truck. He quickly ran inside to get help from Sanders. When Sanders and Wybenga approached the boys, they both began to run away. Thus proceeded the chase scene. Once the boys were caught, the police arrived on the scene and took custody of them.

The two boys had broken into the back window of Ryan Close's

go if the boys showed them where the radios where. They had been stealing radios all around town.

The boys cooperated with the police and showed them where their car was. Close's stereo was recovered as well as other stereos.

Security director Neil Weaver reported that these boys are also suspected of being involved in several other criminal acts on the NNC campus. Within the past week, there has been a car radio stolen by the Brandt center, and one stolen by the Olsen apartments. Authorities urge students to keep eyes peeled for late-night suspicious activities on campus.

for The Crusader. Take an application from outside our offices. Turn it in.

Get hired.

#### **World News**

# Nampa mourns for lost city pillar - John Brandt

dent and valedic-

Brandt

by Joshua M.Dooley World News Editor

NAMPA, ID -- The name John Brandt won't only be remembered at Northwest Nazarene College, but throughout Nampa as well as the 94-year-old man died this past Friday.

Many of Brandt's admirers claimed that he had a hefty committment to the city's growth and well-being. Such a committment moved him through decades of community service and millions of dollars in donations.

"John is a man that represents the past, but he lived for Nampa's future," Nampa Finance Director Jerry Gunstream told reporter Gina Grate of the Idaho Press-Tribune.

"His integrity is something that I would covet for every person," former Nampa Mayor Winston Goering sid. "He was a true blue person who had no skeletons in his closet.

Brandt was at the Mercy Medical Center where he had been

trying to recover from a hip injury. However, by Wednesday, he had slipped into a coma and died late Friday morning.

When word got out, city and business leaders felt a deep sense of loss for him.

'Well, that's the end of an era," Nampa Senator Jerry Thorne said when he learned of Brandt's death. "It's a real loss to the

community of Nampa - not necessarily because of his generous gifts, but because of his manner and demeanor amongst the people who knew him."

Center - Fall '97

Brandt not only showed his achievements in the newer generation, but as a youth he did quite well

Brandt was a senior class presi-

torian. He was a hard-working, out-going young man. graduated from the College of Idaho in 1926. From there he expressed his love for education as he taught school for ten years and served as schools superintendent in Cambridge. It NNC President Richard Hagood was there that he with John Brandt in the Brandt met Orah Keithly,

who was teaching at Cambridge, and married her in

1931 By 1936, Brandt retired from his teaching career and founded a real estate, loan and insurance business in Nampa. Even today Brandt Real Estate remains a downtown Nampa business landmark. It was Brandt who helped establish the real estate business in the Treasure valley, and

mayor Maxine Horn recalls that he wrote the state licensing tests.

Brandt, though into real estate, never lost his love for education. One way he kept his focus on his love was to serve on the Nampa school board for 18 years. The other was was by contributing \$2 million to each of Canyon County's two colleges, in which the John and Orah Brandt Fine Arts and Convocation Center was dedicated back on November 1997 from the Northwest Nazarene College's \$2 million, and in 1994 the Chair of Free Enterprise was established with the \$2 million given to Alberson College of Idaho.

One of the biggest things that Nampa can be thankful for was Brandt's involvement in the plan with Interstate 84. Primarily the plan was to connect Boise and Caldwell with it, which would have left Nampa out by a distance of four miles. Don Brandt, Brandt's son, noted that Brandt took notice of the problems that such a plan could have created for Nampa. In response, Brandt took control of the situation by heading up a committee and acted as a spokesperson to convince the highway planners to reroute the highway closer to Nampa and build three exits to the city. Don Brandt claimed that his father considered that to be one of his greatest accomplishments.

Brandt had such a passion for the town of Nampa that he was the first person to write a check for a charter membership at the Nampa Rec Center, Ken Harward noted, a longtime Nampa finance director who now heads the Association of Idaho cities.

The belief in Nampa drove Brandt to help plan the Nampa Civic Center, where he contributed an undisclosed "substantial donation" to help build it, Harward said.

"It was really the key amount in getting the building built," he said. The civic center's 640-seat auditorium is named for Brandt.

Rep. Dolores Crow (R), Nampa said, "He was one of the foundations of this community, we've really lost a valuable gem."

neers, which took custody of the bones from the Benton County sheriff's office, had planned to turn them over to tribal representatives: five Northwest tribes have claimed the remains as an ancestor and wish to rebury them.

However, scientists later sued in federal court for the right to study Kennewick Man because he reportedly has non-Indian features

Dr. Michael Trimble, the head curator for the Corps of Engineers, said the bones, of which there are more than 350 pieces, were filled with water and were held together with sediment when they were discovered.

The panel will analyze those soil samples for links to soil layers near the discovery site.

Scientists also will measure the shape and width of the skeleton's face, dental remains and a stone point embedded in the pelvic bone, said Joseph Powell, a physical anthropologist from the University of New Mexico.

The scientists will also observe any inflammation, trauma or toxins that could be indications of health and way of life of the Kennewick Man, who is believed to have been in his 40s or 50s when he died.

If the analysis is not enough to determine if the remains are Indian, the team may use radiocarbon dating, DNA analysis or other tests that could destroy small amounts of bone.

# Avalanches hit the Alps

by Joshua M. Dooley World News Editor

VIENNA, AUSTRIA -- After record snowfall on a ski resort in the alps, an avalanche tore its way into a small town, Galtuer, this past Tuesday.

The very first number that came out for dead or missing from being burried in the snow, was 30.

Rescue efforts may have began sooner the next day, but it was then, this past Wednesday, when another avalanche crashed into the Tyrolean ski resort of Ischgl, close to the village of Galtuer.

