

Volume 61 Issue 4

Crusader



Merry
Christmas

News

Rachael Finch New Science Building on the Way

You've probably heard the rumors that a new science building is in the works. Well, the rumors are true, and the renovation is coming soon. According to Dr.

Dr. Dan Nogales, the current building was last remodeled in 1962 and has served the science department well since then; but it's time to expand. If you have spent much time in the science building, you know that classrooms are getting crowded. As field of science continues to grow, new labs are needed.

The renovation is actually twofold: it includes the remodel of the current science building as well as the addition of a thirty thousand square-foot facility. The new building will primarily be the chemistry building. It will contain new labs, classrooms, a science lecture hall, and faculty offices. This expansion will offer chemistry students the ability to work in modern labs, as well as providing the chemistry department more space. The biology department will also benefit from the renovation, as they will receive new labs and classrooms in the new facility.

Chemistry and biology students will not be the only ones to gain from the renovation though. The rapidly growing nursing department has reason to be excited as well. Currently the nursing department is in great need of more space, and the remodeled science building will be theirs for the taking. A new nursing lab will be included in what is now the biology floor. In addition, there will be more nursing classrooms. The extra space and a new lab is just what the department needs to stay up to date. For the chemistry,



biology and nursing programs, the new facility will increase the quality of education and allow for future expansion. The new facility will also appeal to prospective students in the fields of science, thus promoting the growth of the university.

Now you may be wondering. "If they are building a new science lecture hall, what will happen to the current one?" Well, have no fear; it too will go to good use. Dr. Nogales reports that it will become a little theater. It will continue to be used for Time Out, play productions, and other activities. This is good news for professors and actors alike. Having separate facilities will allow play practice and set-building to occur without disrupting classes. What a deal!

This building project is picking up steam, and quickly turning from a vision to a reality. The overall cost is an estimated eight and a half million dollars. Thanks to the generous donation of the Harold and Phyllis Thomas, \$4.5 million has already been provided for the project. According to Dr. Nogales, ground breaking for the new building is set for June, and construction will take about a year. This means that the science lecture hall will be out of commission fall semester of 2007 and spring semester of 2008. You can expect to see the science departments moving into their new building by the summer of 2008. Ready or not, here it comes!

Come on Down... to Retirement?

It was announced at the end of October that Bob Barker is retiring, come next June. But *The Price is Right* (shortened to *Price*, for all the morning-TV-savvy people out there) is going on without him. What? *Price* is still going to be on the TV. without Bob? What are people going to have on their shirts? "I love Geraldo"?!?!?

Bob Barker, to my surprise, was born in Darrington, WA (can I get a holler from my fellow Washingtonians?), a little Podunk town not far from my own home. Raised in Pennsylvania, Barker moved to a small college in Kansas. But wouldn't you know it, World War II rolled around while he was still in school. Bob up and joined the Navy as a fighter pilot. After the war, Bob worked at radio stations in Missouri, Florida, and later in Los Angeles. While working in California, game show producer Ralph Edwards heard the charismatic voice of Barker and knew he had to have him on board. Bob Barker got his first game show in 1956, hosting *Truth or Consequences* for the next 18 years.

In 1972, CBS needed a host to revive *The Price is Right*, a show that ran since the 1950's. Bob was called up and has hosted *Price* ever since, totaling 35 years. Just so you know, that's 50 years in television for an 82-year-old man.

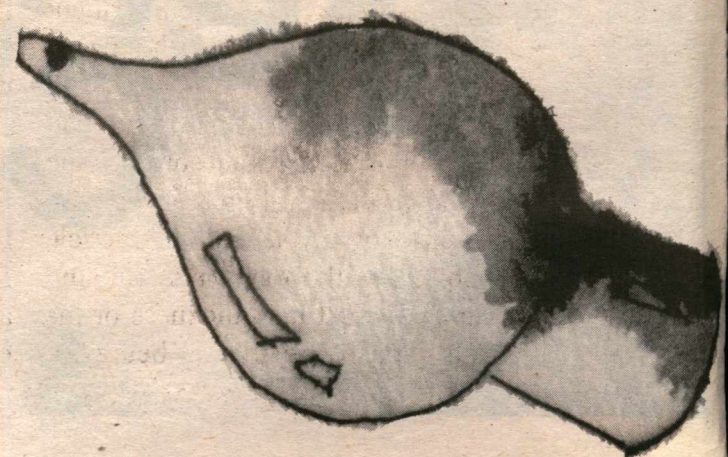
Starting in 1981, with his wife's death, Bob took over her work.

Dorothy Jo Barker was a vocal animal rights activist. He is known for ending every episode saying, "Help control the pet population. Have your pets spayed or neutered."

To this day, *Price* airs 5 days a week at 11 EST, which comes to roughly 6,500 episodes of *Price*. Barker hosted every episode but three. THREE! What a guy. Over that time, he's won 17 Emmys, an MTV movie award for best fight (*Happy Gilmore*), and has been inducted into the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame.

Bob always appealed to me, which was easy enough to explain when I was a child. The guy had a microphone, cheesy, colorful, hippie backdrops, and gave away cars. As I've grown older in the body, I can still turn on *Price* and live like a little kid. I still dance to that dumb jingle and freak out like a maniac when the contestants spin the big wheel and hit \$1. I realize I won't be able to enjoy the show when I turn 30, 50, or 70 in the same way. Maybe if they start cloning people like Bob Barker, *Price* will always be good.

Bob IS *The Price is Right*. Why else would 50-ish women, Marines on vacation, college students, and anyone in between LOVE that show? Come next June, Bob, we'll miss you.



Chris Spicer

The Other Side of Sports

Outside of all the exciting sports that take place on our campus, there is an exciting opportunity for the rest of us athletically challenged people to participate. I'm talking about intramurals. Of course, we all know about intramurals, and a lot of us participate. But what about those students who don't even want to leave their room? What sports are available for them to participate in? Well, my social-outcast friends, there is hope. It lies in Fantasy Sports!

