

Miss America

We've got issues

September 25



"As a general thing people marry most happily with their own kind. The trouble lies in the fact that people most usually marry at an age when they do not really know what their own kind is."

Robert Davies

Disagree?

Before all you newly-weds and recent fiancés get angry, give this issue a chance. Whether you agree with this statement or not, it must be said that NNU has a reputation when it comes to marriage. There tend to be a lot of opinions about the subject. We decided to see what was opinion and what was fact. What we found might surprise you.

Ali Brown

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Across from the Nampa Rec Center

CHAOS:

Ministry groups

by Jessica Wigley

Over 50 NNU students participated in CHAOS (Christian Hands Accepting Others in Christ) Saturday September 21st. This was a community-oriented event in which each ministry group debuted and promoted their clubs to new and returning students.

Starting the morning with a free breakfast at the Dex and a game plan, each club set out to do their "good deeds of the day."

Each ministered in the Nampa community to the diverse groups who are in desperate need of not only hearing, but also seeing the Lord's work through caring individuals.

The following groups were represented at CHAOS:

Hope House

PALS (People Always Loving Someone) met at Duck Park for an afternoon filled with food, games, and good times during CHAOS. This is a ministry group that meets biweekly Saturday afternoons to spend time with mentally handicapped young adults.

Angels provides a ministry to the elderly and meets twice a week at 6:45 in the Student Center. Mondays the group travels to R & V Shelter Home to play competitive rounds of bingo with the senior citizens while savoring delicious popcorn and juice provided by the shelter. Thursdays the group goes to Powerline House, another senior citizen home to play intense rounds of bingo are also played and popcorn and juice is provided.

Skaters in Christ, a ministry to

reach the unchurched through skateboarding, meets Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 where they skate their hearts out, but also set a time aside for interactive devotions. At CHAOS, the group reconstructed and reinforced their skate ramps in preparation for the year.

Circle K, sponsored by Nampa Kiwanis Club, is a group geared toward providing random acts of service to the

Ring by Spring?

by Kenton Owesly and Carolyn Clark

It's no secret that NNU has a bizarre penchant toward marriage. Many school and student sponsored events are directed toward meeting members of the opposite sex and hopefully fostering romance. Nearly all of the married NNU alumni you'll meet found each other on campus.

Currently there are a multitude of married and engaged students on campus experiencing the difficulties of figuring out wedding plans on top of calculus assignments. We interviewed some engaged couples to get an idea of what it is like to be in such a serious relationship while continuing school.

Katie McLean, a Senior Elementary Ed major, got engaged last February. She and her fiancée Brian enjoy being engaged, but struggle with trying to balance the rest of college life along with it. However, "the biggest benefit of being engaged is knowing that I have a partner in life, not only to help me now, but that has pledged to be there all the time. There is someone who loves me

on and off campus community. The group initiated a campus-wide recycling program last year, which was revived this year during CHAOS and is here to stay.

Last but not least is the new ministry club, **Open Arms**. This is a ministry for underprivileged parents to attend prenatal classes at a low cost in preparation for parenthood. The

parents get "points" for attending classes and exchange the points for supplies at a baby boutique. At CHAOS, the club members improved the boutique inside and out, getting it ready for new classes and parents.

Soon to come: A Campus Ministries Calendar listing every group's meeting dates, times, and locations.

through my successes, loves me through my frustrations and struggles, and even loves me in my moodiness," McLean said.

Dan Cole, a Senior Music Ed major, and Stephanie Cole, a Junior English Ed major, were married this last August in Lodi, California. They struggled with planning their wedding and balancing schoolwork, but they love married life. Stephanie says that marriage has helped during school because they have each other for support. Dan likes the benefits from the FAFSA, living on two incomes instead of one, and the great food. With the advice, "think carefully before

getting into marriage. Health and car insurance are expensive, budgeting is more important than before, but it is the best decision I have ever made," Dan pondered his early marriage decision.

Getting married is a big decision. It is something that most people face at least once in their lifetimes. Though it may seem like many people at NNU are engaged or married, it's not important to keep up with the "relationship race." What is important is that the right decision is made and that God is a part of that relationship. Don't be overwhelmed by the ratio of married versus unmarried, rather trust that the right thing will happen at the right time.

Return

Words by Gideon Thomas

An event longed for
Months passed and still I wait
I look to the same-shared sky
Praying for union once more

Thousands of miles and several oceans
From foreign lands to favored streets
A rejuvenating breath into my life
Familiarity allows me comfort
Comfort, from the challenge of what I
do not know and rarely understand

At home I fail to remember
why I stressed
All burdens fall into insignificance
Only the present exists
Now is the time for
sharing and happiness

I am happy to reminisce
with those I hold dear
Cherished memories of bygone days
Days when years went past and
I never aged
Days where I created the
meaning of my life
Days where friends were everything and
they would stay with you forever
I was everything and the world was
nothing

Things changed and so have I

Whether I am home or not,
life will continue
I swallow the reality of now and vow
that I will make every day count
The reality of now will be
gone tomorrow

by Jessica Wigley

For all of you who care, freshman class council elections are this week. This means that a new batch of (ir)responsible young people will be assuming positions of mostly limited authority. Provided below is a list of this year's freshman council candidates (senior readers, please note that every position EXCEPT one has more than one candidate running).