From the second one, six more people went missing, while at least 16 people had been killed from the previous one on Tuesday.

The avalanches left about 20,000 people stranded at mountain resorts for up to a week.

Government officials contend than in Galtuer alone, more than \$20 million had been spent on avalanche protection structures. Metal barriers, which are meant to keep snowslides from happening, are located above the tree line, anchored in concrete positioned in a row, where snow is more likely to slide on avalanche-prone slopes

Unfortunately the Galtuer avalanche ripped its way down a slope that didn't have any barriers protecting it.

The question was brought forth to government expert, Roland Bauer, as to why the section hadn't been barricaded. Bauer claimed that for centuries no "damage-causing avalanches" had ever hit the town.

However, local records showed that Galtuer was wiped out by an avalanche in 1689 where 250 people were reported killed. No avalanche causing major material damage or worse had been recorded since in the area

Though at times the search was slow and hard, it paid off for those people who were saved. Still others were forced to meet their fate in the mountain's twist of luck.

One of those lucky was a four-year-old boy who had been dug out alive after being burried in the snow for a matter of almost two hours. This past Sunday night the boy was released from the hospital in perfect health.

Alexander Walter, the 4-yearold, went with his mother to stay with his grandparentes in southern Austria as they couldn't return to their home since people were being evacuated, and their home was destroyed by Wednesday's slide.

Alexander was saved by pilot Guenther Walser and his search dog, Arko.

By wagging his tail and digging into the snow, the dog indicated that someone was buried.

After one hour and 45 minutes the rescuers freed the child, who appeared dead. The child was slowly warmed up and resuscitated by doctors in nearby Galtuer, the other village hit by a giant avalanche a day earlier.

Alexander was rushed to Zams the next morning, where Alois Schranz and other doctors treated him.

Of 11 patients hospitalized in Zams, five seriously injured people were still under treatment, Schranz said, "but they are in stable condition, and things are getting better."

The avalanche victims, 31 dead in Galtuer and seven in Valzure, were mourned in a memorial service in Innsbruck televised live to several European countries this past Sunday.

Galtuer reportedly was the deadliest avalanche in the Alps since 1970 when one killed 74 people in the Haute-Savoie region of France, 56 of them children, and another killed 39 in the French resort Val D'Isere.

There will be about 100 army soldiers who will remain at the site through the week, clearing rubble from damaged and destroyed houses.

# **Origin of**

SEATTLE, WA - Scientists have begun on an ancestral quest in examining Kennewick Man, one of North America's oldest skeletons found along the Columbia River almost three years ago.

The nearly-complete, 9,300year-old skeleton is considered the oldest and most complete, specimen of human remains found in the Northwest. It was found in July 1996 with all major bones except the sternum, spread over a 300-square-yard area in Kennewick's Columbia Park.

A six-member team of anthropologists and archaeologists started their work Thursday. Their first objective is to determine whether the bones are of Indian origin as defined by federal law, said team leader Francis McManamon, chief archaeologist for the National Park Service. If they are of Indian ancestry, the Department of the Interior will decide if there is a modern tribe to which the remains ought to be given.

The Army Corps of Engi-

and the second s

Kennewick Man to be determined

#### by Jeremy Smith

World News Staff Writer

#### March 2, 1999

### Iraq's oil pipeline gets hit and disabled during the U.S. airstrike

by Rebecca Miller World News Staff Writer

An important oil pipeline of Iraq was hit and disabled by a U.S. airstrike. The pipeline was connected to a port in Turkey and most of Iraq's oil exports were transported through it. One person was reported killed and two others injured.

Oil is Iraq's main source of income. The pipeline was a part of the U.N. deal that allowed Iraq to export some oil for food and medicine. Since the Gulf War, Iraq has had sanctions that have limited the amount of oil they can sell. Iraq has been allowed to export 2.1 million barrels a day; and this is what the line was carrying. The missile hit a pumping station,

effectively stopping oil flow. The incident happened Sunday, after U.S. planes that were flying over Iraq were shot at. The U.S. replied by firing missiles at three military installations. According to U.S. Army Col. Richard Bridges, the damage done to the pipeline was not planned. "We have no indication that we hit anything other than what we intended to hit, which is elements of Iraq's integrated air defense system," he said.

The man killed was working for the oil-for-food program at the pumping station. The Iraqi News Agency also reported that three people, including a three-year-old boy, were killed when bombs hit villages in northern Iraq.

The U.S. says that they have been firing on Iraq only after Iraq attacks U.S. planes first, or when Iraq uses radar on the planes. There have been many confrontations in the last few months; the U.S. has fired at Iraqi military sites almost every day as Saddam Hussein frequently infringes the no-fly zones. The no-fly zones were intended to protect people in the north and south of Iraq, particularly the Kurdish rebels and Shiite Muslims.

### **Conflicts ready to break in Kosovo**



Soldiers of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) go door-to-door in the destroyed village of Retimilje, Kosovo, Yugoslovia February 26, as Yugoslovian army troops buildup their forces less than a mile away

## World War II flight simulators are the new trend

**World News** 

#### by Jeremy Smith WorldNews Staff Writer

The trend was clear at last year's Electronic Entertainment Expo. Almost every major computer game publisher was preparing a

World War II flight simulator. There have been many successful historical flight sims over the years, but the latest collection of products break new ground in graphic detail and flight/fight realism.

For many computer gamers, historic flight sims are preferred over modern simulations. Vintage combat flyers don't rely on radar and high-tech missiles that eliminate enemies 50 miles away. They want to see their opponents closeup. They want the experience where everything relies on good eye sight, quick reaction and pure instinct.