The internet has invented a way for people to manage a fake (or fantasy) sports team, and it's kind of fun. These sports leagues are popping up everywhere: espn.com, nba/nfl/nhl.com, and yahoo.com to name a few. A few of them charge money to play, but several are free as well, such as Yahoo's. Leagues exist in many different sports, including football, basketball, hockey, baseball, auto racing, golf, and soccer. There are also several college sports leagues available.

The way Fantasy Sports works is it allows you to create a team from a pool including every eligible player in that sport. There will be a draft, and your team is made up of an assortment of players from all different teams. You could have a basketball team with LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony, and Kobe Bryant on the roster, but that would take a lot of luck. The other managers in your league are all also trying to have the best league possible, and it is very competitive. The real-life performance of each player affects how well your team does in the fantasy league.

Fantasy Sports can be a perfect introduction to a sport for beginners, or a way to keep on top of games for long-time sports fans. So whether you're new to sports or not, take a chance and check out fantasy leagues. It might turn out to be more fun than leaving your room to go to the games.

Not Knitting

Together a Fine Season...

Derek DeRooy

It was one of those rare days in southern California that chills you to the bone. He found himself wanting a hat to keep warm and approached his mother for some money to buy one. In a situation when my own mother would have found at least one twenty to give me, his mother refused. She told him to make one. Of course, she first had to teach her son to crochet.

Two years later, he's making over \$1500 a year through his craft. It takes less than an hour for him to craft a beanie and a few hours for a scarf. His girlfriend crochets as well and teaches him new stitches. Other friends sell his work at Boise State football games. Why isn't he selling them himself? He's busy scoring all the touchdowns.

The best returning tailback that Boise State had this fall was Ian Johnson. He had come to the school running the 40-yard dash in a quick 4.47, good enough to play for any school in America. The main problem with Johnson's running style as a freshman wasn't his quickness or his smarts—it was his apparent dislike of being hit.

He simply didn't break a lot of tackles, and he went down easily. So, as a sophomore, Johnson takes pride in the training he put himself through, and his off-season work has shown itself.

Johnson, in BSU's game against Oregon State, trucked for 240 yards on the ground and five touchdowns. In the following eight games, Johnson went for over a hundred on six occasions. That eighth game, against San Jose State, ended up being Johnson's last of the season. During the game, Johnson felt a slight pain in his chest. But he shrugged it off, as most players would have, finishing with almost 150 yards and a touchdown. Post-game, Johnson was found to have collapsed a lung. At the end of the week, Johnson led the nation in touchdowns.

The way Ian was playing, there was talk of a Heisman throughout Idaho. To be honest, the Heisman was a long way from being his. For one, BSU plays in the Western Athletic Conference, and thus plays a majority of teams with middle-class football programs. Secondly, BSU has

Marmots Burrow for Powder-puff Title

Derek DeRooy

It was a surprise to see Blood Bath in the championship game against the Marmots, having lost every game during the regular season. Somehow, their defense had pulled together for a win over the Pansies a week ago. It remained to be seen who would have the edge: a no longer winless Blood Bath, hot off an overtime win, or the Marmots, who rested for an extra week of preparation.

The first three quarters of the game played fairly evenly. Though the entirety of the game was thrilling, all the tension ended in defensive stops. Erika Rempel and Jael Henthorn made several individual plays each, keeping the ground-based Marmots in check. Blood Bath could not capitalize on their opportunities, with a blend of passes and runs being overrun by a swarming Marmot defense. Neither team got any offensive rhythm,

trading 3-and-outs for most of the game.

Jana Gray finally found her hole on a punt return, streaking down the left sideline to make the game 6-0, Marmots. Somewhat demoralized, Blood Bath could not respond with any offensive momentum, giving the ball away on downs. Jana Gray yet again showed her speed, running for her second score of the day. With no successful PAT, the game sat at 13-0, Marmots.

With little time to play and the game almost surely in the bag, Blood Bath took off down the field for their final possession. Led by Courtney Little, Blood Bath found themselves deep in Marmot territory for one last play. Aimee Niles heave-hoed to Jael Henthorn, ending the game 13-6.

Ian Johnson Crochets

played two games against BCS teams over the past two seasons: two wins against Oregon State, which is not a great football school.

Still, Johnson had to prove himself to the team in many ways. Many of his teammates call him "Dog Food," referencing his freshman hazing. Others persecuted him and his desire to crochet. But even the teammates are changing their minds as Johnson is working on a set of customized beanies for his offensive line.

Next season, Johnson should be great. Not only will he be the centerpiece for the Bronco's offense, but the cold weather in Boise should keep his business booming.

Anthony Haskett Giving for the Love of God

Around Christmas time most people will see many different advertisements about the newest, coolest gadgets that marketers try to entice them to buy. Many times, these commercial exercises make people feel inadequate about what they already own. Along with these ads, vendors try to push upon the consumers the "giving" spirit. Some stores are as ridiculous as to promote buying this product for your aunt's second cousin, twice removed. Although giving is a wonderful action, the intentions behind the act are what are important.

The Christian tradition of Christmas dates back to the celebration of Jesus being born. God gave his Son, who carried the gift of salvation, to the world. Such a spectacular event needs commemoration, and this occasion has been passed on in the Christian tradition for millennia. Christians around the world have given gifts to others because of the ultimate gift God gave humanity.

The giving sensation does not stop with the Christmas season for Christians, however, as Christians are supposed to give to the needy all year. James writes that pure and faultless religion is "to look after orphans and widows in their distress" (NIV) who, back in James' day, were the needy. This means giving of one's time, energy, and monetary possessions. Christians are to give them love.

God wants Christians to look for those who are less fortunate. Professor Earwicker spoke of this in chapel on Nov. 15. An example of this giving in his own life was when he gave Turtle Ray a new backpack because the one Turtle Ray had was in shambles. Turtle Ray, however, gave it to someone else whose backpack was in worse shape. God cares for everyone, and Christians need to exemplify this as well. Christians need to work for social justice and give to society.

God has called Christians to meet the needs of those who live around us. If one looks to the early church, they gave up all of their possessions and lived in a communal setting. No one was above the other, and if someone needed anything, the church provided it for them. The same is true today in many churches as they look around for those in need and give. The Salvation Army is especially good in this respect as they have various programs to help those who struggle with addiction, who are homeless, and who live

in poverty. They reach out all year round and give of themselves and their resources.

Overall, God wants us to give everything we have to him. When we do this, we receive much more in return. Others around us also receive the benefits of God's gifts as He molds us into the likeness of His child, Jesus. Jesus, who gave the world salvation through the sacrifice of Himself, will lead us through our lives, allowing us to give of ourselves to those around us. He will continue to replenish our souls and reward us in not only this life, but the life to come.

Giving For Community

Tannis Wasson

We all give for different reasons. Some of us give because we feel compelled by God, and some of us give because we just love the community in which we live so much that we would do anything to make it better. This is the side on which I stand: I love my community, I love Meridian, and I love Ada County. I also love Zack, my little, and it is because of this love that I give. This is our story.

I met Zack three years ago on a blustery February afternoon at his daycare and immediately knew I was in love. As I walked up to his daycare, I knew I was getting a little boy. I also knew that I had really wanted a little girl. I peeked through the window and saw a little boy waiting near the door, and I saw the hope in his eyes. I walked in and he paid me no attention because he did not realize that I was there for him. I approached and standing before me was a scraggly, 10 year-old boy with glasses and a sweatshirt three sizes too big. It had a teddy bear on the front and paint and dirt stains everywhere. He did not look happy because it he realized Tannis is a girl's name, and he had been paired with one. Suddenly the little boy that had looked so hopeful took on an air of disappointment and muttered under his breath, "Hi, I'm Zack." That did not matter to me; in fact, I think it was at that moment that my heart decided no matter what, I was going to dedicate 2 hours a week and watch this tiny ten year old grow into the amazing man that I know he will become. From that moment on, we have spent weeks building model cars and airplanes, hours playing war with plastic green army men. All the while we were having special moments where his heart learned to trust mine. Finally, this little boy trusted me, but I was on the brink of graduation. All I could think was there is something bigger

than myself going on here, and there was no way that I way that was going to walk away.

This is the beginning of the second chapter of my time with Zack. At the very end of my senior year, we rolled over into what is referred to as a community match. The match allows me to see Zack every other weekend and whenever else I have time to see him outside of the daycare. Now we can do things like go swimming at the YMCA or go to my house and play Mario Kart for hours on end while snacking on pizza. The times we share now are just for us. There is little noise and he is not competing with countless other children for my attention. I can express how much I care about him, and this little boy has become surprisingly affectionate himself. I find the more I see him, the more my heart longs to ensure that I give him everything he needs to grow into an amazing member of my community. My hope is that he will someday have his own charge that he will watch grow and change, learning not only to trust but to love.

As you can see, regardless of my love for God, it was not my motivation and is still not; I do not think I need to earn brownie points to get into heaven. God will love me if I give to my community, and God will love me if I do not. It is not about giving for God, it is about accepting Him. Zack does not go to church. He has never even been in a church, and I do not ever plan to take him. Our time is not about that. I do not spend time with him because I think that is what God wants, and I do not spend time with him to save his soul. I spend time with him because that is what I want because I give to my community for my community.

Construction in Nampa Reaches a New Level of Crazy

Tyler Law

Anyone who has been in the Nampa area for the last two years has had to deal with one constant: construction. It has been a thorn in the side of the Treasure Valley since before anyone can remember. Then, all of a sudden, the endless construction on Garrity seemed to be done and a mighty cheer went up from the people. Even the construction of the new Karcher exit is proceeding smoothly, as smooth as pavement under a steamroller. Unfortunately, all is still not well. There is still a major construction problem in the Nampa area, and the following story will attest to that.

Our task was simple enough. My roommate and I, who enjoy making points and then countering them, had set off on a journey to Columbia High School. It's Nampa's newest high school, located on Happy Valley Road. The trip there took us a grand total of 5 minutes. After accomplishing our necessary tasks, we set off looking forward to getting back to NNU.

To avoid the 99 cars that had been backed up at the intersection of Greenhurst and Happy Valley, we turned onto Amity and ran into a problem—Construction: Road Closed. No matter, we could just turn down Railroad and be back in no time. However, there was another problem—Construction: Road Closed. Fortunately, we were not out of ideas, having grown up with these frustrating situations. Powerline was our last option. We sped down the road, like the Dukes of Hazzard (only not so Southern), looking forward to our freedom from this trap. But what did we find there? You guessed it—Construction: Road Closed. Not only was the road closed, a CAT blocked any outlet.

It seemed as if we were caught in some sort of Bermuda Triangle, right in the middle of Nampa. There was no way out! The entire landscape seemed to have changed. All around us, people with puzzled looks on their faces jumped out of their cars. We were all trapped. Our innocent little fifteen minute jaunt was going to last much longer than we first expected.

We went through subdivisions, parking lots, and public parks trying to find our way out. It was all to no avail. And then the rabid monkeys attacked! Okay, fine; there weren't really rabid monkeys. It was rabid dogs! Well, I guess I'm taking a little bit of artistic license with my story, but I did see a poodle.

Half an hour went by. Fifteen more minutes went by. My friend's eyes and mine had turned red. Our clothes were completely disheveled. Stubble had grown on our faces. There was absolutely no way out. To make things worse, NNU was right there, just out of our grasp!

Finally, we decided to head back to Happy Valley (which I don't find so happy anymore) and get to Greenhurst, taking our chance with the traffic. Nothing stopped us. The road was clear! We were saved! We had escaped the grasp of the Bermuda Triangle of Nampa. So, we arrived back at NNU, haggard and worn out. Our clothes were smelly. It was a great thing we were roommates because nobody else would want to have anything to do with us. Now, please heed my warning: stay away from this mysterious black hole, this alternate universe, this... well, area of Nampa with heavy construction. If you go, you might not make it back.



Thank You

Thank you to all of the students who provided gifts for the Nursing Home Gift Drive. These gifts went to Trinity Health and Rehab of Holly and the Nampa Care Center. Because of your hard work and dedication to the local community every elderly person on the list will receive a gift this year.