"WWII Fighters" from Jane's Combat Simulations, Microprose's "European Air War" and "Microsoft Combat Flight Simulator: WWII Europe Series" are a few of the better flight sims based on the air war over Europe.

"European Air War" from Microprose is a very respectable simulation. What impresses the user first is the cool "retro" design of the software's interface. Players

can learn more about WWII aircraft by thumbing through decks of flash cards, looking at old footage from the war and examining 3D aircraft models.

In "European Air War" players can fly any of 20 different British, German or American fighter

Players hear all

sorts of metallic

airframe stresses

simulated forces ..

sounds as the

against

planes in quickstart, single or history-based campaign missions. It offers customizable gameplay for any skill level and support for force-feedback joysticks.

The buffeting of the simu-

lated wind against the fuselage and control surfaces makes the first-person point of view very bumpy. Players hear all sorts of metallic sounds as the airframe stresses against simulated forces, but the engine sounds are obviously looped and become annoying after long periods of time, all of which give the impression of actually flying the plane.

The graphics in "European Air War" are good but not great. The terrain looks fine from high altitude but is unremarkable when ers" begins. Players find them-

flying on the deck. Microprose offers both Direct 3D and 3Dfx graphics accelerator support but the quality is not as good as the Microsoft and Jane's products.

The computer models of the aircraft are tuned for maximum graphic detail and realistic control.

> The flight physics and graphic presentation is reminiscent of WWII gun camera footage. When bullets hit enemy planes they seem to hesitate while simulated

gravity and momentum combine to rend the craft into a shower of metal, smoke and flames.

It was the beginning of the end for Hitler's Germany. Six months after the landings at Normandy, the German army launched its last offensive against advancing Allied forces. The Battle of the Bulge was the greatest and most costly engagement fought by Americans in the Second World

That's where "WWII Fight-

selves in the middle of one of the most fascinating episodes of WWII. They can fly the best technology that 1944 had to offer. For the Allied side, the P-51 Mustang, P-47 Thunderbolt, P-38 Lightning and the Supermarine Spitfire. Luftwaffe aircraft represented are the Messerschmitt Bf109, Focke-Wulf Fw190 and the first operational jet fighter in the world, the Messerschmitt Me262.

Multiple gameplay options from novice to expert makes "WWII Fighters" a simulation anyone will enjoy. Training missions and branching campaigns can be played from either the Allied or Axis point-of-view. A detailed mission editor lets pilots customize existing missions or create their own. "WWII Fighters" also supports eight-player multiplayer mode on LANs or on Jane's Combat.Net on the World Wide Web.

'WWII Fighters" is one of the best looking flight sims ever made. There is extreme graphic detail built into the simulation. The exterior views of the aircraft are breathtaking. When glancing over at your wingman the 3D pilot will actually turn his head and look back. Blaze away with a burst of machinegun fire from an external view and the smoke and spent shell casings can be seen spilling out of the wings. When a plane gets hit by enemy fire or crashes the airframe will disintegrate in a most realistic fashion.

Of the three products, "WWII Fighters" has the best clouds. They are true 3D and that means they can be used to hide from hungry enemy planes.

It's interesting that more than 50 years after the end of a horrible world war so many people are reenacting its deadly air battles.

Col. Clarence E. "Bud" Anderson flew two tours of duty over Europe in a P-51 and was the leading ace in his squadron. He consulted with Jane's in the development of "WWII Fighters." Interviews with him and other WWII aces are part of the "Museum" part of the program. He says historic flight simulators stimulate an interest in aviation and keep history alive by teaching people a little bit about what the war years were

"I just can't believe it, you know, I'd much rather see us fighting with games than being out there doing it for real. I'd rather see Japanese kids bomb Pearl Harbor on the Internet and have our guys fight them on the Internet and make friends that way."

5

The Crusader

6

| The Crusader Editorial Board |                                 |                    |
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Signed articles, reviews and letters reflect solely the view of the writer, while staff editorials state the majority view of The Crusader's editorial board. Editorial cartoons reflect the view of the cartoonist and a few influential persons on The Crusader staff.

Views expressed in The Crusader are thus not necessarily those of Northwest Nazarene College or the Church of the Nazarene. We are an open forum for students, alumni, professors, faculty and anyone else associated with Northwest Nazarene College, so feel free to send letters to NNC Box 'C'

#### Opinions

#### Letter to the Editor

As some of you know, our men's basketball team suffered a tough defeat to Albertson's College of Idaho awhile back. I gained a new perspective at this game. I no longer want to be associated as a Crusader. No, this is not because I am embarassed at the loss. Our boys played their hearts out right up until the end of the game.

The reason I am writing this letter is because of something I saw a few of our fans doing. I am NOT opposed to being spirited and hollering in support of our team as you all know. The problem comes when our "fans" go to support our team at Albertsons and end up shouting out profanities. I heard one particular NNC student who will remain unnamed, shout out, "Suck my di@\*". A few minutes later, the same student shouted, "Yea I am a Christian. What about it?" Others were going around the

court tearing the Albertsons' signs down. The Caldwell Police Department came and told them to quit, but it continued a few minutes later.

Now you all know I have proven myself to be a fan to the end, but frankly I was embarassed by this sickening display. I had no desire to associate with these "fans" after the game. One NNC student, who will also remain unnamed, went with me to the game. It was her third game in the time she has been a student here. She told me before the game that she was sooo excited. After the game, this student said to me, "This was my third and final game." I tried to tell her that not all games were like this one, and not all fans are a disgrace such as these ones who were at the Albertsons game were, but I do not know if she will ever come back again. This is really sad. NNC has a few students who are so childish that they cannot control their language and actions, and as a result, they destroy the ministry to others that God March 2, 1999

calls us to in Matthew 28:16-20. If you are going to represent our school, my school, in such a way, I dare say that I do not want you in my corner. I am on the of the biggest loud mouths that our Crusader team has, and I do not mind being that. But if this disgraceful activity continues, I will choose (as I would hope the majority of our student would) not to represent NNC or the gospel of Jesus Christ in this manner.

To those students who were involved we say that we think what you' have done is reprehensible and if you are going to conduct yourself in this manner then don't call yourself a Crusader, (because you hurt my pride) or a Christian (because you are hurting my witness). We don't need support from fans like you. Either get behind our team and be a real fan, or leave your pseudo-fan tail end at home.

Your mega Crusader Fan, **Doyle Harris** 

# Albertson's awesome sportsmanship and ethics

#### by Zach Lucas

Crusader News Opinions Writer

On Friday the 12, the men's basketball team played Albertsons College, at Albertson. Apparently they already knew they were going to win and wanted to rub it in our faces. Chants, cheers and posters set the atmosphere for our defeat.

Albertson men's soccer and their ACME Alcohol (whatever that is) sponsored one poster which portrayed a purple Wile E. Coyote and a Crusader Knight. Wile E. had the knight's lance in his hand, holding the Crusader on the end of it like a lollipop, sticking the point up his bum. Above it were the words, "UP YOURS!", which seemed to say they liked

sticking things in other people's cavities. Wile E. also has the words above his head, "Say Uncle!", which seemed like they thought they were twisting our arms behind our backs, like a big bully

Added to that very fine display of creativity and goodwill shown by the students of Albertson's College of Idaho, the crowd and fans became inspired and started chanting. Swear words, yelling and tearing down of our team and school poured from their mouths like water from a Sutherland Hall shower: communal and not very pleasant for all attending. Again, a display of much creativity by the supporters of Albertsons, and another show

of goodwill.

When attending a basketball game at home, fans and crowd all

players. Our cheer squad puts on

a good show. Our chanting and

cheers are clean and usually go

encounter a fairly appeal-Congratulations atmoing sphere. Stuto all the fans dents occasionand supporters of ally paint their faces school colors, or dress NNC basketball in the same. There are even for keeping our group of cheers clean... freshman guys who come with new matching outfits as a show of support to our

something like, "Defense! Defense! Go 'Saders!" or something like that. Granted, they are not

> very creative, they may not even get the crowd very riled up, but at least they do not tear down the opposing team. There are definitely no posters of a Crusader Knight sticking his lance in a place it is not meant to go, and no vulgar

displays of immaturity. Occasionally our coaches will get mad at the refs, or the mascot will get a try and intimidate the refs, but nothing that might encourage bad language, or exhibit of childish gestures

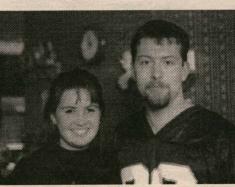
I am not trying to put down Albertsons College of Idaho, or even a small part of their student body. I am not trying to say that we are better than them because we have good game ethics and sportsmanship. I am trying to say, "Congratulations!!!" to all the fans and supporters of NNC's Crusader basketball, for keeping our cheers cleanand for acting our age. Good job for keeping the name of our school from being smeared and letting all attending at our games know that we are in college, we are adults and we know how to be enthused and still act like adults.

# Your Turn

This week we decided to try something new for Your Turn. Instead of asking students in Marriott a question, we decided to go to Olsen and ask a question of some of our married students (who aren't on the meal plan).

What words of advice do you have for student couples that are currently engaged?





Joe and Amy Cilley Joe: Class of 1999 Amy: Class of 1998

Get good premarital counseling and date for at least three months before you get engaged.

lason and Jenelle George

Jason: Class of 2000 Ienelle: Class of 1999

Keep God first. Try to keep your priorities straight.



Joey and Holly Boerner

Joey: Class of 2000 Holly: Class of 1998

Don't plan your wedding on a day it snows because people might not be able to come.

Cary and Jennifer Hill

Cary: Class of 1996 Jennifer: Class of 1999

Single life could never be this good. That's all we have to say.



#### a 2, 1999

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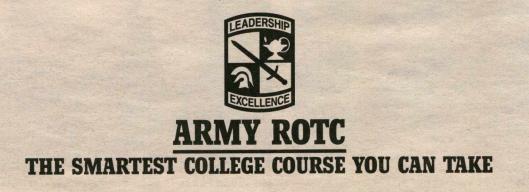
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# SUMMER SCHOOL FOR PEOPLE ON THEIR WAY TO THE TOP.

If you didn't sign up for Army ROTC as a freshman or sophomore, you can still catch up to your classmates by attending Camp Challenge, a paid five-week summer course in leadership training. By the time you've graduated from college, you'll have the credentials of an Army officer. You'll also have the discipline and self-confidence it takes to succeed in college and beyond.

For additional information call Larry Lobdell at 467-8391 or Ross Parker at 426-4175.



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The Crusader

#### Sports

### **NNC** basketball

The women's basketball team is down to crunch time. Conference tournaments are over and the national tournament is coming up on March 10. NNC qualified for an at-large berth in the tournament, instead of the automatic berth they were hoping for.

The 'Saders played their first conference tournament game this past Friday against Eastern Oregon. NNC overran them, with a final score of 70-51. Staci Wilson scored 19 points for the Crusaders, while Mary Glaze added 11 points. Rachelle Geinger pulled down seven rebounds.

Next, the Crusaders took on number two ranked Southern Oregon in Ashland, OR on Monday night. They lost the game 61-45, after not playing up to their potential. Wilson scored 17 points and pulled down 13 rebounds. NNC lost at the boards, being outrebounded 47-44.