Merry Christmas

From:

Stephanie Rooks and Tannis Wasson
Community Relations Coordinator and
Crusader Editor

Tannis Wasson

Top Ten Christmas Carols

10. What Child Is This?
(Greensleeves)
9. Silent Night
8. Away in a Manger
7. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
6. The Little Drummer Boy
5. Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer
4. Jingle Bells
3. The First Noel
2. Adeste Fidelis
(O Come All Ye Faithful)
1. Carol of the Bells

Rachael Finch Christmas Tree

Christmas is all around us. In every home candy canes hang on the trees, and Santa and his reindeer are on every station. But have you ever stopped to consider where our Christmas icons come from?

Many of our symbols actually originate from the traditions of other cultures. The Christmas tree is one of these. The use of trees in celebration or worship is not unique to Christianity. In Germany, pagans worshiped oak trees, while the Egyptians worshiped evergreens. The Druids and the Romans used evergreens in their winter solstice rituals and celebrations (a.k.a. the Christmas-tree). No one can say for sure who started the Christmas tree tradition, though there are many legends trying to explain it. One such legend states that St. Boniface used a tree to minister to the pagans, and it became known as a Christian symbol. Other legends cite Martin Luther as the first person to decorate

Best Christmas Presents

10. A puppy
9. Board Games
8. Concert Tickets To Cher
7. Coffee Gift Certificate
6. A Nintendo Wii
5. A Recording Contract
4. A Red Rider BB Gun
3. Signed Copy of the
2. Good Will Towards Men
1. A Day with Jose Consecro



Candy Canes and Santa Claus

tree (christmasarchives). Neither of these legends can be confirmed, but what we can deduce is this: the tradition of the Christmas tree was probably borrowed and adapted from pagan cultures.

What about the candy cane? Where did it come from? If you have grown up in the church, you have probably heard the story of the candy maker who first bent his candy stick to look like a shepherd's staff. Other stories claim it was a choir director who handed out the first candy canes as we know them. Such stories emphasize the religious symbolism the candy cane offers. The shepherd's staff represents Jesus as the shepherd who watches over his children, while the red stripes represent the trinity or the blood of Christ (noel). Again, these are legends. Critics of such legends claim that they are an attempt to fuse Christian beliefs into history places it did not exist (snopes). Regardless of the original purpose of the candy cane, though, we can continue to use it as a symbol to reach the love of Christ.

Probably the biggest Christmas icon is Santa Claus. What about that jolly bearded fellow? Most of us have heard that he was derived from Saint Nicholas the gift-bringer. This is true, in part. Santa was actually derived from a mixture of characters. His Saint Nicholas influences come from the fictional writings of Washington Irving and Clement Clark Moore. Irving wrote to satirize the figure, and Moore wrote the ever popular poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas." German icons of the same time included a Christ-like figure, which became known as Kris Kringle, accompanied by dwarf helpers, as well as a gift-bringer named Belsnickle, who wore furry costumes. These icons were mixed with one another and became the Santa Claus we know and love today (snopes). Santa Claus is another example of European/American icons that have borrowed from the iconography of other cultures.

These are only a few of our Christmas icons, and each one has roots in other cultures or religions. While we may never be able to locate a finite origin for all of our

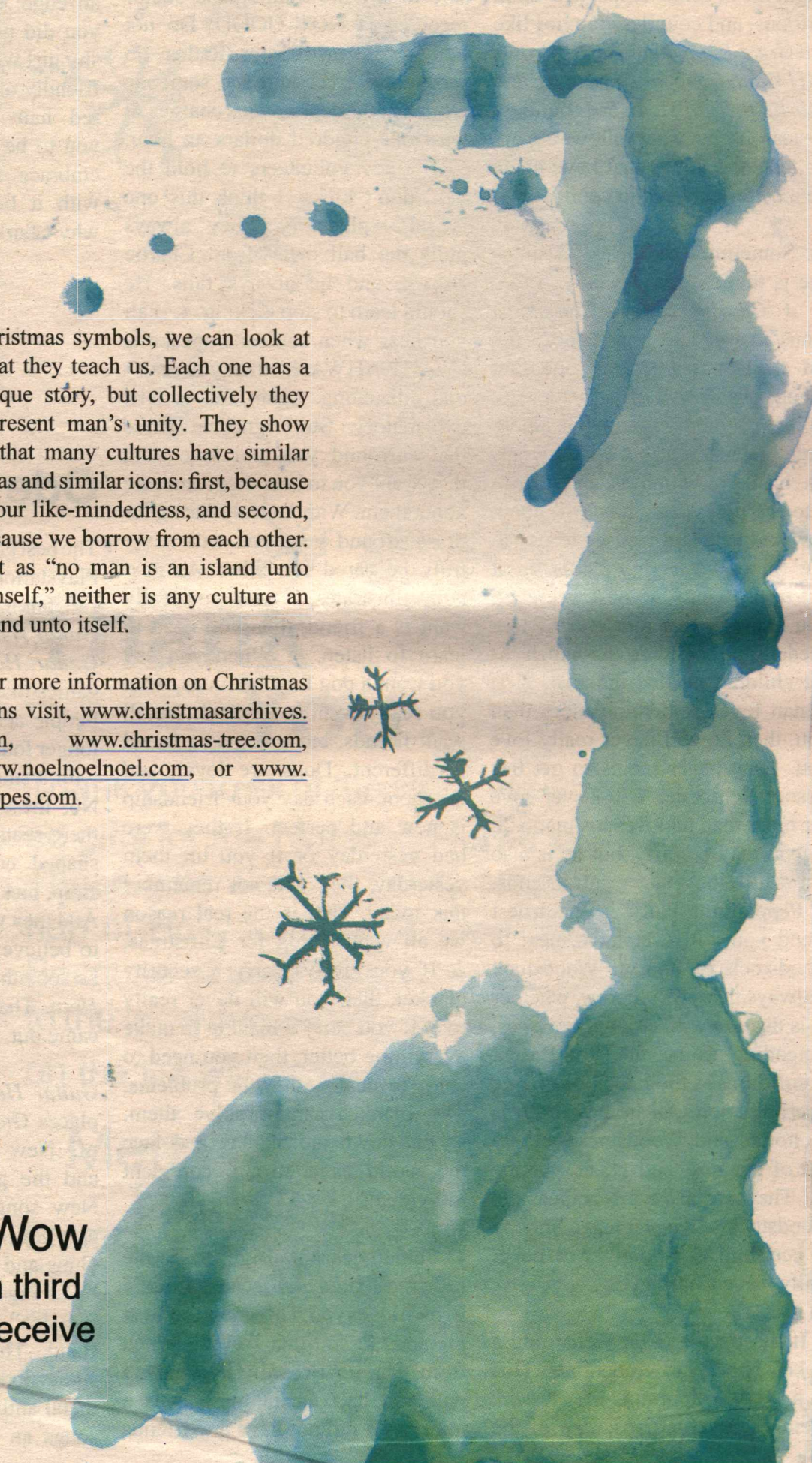
Christmas symbols, we can look at what they teach us. Each one has a unique story, but collectively they represent man's unity. They show us that many cultures have similar ideas and similar icons: first, because of our like-mindedness, and second, because we borrow from each other. Just as "no man is an island unto himself," neither is any culture an island unto itself.

For more information on Christmas icons visit, www.christmasarchives.com, www.christmas-tree.com, www.noelnoelnoel.com, or www.snopes.com.

Worst Christmas Presents

10. Coal
9. A Swift Kick to the Face
8. Underwear
7. Weight Watchers Milkshakes
6. Responsibility
5. "Gigli" DVD
4. Tickle Me Smellmo
3. Free Trip to Arkansas
2. A Day With Lil Bow Wow
1. C'mon you scrooges, there's people in third world countries that would love to even receive a "bad" present

Bible



Feature 8

Tannis Wasson Top Things I Learned From Charlie Brown

For generations Charlie Brown has taught children life lessons. What follows is what Charlie Brown taught me in comic strips, television cartoons, and countless movies like *The Great Pumpkin*, *Charlie Brown and I Want a Dog for Christmas*, and *Charlie Brown*. There are countless life lessons, but what follows are my top ten: the things that have made me a better person and confident.

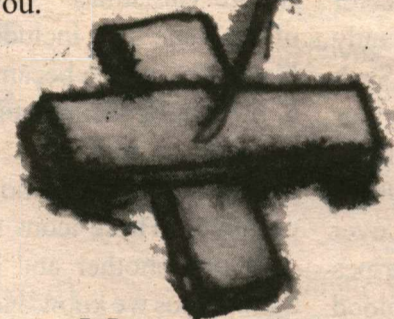
10. Sometimes the best Christmas tree is the one that needs you too. In *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, Linus insists that they choose the sad Christmas tree, the one that nobody wants. All of its nettles are falling off and it only has about three braches left, but Linus wraps his blankie around it and brings it to the play. Lucy has a fit about how sad it is and refuses to use it. But Snoopy gets his hands on it and turns it into the best tree ever. You know in that moment the tree needed the children as much as the children needed the tree. 9. If a man loves something more than you, then he will never really love you. Lucy never seems to get this lesson: Schroeder will never love her more than he loves his piano. 8. Pigpen may be dirty, but he is also just a little boy that wants friends. 7. Peppermint Patty is the truest friend you will ever have, next to Woodstock of course. Woodstock is always there for Snoopy, whether he is dealing with emotional issues, pretending to be the Red-Baron, or suffering at the hands of doggie discrimination. All he has to do is go home, and Woodstock will fly out of his nest and cheer Snoopy up. They are always together, and Woodstock will never leave Snoopy as certainly as Snoopy will never really leave Charlie Brown.

6. If the doctor is only charging a nickel, check her credentials. This is a very important life lesson. Seeing a psychiatrist is one of the

best things one can do for mental health; however, if that doctor does not charge very much, then it is safe to say the training the doctor received is NOT GOOD. Do not bother with this doctor. Rather, do yourself a favor and see someone with a good degree who charges at least one-hundred dollars an hour. 5. If Lucy volunteers to hold the ball, don't kick. I think this one is self-explanatory. Lucy always pulls the ball away from Charlie Brown, and he always falls. He should learn to stop kicking. 4. If all you hear when someone speaks is "WAHWAHWAH," then you aren't really listening. Again, this is self-explanatory. Stop ignoring those that surround you and love you; they want you to hear them and care about them. Without truly caring for those around you, you will never truly be cared for either. As next point illustrates, if what you really want is a friend, then you need to learn to listen. 3. When you say you want a dog for Christmas, what you really want is a friend. We all want friends, but a dog as a friend is different. Dogs are loyal, and for them, each day your friendship is new and perfect. If they were bad yesterday or if you hit them yesterday, they will not remember that today. That is the real reason we all want a dog for Christmas. 2. If you always carry a security blanket, then you will never really live. If you carry a blankie to make everything better, then you need to learn to deal with your problems. The blanket cannot solve them, so put down the blanket and face the world as a strong, confident individual.

1. Sometimes it's alright to be the little red-haired girl because Charlie Brown loves you. This one is the most precious lesson that I ever learned from Charlie Brown. Growing up with red hair meant that I was a minority. I did not have any friends

that were not blondes or brunettes. I was different, but different can be good too. Sometimes it gives you an edge: it can let you live a life you did not know was possible. A shy girl with red hair can become a friendly and outgoing woman with red hair. Being different allows you to be who you want to be, so embrace that difference and run with it because the difference is why Charlie Brown loves you.



Ode to Guitar Hero

Chris Spicer

The best game to EVER come out for Playstation 2 just released a sequel. I'm talking about none other than *Guitar Hero*. The release of the first *Guitar Hero* revolutionized video games like no other game before it. People across the country were no longer lounging around in lazy boys with a small remote in their hands. No, these people were up out of there seats, rocking out on a guitar shaped controller, complete with strap, pick guard, and whammy bar. And they were having fun! It is hard to believe that there could actually be something more fun than *Guitar Hero*. That is until *Guitar Hero II* came out.