The loss was partially due to a court tragedy. Geinger tore her ACL tendon in the second half, putting her out for the rest of the season.

### **'Sader baseball**

Bats are swinging on the diamonds, as the NNC baseball season officially opens. The Crusaders traveled to Washington this past weekend for their first games.

In a non-conference game, NNC faced Central Washington, with Jon Crozier on the mound. Crozier pitched the whole game, giving up no runs and handing out 18 strike-outs. NNC won the game in extra innings, after Justin Shneidt crossed the plate for the Crusader's sole run.

The 'Saders second game of the weekend was against University of British Columbia. Zach Deboi was the starting pitcher and was followed by Jacob St. Mary, who finished off the game. The Crusaders started off slow, falling behind by 2, but came back to win 10-7.

NNC plays their first home and conference games this weekend against Western Baptist. Friday night's game begins at 6:00 pm, while Saturday's double header begins at noon.

### **Intramural info**

Intramural basketball is over for the term. The finals are finished and the winners teams are posted on the intramural board. Also posted is a signup for a singles racquetball tournament and a warning to get ready for soccer, softball and a King & Queen of the Court tournament. Information outside of Marriott.

# Crusaders' hopes get washed away

### NNC drops away game, 107-100

#### by Craig Craker Crusader News Staff Writer

It is known to rain in the Seattle area, but the NNC men's basketball team didn't expect the downpour they received on their recent trip to Kirkland. The drenching had a name, Lincoln Nugent, a sharp-shooting senior guard who poured down a career-high 38 points. His performance led Northwest College to

#### a 107-100 win and washed NNC out of the Cascade Conference playoffs in the first round.

The night started promising. The Crusaders opened a quick 7-0 lead, but then it was Nugenttime. He scored 13 points, including three deep three pointers, in a five-minute span to give the Eagles a 21-17 lead. The Eagles, playing in their first ever home tournament game, maintained the lead through the half, but a 3point bomb at the buzzer by LaMark Judkins pulled the Crusaders within one, 44-43.

You had a sense of what the second half would be like, when NNC couldn't inbound the ball to begin play and had to call a time out. Aggressive defense on both sides created a host of turnovers, but also created easy baskets when presses broke down.

When they finally got the ball in play, Jeremy Stockett got an easy two and the Crusaders had their first lead since early in the game. Elijah Effinger scored the next two baskets and within the opening 90 seconds, NNC had a 50-46 lead and it seemed that the momentum was turning. But enter Nugent, again. The Eagles went on a 12-1 run and the Crusaders were looking up, a position they never overcame.

At the ten-minute mark the Eagles had worked open a 15 point lead, 80-65. But the Crusad-

ers didn't lose their fight. Kelly Herron got two quick baskets, Stockett added four of his 21 points and Detmetiros McBride contributed six of his team high 24 as the 'Saders pulled within five, 88-83 with five minutes left.

A Chad Mitchell three at the 4:20 mark brought NNC within four, and when Effinger hit a jumper at 3:30 NNC was a basket away from a tie. But an 11-2 run, highlighted by a Nugent three finished off the Crusaders. NNC was sharp from the field hitting 58 percent of their shots, but they were hurt by poor free throw shooting, missing 15 shots at the charity strip in the second half.

# Keri Barnes shares dreams and fun

### Non-tennis player makes the team

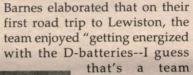
#### by Jenifer Holmquist Crusader News Staff Writer

Only a few years ago, the thought of playing tennis at NNC would have come as a surprise to Keri Barnes. Coming from a non-Nazarene background and not having played tennis in high school, Barnes stated that her future "has always been in God's hands."

Barnes comes from an athletic family and enjoyed playing high school volleyball, baseball and softball. "Actually, my sister was the tennis star in our house. I had only played as a little girl," she explained. Both of Barnes' parents were involved in sports, her mother a health teacher and

her father an outstanding high school athlete and minor league baseball player. It seems only natural, then, that when Barnes "just wanted something to do" this year, she would turn to athletics. Although the

tennis season "started out rocky" for the Crusader tennis program, Barnes has hope they will improve as the season continues. She emphasized that despite the setbacks at the beginning, "the experience has been lots of fun!"



joke!" "We've got a lot of crazy personalities, which makes everything fun."

Among her athletic goals, Barnes looks forward to "seeing how much better I can get this year - I'd like to improve my game

a lot more." Currently, she plays third doubles on the Crusader team. Her roommate, Beth Nixon doubles as her partner during play.

Barnes is also a serious student, a necessity for a Biology/ Nursing major. "I need to keep my grades high enough to get into nursing school," she said hopefully. As she currently plans to become an RN, Barnes hopes to specialize in "Neonatal care or pediatrics. That's in God's hands; who knows, I might try to get in my athletic training certification and work in a sports medicine clinic too!" She relies on the promise, "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength" to aid in pursuit of these dreams.

Despite her busy schedule with tennis and schoolwork, Barnes still finds time for playing "midnight card games" as one of her favorite activities. During the summer, she plans to have fun "water-skiing, which is my passion," when she is not nannying for kids at church.







left: Alison Kirk pulls up for a jump shot against Eastern Friday night. right: Winners of the women's intramural basketball league proudly display their hard-earned t-shirts.

-

#### March 2, 1999

**First home** 

Southern

by Brandi Blacklock

Crusader News Staff Writer

match against

**Oregon ends** 

badly for NNC

City Raquet Club in Nampa.

In college tennis, match play

begins with doubles that includes

three teams. Each of the three

doubles matches counts as one

point overall in the competition.

(For example, if NNC won two of

the doubles matches and lost one

match, the team score would be

2-1 after the doubles matches).

Doubles are played in an eight-

game pro set. This means the

winning team is the first one that

wins eight games by at least two

games, a tie-breaker is played to

determine the match. Six singles

matches follow the doubles. As

with doubles, each of the indi-

vidual matches count for one

team point. Singles matches are

If the teams end up at 7-7

games (i.e. 8-6).

#### **Sports**

n 2, 1999

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Sophomore Keri Barnes puts her whole body into the serve in her doubles matches on Friday. Barnes played in the 3 and 4 doubles spot.

set being the first one to six games, winning by two games) wins the match. The school with the majority of the nine possible team points wins overall. For the Crusaders, the first

doubles team was Kristen Crawford and Stacia Hinson. This duo played hard and had some great points. However, they fell short with an 1-8 score. The second doubles team included Sara Hamilton and Brandi Blacklock. They played well at first, but then let down mentally and the Raiders ran away with the 8-2 victory. After the match, Hamilton expressed, "I think we were able to compete physically with these girls, but we needed

played with regular, two out of to be tougher mentally." Keri Barnes and Beth Nixon three set scoring. This means that the first person to win two sets (a held the third doubles position

for NNC. After playing well but losing 3-8, Barnes stated, "We're getting better every match and this is just one more stepping stone in our learning experience."

> Singles matches began following the doubles. For NNC, Kristen Crawford played the #1 position. She was the team hero, bringing in the only win, after finishing off her

opponent 6-2,

Freshman Stacia Hinson played #2 singles and lost 3-6, 0-6. Betsy Smith gave a good showing in her #3 singles against SOU's #1 player from last year. She was defeated 0-6, 3-6.

Blacklock played #4 and gave a good effort in the first set despite what the set score would suggest. Blacklock went on to completely beat herself in the second set with an array of unforced errors making the final score 1-6,

Sara Hamilton played #5 singles and she put up a good fight. Due to some incredibly shady line calls among other things, she lost the match 2-6, 3-

Beth Nixon held the #6 singles spot. She kept the ball in play well, but SOU's persistence and well-placed shots ended up sealing the match 0-6, 2-6.

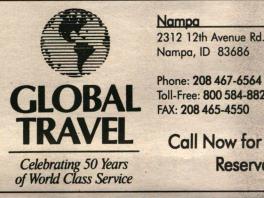
Because time allowed, Jenny Kung played an 8-game pro set for the #7 singles spot. She was defeated 6-8. Keri Barnes and Jayme Harding also made a #4 doubles appearance for the Crusaders. They ended up losing 3-

When asked what the team needs to learn from this, Coach Cook commented that, "We need to start believing we can win these matches--we can compete physically, but we don't believe enough in ourselves. We also need to continue to work hard in practice and push ourselves to get better.'

The Lady Crusaders plan on working extra hard in practice in order to prepare for upcoming matchplay. NNC's next matches will be March 19 and 20 against Whitworth, Pacific and Albertson here in Nampa.

### Time Out with Carey Cook

Carey is Shawn's best friend, so Shawn hopes. Anyone wishing to become Shawn or Carey's best friend, please go to Time Out and say hi to both of them. And get chapel credit too.



Toll-Free: 800 584-8820

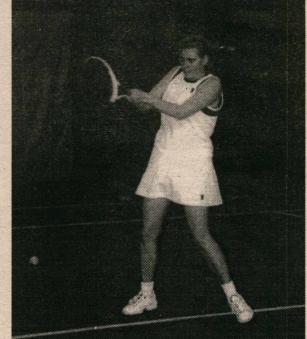
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"Three Impressions"



Works of art by Melva Allen Ramona Jones Theresa Wagers

Three Views of Visual Expression Artists Reception: Feb. 11, 7-9 pm -Show: Feb. 11 thru Mar. 12



Junior Sara Hamilton shows absolute concentration during her singles match on Friday. Hamilton ended up losing her match, 2-6, 3-6.

#### Opinions

the manufacture of the "

# Disturbing images and dark undertones plague 8mm

This review is probably the hardest review I've ever had to write. I've never sat down in front of the monitor and really had no idea what I was going to put down. That is until now. *8mm* is very easily one of the strangest films I've ever seen. I'm not going to beat around the bush. This movie is extremely graphic. The

The Crusader

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sexual content *8mm* displays pushes the NC-17 rating. I would not have been the least bit surprised if it was rated NC-17. The reason I'm having trouble writing this is because I don't want to rip this movie apart and say how it's the latest piece of trash Hollywood has produced, yet I don't want to encourage people to run to the theater and watch it either.

8mm stars Nicolas Cage as Tom Welles, a family man and surveillance specialist from Harrisburg, Penn. One day Welles received a telephone call from a rich widow named Mrs. Christian. Mrs. Christian's husband of 45 years had just died, and the old woman wanted to talk to someone about some of her husband's Apparently, belongings. Christian's husband had a safe in his study that only he had the key to. When he died, his wife had to call a locksmith in order to open the safe. What she found, horrified her. In the safe, she discovered a roll of eight millimeter film which portrayed a young girl (about 17 or 18) being brutally murdered by a man in a leather mask. Mrs. Christian wanted Welles to find out where the film came from and if in fact it was real.

Once Welles gets his orders, he kisses his family goodbye and embarks on a journey through California to see where he can find the makers of this horrid film (a.k.a. snuff porn film). In order to solve this case, Welles visits just about every adult arcade and porn shop in the state. In one such store, Welles meets his helpful sidekick Max California (played by Joaquin Phoenix), who is working behind the counter. With the brilliant mind of his newly found pornography expert Max, Welles is determined to find the killer of the girl. Max introduces Welles to the underground world of pornography.