Guitar Hero II takes the game to places *Guitar Hero* never dreamed of. New features are extensive, and the game is as fun as ever. New songs include classics such as "Sweet Child of Mine" by Guns and Roses, "YYZ" by Rush, "War Pigs" by Black Sabbath, and "Jessica" by The Allman Brothers Band. These are mixed in with some modern songs and some heavy metal anthems to make the total 50 songs an experience to rock your

way through. Everything has been updated: there are more guitars, more characters, more songs, and more options to choose from. The best new feature, though, is the new multiplayer mode. No longer will you just be playing against each other in a two player mode: now you can play together. The new cooperative mode allows one player to play lead guitar and another to play rhythm or bass at the same time. You can both feel like you are a part of something special when you're back to back rocking out to "Monkey Wrench" by the Foo Fighters. It really doesn't get much better than this.

Yes, *Guitar Hero II* is sweet. No, you can't afford it. The game and the controller together cost about \$80, making this video game quite an investment. However, if you are willing to invest, the return will be tenfold. The fun that you have with your friends and the lifelong relationships you can cultivate while playing this game are priceless. Also, if you're still not willing to invest, you can play it for free at Wal-Mart or Best Buy.

Andrea Hall Artist Stacks Up At The BAM

The Boise Art Museum has been invaded by blankets! Well, not really, but there is an abundance of fabric at the BAM nowadays thanks to the recent featured artist, Marie Watt. Hailing from Portland, Oregon, Watt is an artist whose passion lies in textiles.

Watt comes from a Native American family, and it shows through her art. She uses blankets as heirloom objects to tell stories. These blankets reflect the oral traditions of the Native Americans who are famous for weaving beautiful blankets. In native communities, Watt states, "It is as much a privilege to give a blanket away as it is to receive one. As friends come over and witness blankets, I am struck by how they function as markers for memories and stories" (PDX Contemporary Art). The artist has put a lot of work into her textile pieces, often with friends, family or community members helping sew and process the blankets. These sewing bees give Watt memories, stories, and personal "signatures" (stitches) of these people as they become a part of her story and her art.

The atrium of the BAM contains Watt's current body of work entitled, "Blanket Stories," and the sight of blankets stacked high up to the ceiling is a touching one. In those stacks of blankets, folded neatly and tagged, are the stories of hundreds of families. Each stack can be seen as a sort of totem to those stories, much in the same way American Indian totem poles were narrative in nature. Interspersed within the piles of blankets are tapestry pieces and sculptures of different mediums. The bronze and cedar sculptures tie in with the textile pieces and tell stories. Much like a mother bronzing her baby's first shoes, Watt bronzes blankets, turning them into precious "high" art.

Blankets become paintings and valuable objects in "Blanket Stories." Watt's show can be seen in the Boise Art Museum until January 21, 2007. It would be a worthwhile trip to make.

Quotes from the artist's press release for a 2004 show in Oregon: http://www.pdxcontemporaryart.com/main/news/pr_watt_oct04.html

Not Just For Literature Class: The Plague Catches On Andrea Hall

"An oldie but a goodie" is a phrase that one could use to describe Albert Camus's 1948 novel, *The Plague*. The book is a realistic and believable account of a modern day incidence of bubonic plague, the disease that ravaged most of Europe in the Dark Ages. The foreign literature class on campus just finished reading it, and I recommend that everyone else read it too.

The Plague comes to life through the narrative of an unknown observer in the coastal African town of Oran. The identity of this narrator, a resident of Oran, remains a mystery until the final pages. At times this literary element is somewhat confusing as the narrative jumps

around from place to place, person to person, and even back and forth in time. But it also adds a large degree of realism to the story in its resemblance to a train of thought. No resident of the plagued town would be able to think more logically, and the style of writing Camus used shows he thought the same. Logic is interrupted by the plague, along with the lives of Oran's inhabitants.

Our unknown narrator goes through the town, observing its citizens and the various ways in which they deal with the plague's invasion. The disease itself becomes a character in Camus' narrative, a dominating

(Continued on page 10)

9 A&E Tyler Law The Death of the Arcade

I have seen many things come and go in my lifetime. Anybody remember POGs, those little pieces of cardboard that you'd try to knock down? I sure don't. Virtual pets, Pokemon, and boy bands were all incredibly popular, and then they disappeared. It is easy for icons of pop culture to die. One loss, however, disturbs me more than the rest. The classic arcade is gone; it is no more. With it, we are not just merely losing a geeky hang out or a place to leave the kids: we are losing a part of ourselves.

I remember my old days in the arcade fondly. I would walk in and pass many of my old favorites: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Street Fight II, Aerofighters, Sunset Riders, Tekken, House of the Dead, and the list goes on. With anxious hands, I would put my five dollar bill in the change machine. After doing that two or three more times, it would finally accept my money. Then I would walk off, with change jingling in my pocket, onto the arcade floor. The smell of sweat would meet my nostrils and I would bump into other players, sweaty from hours of intense gaming. Now that I think of it, they were always very sweaty places. Finally, I would find the perfect game, and I would spend my time in a state of euphoria that only video games can bring.

force in the town, altering people's reality and behaviors. Keeping up with all the deaths is difficult. The graveyard soon fills up, and bodies are eventually flung into burial pits and fires. Families are torn apart by quarantine and by the plague. The survivors become "allergic" to any hope of returning to normal. As the town locks down and settles into apathy and darkness, the main character, Dr. Bernard Rieux, makes unexpected friendships and finds strength as the oddballs of town unite. The old writer Grand, the suspicious Cottard, and the

Arcades used to be all over the place. Then they changed their forms drastically. They became full of large machines, containing only racing games and similar types. Most of all, they replaced good, old quarters (or even those cool tokens) with pseudo-debit cards that you could fill up with money, spend on a machine, and then fill up again. Sacrilege! Pure sacrilege!

Everything I need to know about life I learned from video games. I learned perseverance: "Just fifty more cents and I can beat this punk!" I learned how to look for weaknesses: "Huh... I have to jump on his head!" Most of all, I learned a great sense of self satisfaction and pride. Seeing my name as the top score on Aerofighters always brought tears to my eyes.

So, a great part of our culture is no longer with us. I for one miss those carefree days of staring at a screen. Sure, I can do that at home too, but it's not the same without the other people, who are just as obsessed and bleary-eyed as me. I can't believe that I will not be able to take my son there and have him be raised up with the same righteous morals I was. Of course, I guess one good thing came out of all this. Now I have a lot more money.

observant Tarrou all find their way into each other's lives and learn to lean on each other to keep their sanity. Each of their stories reflects Camus's message: no one should be seen at their surface value. His narrative changes with his characters: constantly shifting, unfolding, and adapting.

I enjoyed the contrasts that Camus used: love and loss, death and renewal, diminishing and growth. These make the story completely human and profoundly relevant. As I read, I felt Dr. Rieux's pain

Why Guys and Girls are Different

Chris Spicer

Despite all of the obvious physical dissimilarities, guys and girls are actually quite different. To explain all of the differences would take more room than this newspaper has to offer; therefore, I will focus on one for this issue: "the scream."

"The scream" can be utilized by women and women only. It has been heard in very many different situations. The most confusing is when "the scream" occurs when two females are reunited after a lengthy separation. Several good places for witnessing such a "scream" are airports, weddings, and college campuses after summer break.

The average scream can be very frightening to witnesses. The sound is comparable to extreme feedback combined with the sounds of a running vacuum and 12 blenders crushing ice. The facial expression is the combination of a crying newborn and an angry baboon. Of course, every "scream" is followed by "the run." "The scream" would be useless if it wasn't for the running of the bulls, or cows in this case, that takes place immediately after. Try not to get in the way, for these people will stop at nothing to be able to embrace their long, lost friend. By this point, everything that was in their hands—luggage,

coffee, children—will have been dropped to the ground. These women will let nothing get in the way of "the scream". This whole ordeal is usually very drawn out and inappropriate for the circumstances. Most women would allow "the scream" to happen at a piano recital if the opportunity arose.

Men have a quite different approach to this same situation. The two men may see each other, smile, and approach one another, usually continuing to hold their coffee and luggage. The right hand must be free, however, as it is necessary to complete the "shake-hug." The shake hug is simple; it is a hand shake that turns into a hug. The two right hands will connect, momentum will continue forward, and then they will hug. This must last no longer than 5 seconds because that is the appropriate window before things turn awkward. This activity is meant to be quiet and respectful; in fact, if the noise level raises, the man must reassess his ability to "shake-hug".

I'm not going to say which method is better because I am biased as a male, but I could see how "the scream" might be fun for women at a karaoke bar or rodeo. Until I better understand "the scream," however, I will stick to what I know.

Would You Rather? Tannis Wasson

Would you rather marry someone you love and then meet your soul mate or marry someone you love but never meet your soul mate?

Some people think that there is only one person in this life for every person. I am not of that persuasion. There are many people each of us could have married and have been just as happy with as our current or future spouse. That is why if I was given the choice I would choose to marry someone that I loved and never meet my soul mate. What is a soul mate anyway? Someone who I really connect with or gets my cheesy jokes and laughs? Or is it someone who will love me no matter what I do? I can get all of those things from someone I love, and I will never know anything different.

If I really loved the person I had married, then a soul mate is unnecessary. I would never want to meet that soul mate if he were not who I

had married because I would never want to be disappointed with my mate, the love of my life. I would hope that my spouse went into the marriage loving everything about me, just like I would hope to love everything about that person. He would fulfill me in the areas where I was lacking, and I would do the same for him. We would strengthen our relationship with God together and make a life, not to mention babies. This sounds good to me. What more would a soul mate offer me? They would not laugh any harder at my cheesy jokes, love me more, or connect with me better.

Marriage is something that both parties have to work at. My mother has informed me that I may not always be in love with my husband. We may fall in and out of love, but that I will always love him. This could happen with a soul mate too; however, if I met my soul mate in the midst of my marriage, then I would regret that marriage.



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and compassion for his patients, the frustration he felt as a doctor, and hopelessness he observed all around him. Camus described the human struggle to overcome hardship eloquently and accurately. In the end, reconstruction is hard to achieve after the destruction the plague brought. Are the people of Oran the same as ever, or has the plague changed them forever? That is up to the reader to decide, and I certainly won't tell you. Camus wrought a great literary work in The Plague, and I think it makes a great read, especially if you aren't doing it for a class.

I might stop fighting for it, and I never want to do that. I would not want to long for divorce as a means to be with someone else. If I did not know my current spouse was not my soul mate, I would not be unhappy. In fact, I would probably want to think he was my soul mate.

Love is strong. I believe that it is so strong that when faced with this, I would choose death before I would choose to find out I failed to marry my soul mate. I think all people long to find love, maybe even their soul mate, but I cannot long for something I cannot define. To me a soul mate is nonsensical. There does not seem to be anything different about a soul mate than a truly loving spouse. So in conclusion, I would rather marry someone I love and never meet my soul mate.

State of the Campus

What is the state of the campus as we wind our way towards the end?
Kenton Lee

The first semester is almost gone and Christmas is right around the corner. So, as we quickly approach the last days of this fall term, let us take a look at the current state of the campus of our beloved Northwest Nazarene University.

Every student knows that there is one word that comes to mind when discussing the end of the semester: finals. This issue of the paper should come out in December, and that means that finals is probably next week. So I am guessing that because of finals the current state of our campus is one of intense study and meditative devotion to classwork, right? Wrong.

While there will be a good amount of studying going on for finals, that is not the only thing that will be or *should* be happening. For – even though it is the finals for class – there are many other things that are experiencing finals, as well. And these things should be the current state of our campus.

Finals are happening all around us. The Dex is having its finals for first semester. Student Government is having their finals. Wing teams are having their first semester finals. Essentially all of campus is experiencing their first semester finals. And it is also finals for the lighter side of life, too.

This is the finals for hanging out with friends. It is the finals for watching movies in the dorm. It is finals for getting coffee and going to Shari's late at nite. It's finals for running around campus late at nite and for watching 'just one more' episode of that tv show on DVD.