It's during these "sexcapades" through the underground porn shops that we see the graphic images that encouraged some people in the theater to head for the exits. The people that didn't leave were in their seats groaning and squirming with discomfort. Morbid curiosity was the only thing keeping many people in the theater. It was important to give these scenes a dark and dirty feel, but Joel Schumaker (the director and producer) without a doubt went overboard on the sexual content. It became clear that some of the stuff we were looking at through clenched teeth and one eye closed was there simply to shock, not to add to the plot of the movie.

One thing I want to make clear is that *8mm* did not glorify pornography at all. As a matter of fact, it made pornography look terrible. This wasn't another chance for Hollywood to demoralize America. Any person who may have gone into the movie with the idea that smut was okay, walked out whistling a different tune. It has been compared to the film Seven, and there are many similarities. Both movies have a dark feeling to them, and both bring out the much darker side of human nature. Some people choose to leave these darker sides alone, but I find these sorts of movies interesting. This movie didn't brighten my day or make me feel warm inside, but it did make me think. I believe that's important. Not enough movies do that. It's easy to go see a mindless film. As 8mm points out, it's a little harder to watch something that makes you think. Schindler's List is a great example of this. Nobody can sit through that movie and not feel at least a little discomfort. It would be very easy to say, "This movie was sick. Don't go see it." But I'm not going to do that. What I will say is, be careful. This movie may offend you. It will probably make you wince a few times. This movie is not for everybody. But for those of you with a strong stomach, you may want to check it out.

8mm was thought-provoking.

# Message in a Bottle is an emotional tale of romance

What's a better thing to do on a night out on the town than see a warm, romantic movie filled with great acting and beautiful scenery? You've got me. If you are looking for a fresh storyline and great acting that grabs you by your emotions, *Message in a Bottle* is for you. I was greatly impressed with this movie, starring Kevin Costner and Robin Wright Penn.

This movie is a sweet, lovestory about a divorced Chicago journalist named Theresa and a ruggedly handsome, downto-earth widower named Garret who is passionate about boats and sailing. Theresa finds a message in a bottle one day and she is intrigued by the writer's devoted passion that the message is scripted with. The message was written by Garret to his dead wife and it was obviously unintended for anyone else's eyes. After Theresa's boss sneakily publishes the message in the Chicago newspaper, another



message from the same writer that has been discovered is sent to the newspaper office. The journalist's curiosity is further aroused and she becomes determined to track him down to find

out for herself what he is really like. Theresa ends up finding him and trying to become a part of his life without telling him that she knows about the messages. Soon, a special relationship develops between the two. Their lives become intertwined as the pair gets to know each other, including each others' hangups and problems with their pasts. Their compassionate relationship continues to develop but Garret's insistence to hang onto the memory of his deceased wife becomes a hindering block for the couple. A longdistance connection is maintained and they visit each other occaisionally. During one such visit, the truth of Theresa's deception is discovered when Garret finds the messages and the bottle in her things. This realization evokes explosive emotions for both Garret and Theresa as they

are confronted with new issues in their relationship. After a time of separation and loneliness, Garret comes to terms with what has happened and he is forces to make a bittersweet decision that ultimately determines the fate of their relationship.

I really enjoyed this movie because of the unique plot and beautiful screenplay. Costner and Wright Penn both outdid themselves with their believable acting and honest emotions. As I was raving about this movie to some friends, I went so far as to say that it was the best movie I had seen in a very long time. Aside from a few bad words and one romantic innuendo, the movie was very clean and it focused on the priceless companionship and support that two people can offer one another as they try to cope and grow from



what life deals them. This movie will touch the sensitive romantic in anyone, and if you are anything like the theater full of people I saw the movie with, you won't be leaving with dry eyes.

#### Staff Infection

Someone came in and actually said that they liked the staff infection...who said that?...It was Matt Sanders, but I think he was all hopped up on crack-cocaine when he said it...here's your stinkin' staff infection Angela...I don't want to hear another word about it (just kidding)...attention Kenzi Wilkes, the Crusader staff has voted and unanimously agreed that you and Shawn Shafer should go on a date...Are you warm?...No, I'm not a worm, you scumbag...I can't find my pen...Now you know how I feel about everything I own...I don't like wearing clothes...that's whyI walk around the office at night naked, but not until really late...now you know why I finish my section by 1:00 every night...I made the mistake o f staying late once....I knew I was in trouble when I heard buttons...Not tonight, I'm wearing a sweater...I'll wait for a tap on my shoulder then...good morning to all...give peace a chance..... Crusader Reviews

 Our Rating System

 ✓
 Don't miss it

 ✓
 Good stuff

 ✓
 Take it or leave it

 ✓
 Don't waste your time

 ✓
 May cause brain damage

Reviews printed in *The Crusader's* Opinions pages reflect solely the view of the reviewer and are not necessarily the views of anyone else let alone the General Church of the Nazarene or NNC.

All reviewers are PAID for their work. Contact the Opinions editor Nathan Hydes at 8490 or Shawn Shafer at 8656 if you would like to contribute to these pages.