And while professors, parents, and common sense tell us that these "other" finals are not as important as the real ones – I stand to disagree. What are the things that we will remember when we are older? Will it be that one time when we got a 83 on the test instead of a 79? Or will it be that one time when we skipped studying to drive to Merritts' and had those crazy-huge scones? I believe it would be the latter.

This is not to say that academic finals are not important; indeed, they remain the cog of the wheel. Yet the non-academic finals are the spokes that give the wheel its shape. These non-academic finals should not be pushed aside, but they – just as their academic counterparts – should be cumulative, too. They should be the accumulation of all of the fun and good times that we have been having all semester long – rolled into a few days. This is the current state of our campus: we are in the last week of the semester to do all of the things that we love one *final* time. I hope that you ace this test.



11 Campus Life

Christianity & Culture Conference

January 26-27 @ 6:00 P.M.

Karcher Church of the Nazarene in Nampa
\$15 per Person early registration

1 Peter 1:13 tells you "to prepare your mind for action" the Christianity & Culture Conference will help prepare you to engage and challenge the culture you live in. Better thinking, deeper walking, stronger leadership. Be there!

Guest Speakers: Bill Jack and Jeff Baldwin

Jeff Baldwin wrote the book
"The Deadliest Monster"

Call for details: 467-3777 or 467-7479

On the Road Again... MEAC

Jennifer Clowers
and Aubrie Scott

On November the 19th, several members of the Middle Eastern Affairs Club (MEAC) traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah to take part in an AIPAC luncheon highlighting student leadership in politics. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) is an organization dedicated to strengthening the American-Israeli relationship. AIPAC operates by empowering members of the national community to get involved in the political process. Major constituents of this community are students. MEAC was privileged to attend this luncheon and was honored as some of these student leaders.

At the luncheon Senators from Utah, AIPAC representatives from Washington D.C., and members of the community spoke regarding

the importance of and their reasons for supporting the American-Israeli relations. These speakers repeatedly acknowledged the importance of this relationship in furthering peace and democracy in the Middle East. How do American people contribute to this relationship? Communicating with legislators about your personal interests and opinions regarding foreign policy is one way to contribute.

If you want a chance to participate in political process in this fashion, the Middle Eastern Affairs Club frequently organizes trips to Senator Craig's office to discuss our concerns and desires for the Middle East and upcoming policy. If you would like to participate or just observe, please email Jennifer Clowers at jmclowers@nnu.edu.

Anthony and Ty's Point/Counterpoint

A forum dedicated to exploring both sides of an issue that concerns the common NNU student.

Topic: Turkey vs. Ham for holiday meals

Anthony: You know, Ty, turkey is the best food on Christmas day. I just love the way the cranberry sauce and the turkey blend together to make a succulent meal.

Ty: Whoa, you're way off, buddy. Ham is the king of meats for Christmas. Besides, the reason you need that cranberry sauce is because your turkey is lacking so much in taste.

Anthony: Well, my piggish friend, ham is so salty that most people either put a honey glaze, pineapple, or both on their ham to sweeten it up. Turkey never has superfluous salt.

Ty: You see, my fowl friend, ham has its built-in, salty flavor. Plus it helps people to receive the required daily amounts of sodium. Plus, you just have to take the time to add salt to your turkey. That takes precious time away from eating.

Anthony: A great comment from one who eats like swine. I won't be giving you any pearls for Christmas. But anyway, turkey has less fat, especially in the wonderful white meat. I can eat more turkey than ham and still eat fewer calories, thus avoiding those holiday pounds.

Ty: I see you've turned to mud-slinging, but I won't stoop to your level. I just hope nobody catches that bird flu from you. Remember, now, we're in the winter months. Those extra pounds and calories help to keep us warm, keeping us alive and kicking throughout the winter. You don't want people dying of cold now, do you?

Anthony: Of course not. I don't want them dying of obesity either. Do you realize that 64% of Americans are overweight? They will die of heart disease long before cold. Also, did you

realize that Ben Franklin, one of the greatest minds in American history, wanted the Wild Turkey to be the national bird?

Ty: You sure love your little pieces of trivia. I'm just saying that I want people to eat what they want to eat, in true epicurean style. They shouldn't feel obligated to eat something inferior. They can always go out and play a nice game of tennis or something afterwards. And I'm beginning to doubt Ben Franklin's intelligence. He would have made our country a laughingstock on the national stage. By the way, did you know that George Washington wanted ham to be declared the national meat?

Anthony: Where is your source on that one? Wikipedia? Speaking of inferiority, God declared ham to be unfit for his chosen people to eat. He didn't say anything about turkey. I think that means the unlawful ham is far inferior to the delightful turkey.

Ty: Weren't most of those laws designed to keep the Israelites healthy? They did not have the means to properly prepare everything to get rid of the bacteria. In our current age of technological wonder and gourmet delicacies, we can make sure that what we eat is prepared properly. Remember, in Acts 10: 9-23, Peter has a vision where the Lord tells him to eat all the animals on a large sheet, both clean and unclean ones. The Lord says "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." There is no longer any distinction making things clean and unclean.

Anthony: Hmm...Maybe we should both learn a lesson from this passage. Maybe our debating about which meat is better is actually worthless. In the large scheme of life, maybe God wants us to eat meat and be merry. Whether it be ham or turkey, I don't think he cares. How about we compromise and follow the example of the Turducken, making one meat dish to rule them all—the Turkham?

Ty: Sounds, uh, kind of crazy, really, but why not? And to celebrate, let's go to Lagoon- it's where fun is!

Anthony and Ty proceed to go to the amusement park at Lagoon and have a rip-roarin' good time.

Anthony decides to go on the Ferris wheel. After reaching the top, he drops a delicious Butterball turkey on an unsuspecting Ty who is eating a funnel cake. The turkey becomes stuck on his head and completely ruins the model shoot he had that afternoon.

Anthony: Sorry, God. I guess you made me too competitive for Ty's own good. I'll repent after I gobble down this delicious meat. Mmmmm...

**Point/Counterpoint
Official Tally**

Anthony: 2
Ty: 1

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