#### h 2, 1999

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#### March 2, 1999

Entertainment

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| ShowTimes<br>In Nampa This Week   | Possum by Ryan Close  |
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| Cineplex-Odeon<br>465-4957<br>Message in a Bottle PG-13 - 340 630 915<br>Blast from the Past PG-13 - 445 730<br>915<br>8MM R - 320 700 950<br>Shakespeare in Love R - 405 645 935<br>The Other Sister PG-13 - 425 715 1000<br>October Sky PG - 500 740 1020<br>Linden 3<br>454-8687<br>Payback R - 510 730 945<br>Office Space R - 500 715 930<br>My Favorite Martian PG - 520 720 920<br>Nampa Frontier Cinemas  | "JERRY 1/S<br>SMITTEN" 15<br>INDEFINITELY<br>POSTPONED<br>-SORRY<br>THIS WEEK:<br>A<br>TYPICAL<br>GUYS'<br>CONIVERSATION<br>"SAY, LUKE, DID<br>YOU EVER HEAR<br>ABOUT THE<br>GAL THAT<br>Due to the inappropriate<br>Content of their Convensation<br>Content of their Section has been<br>Censored. The apologinger for<br>the inlerouption.<br>Children Staff |
| Mainpa Profilier Ciffernas<br>467-7469         Mighty Joe Young pg - 700         Karcher Reel Theatre<br>377-2620         Waterboy pg-13 - 210 400 550 745 935         Star Trek: Insurrection pg - 230 700         At First Sight pg-13 - 445 915         Contact these cinemas for<br>showtime information:<br>The Flicks - 342-4222         Edwards 21 - 377-1700         Loews Cineplex Theatres -<br>www.loewscineplex.com/locations/id/         The theatres listed above reserve the<br>right to change their showtimes<br>without notice. | HA HA HA HA<br>HEE HEE<br>HA HO HO<br>HA<br>ARE JIES<br>ARE HO<br>HO<br>HO<br>HO<br>HO<br>HO<br>HO<br>HO<br>HO<br>HO<br>HO<br>HO<br>HO<br>H   |

## Traveller's challenge: Mr. Nobody flying nowhere

Lately there's been a lot of talk about an Air Traveler's Bill of Rights. This idea got a big push in January when a snowstorm forced some loaded planes to sit out on the Detroit airport runway for as long as eight hours, during which several passengers were eaten by wolves. This incident provoked national criticism of the airline involved, which I will not identify here other than to call it The Diametrically Opposite Of Southeast Airlines. In its defense, the airline issued the following statement:

"We are experiencing mechanical difficulties with our statement."

I personally have had good luck with Diametrically Opposite Airlines, which - this is true recently flew me from Miami to Traverse City, Mich., via Detroit, for free. I fully intended to pay for the trip: I purchased what I thought was a ticket, and I used it to board the Miami-Detroit flight. But when I got to Detroit and tried to board the Traverse City flight, the gate agent told me my "ticket" was not a ticket. She then looked in her computer and told me, quote, "You're not in the system."

#### Dave Barry Syndicated humor columnist

"But I'm here," I pointed out. It was true. I was there.

'Well, there's no RECORD that you're here," the agent said. She called a supervisor, who checked the computer and also concluded that I was not there. I continued to argue that I WAS there, but I could tell they both believed the computer. Finally, just to get rid of me, they put me, with no ticket, on the flight to Traverse City, where there was also no record of my existence. I'm wondering if this is what happened to Amelia Earhart. All I know is, I was never charged for either leg of my trip to Traverse City, which for the record is a very nice tourist destination, featuring an annual icefishing festival, where this year the most popular attraction by far was—I swear I am not making this up-a giant toilet carved from ice.

But my basic point is that air travel has become less and less

pleasant, as more and more passengers are being crammed into planes that appear to have been configured to transport bait. This is why there is talk of an Air Traveler's Bill of Rights, which would require airlines to determine their fares on some basis other than lotto drawings, and serve food that is not made from the same material as flotation devices, and provide seats that allow for the possibility — however remote — that some passengers might have both arms AND legs.

As a frequent flyer, I am for these basic rights, and would like to see them expanded to include the following:

1. A passenger has the right to know that the pilot is alert and in good physical condition. When boarding the plane, the passenger may check the pilot's reflexes by challenging him to a game of "slaps."

2. If the in-flight movie is "The Waterboy," and this has also been the movie on the past four consecutive flights that a passenger has been on, the passenger has the right to demand that the pilot fly the plane into a mountain.

3. If a passenger is standing at

the ticket counter with some hideously complex airline problem that has caused the other airline counter personnel to be sucked over, one by one, until they are all gathered in front of the problem passenger, staring in bafflement at the computer terminal, and this has been going on for 25 minutes, then the passengers waiting in line behind the problem passenger have the right to emit a hoarse cry of rage, rush forward in a mob and stuff the problem passenger into the little box that indicates the maximum size of carry-on baggage.

4. If, during the flight, a passenger hears a funny noise and asks the flight attendant what it is, the passenger has the right to not be brushed off with some condescending statement such as 'that's a hydraulic compressor; it's perfectly normal." The flight attendant should just admit that the plane is going to crash and everybody is going to die. Likewise, during the preflight safety lecture, the passenger has the right not to have the situation sugarcoated. "In the event of a water landing," the flight attendant should say, "you are Purina Crab

Chow."

5. Passengers changing planes in the Dallas-Fort Worth airport have the right to be provided with some way to travel the average 17 miles to their connecting gates other than walking or taking a "tram" that travels at the speed of fingernail growth and at one point passes through Mexico. Also, the Miami, Atlanta and Detroit airports should be renovated with nuclear weapons. The Denver airport is nice but should be moved to the same state as Denver. The Boston airport should also be moved to the same state as Denver; that way it would be easier to get to it from downtown Boston than it is now.

So those are my views on Air Traveler's Rights. If you're a frequent flyer, and you want to share your thoughts on this topic, I'd love for you to get in touch with me. Unfortunately, there is no record of my existence.

Dave Barry is a humor columnist for the Miami Herald. Write to him c/o Tropic Magazine The Miami Herald, One Herald Plaza, Miami FL 33132.

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#### Poorly Drawn Man - by David Stillman

Entertainment

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