Election speeches will be held this Wednesday and Thursday during chapel in the Brandt Center, so freshmen, and anyone else interested in a good laugh and some potential heckling, show up and support your favorite candidates. Chapel credit will be given on both Wednesday and Thursday. To vote, stop by the Student Center during lunch and dinner hours on Thursday. Election results will be posted on SGA Vice-

President Josh "the body" Anderson's door Thursday night at 10:00 p.m. Good luck to all the candidates, especially those of you who are running for the Treasurer position...

President: Aymee Bryant,
Jacquelyn Vanderpool, Drew Bennett,
Mecale McAfee

Vice President: Alvin Shaul,
Gordon Alanko, Trista Wilson

Secretary: Nikki Bodenstab,
Melissa Benjamin

Treasurer: Tara Robinson
Chaplain: Ashly Strickler, Kris
Marriage

Pub. Director: Kristen
Levandusky, Lori Tompos

Social Board: Jeffrey L. Greene,
Adam Haynes, Kristina Wherry, Karen
Diener, Tauni Thompson

Senate: Ian Williams, Josh Van der
Ploeg, Rachel Mabbutt, John Patterson,
Jennifer Kent

Bush Gathers U.N. Support

by Kelly Addleman

President Bush addressed the United Nations on Thursday, September 12, calling for the enforcement of the United Nations' resolution that Iraq allow weapons inspectors into the country. Their mission will be to ensure that Iraq is fulfilling its promise to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.

Gerard Schroeder has reaffirmed his opposition to U.S. military action against Iraq. However, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, an important Arab leader, said that President Bush has opened a door towards solving the problem.

After Bush's speech, leaders from Russia and China encouraged Iraq to abide by U.N. resolutions while warning the United States against taking independent action.

"The Iraqi issue should be resolved within the framework of the United Nations," said the official Chinese news agency.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said that Egypt still opposed an attack on Iraq but would abide by the decision of the

United Nations. President Mubarak called on Iraqi leaders to "seize this opportunity ... and avoid serious repercussions."

Schroeder, however, said that Bush's speech left too many questions unanswered. "My arguments against military intervention remain, and it is still clear that under my leadership, Germany will not participate in military action," he said in the last floor debate in parliament in his tough race for reelection.

Iraq appeared resolute, as Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz claimed that the Bush speech was "full of lies and fabrications."

Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Mahdi Saleh warned Israel against assisting in an attack on Iraq.

"Israel will suffer a profound and an unforgettable strike if it interferes," he said.

Reflecting the response in most European capitals, the European Union welcomed Bush's commitment to seeking U.N. approval.

Before his Thursday speech, Bush had faced firm opposition to his plan for removing Saddam Hussein from power. With the exception of firm support from Britain, Bush had faced worldwide resistance to his proposal.

Schroeder is the only U.S. ally to entirely refuse to consider military action. France said that, while anything is possible if Iraq refuses to comply with weapons inspections, it will not participate in any

measures not sanctioned by the United Nations.

Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, a strong ally of the United States, told the British Broadcasting Corporation that "the only way to get those weapons inspectors back into Iraq and to ensure that Iraq is free of weapons of mass destruction is by the complete and united resolve of the U.N."

The U.S. vs. the United Nations

by Amanda Chase

The United Nations has many questions to answer concerning what to do about Iraq. The U.S. wants to keep the pressure on Iraq with a new and tougher Security Council resolution. Nevertheless, Russia, France, China and the Arab Nations think Iraq's choice to allow international weapons inspectors in again is enough. These countries agree that weapons inspectors need time to see if Iraq is making prohibited weapons before taking any action. This disagreement reflects a major rift between the U.S. and other important U.N. countries.

The Bush administration does not believe inspections alone will lead to Iraq's disarmament.

They have pushed for a Security Council measure which might authorize eventual military attack against Saddam Hussein. President Bush announced, "It's time for us to secure the peace. The United Nations must act. It's time to determine if they will be a force for peace or an ineffective debating society." Bush administration officials want to keep inspectors from going to Iraq until a resolution is passed. This resolution would add conditions to

make it harder for Hussein to deceive them. American officials are frustrated with a letter from Iraq providing for return of inspectors "without conditions," but not guaranteeing inspection cooperation. "We've seen this game before," stated Colin Powell, referring to past maneuvers by Iraq to get around inspections.

American officials are going to insist on a new resolution with a timetable for Iraq's compliance. This will include the threat of military force if Iraq does not meet the terms of the measure. The Arab League, which helped get Iraq to accept inspectors, condemns the U.S. threat of force. They call for respect of the sovereignty of Iraq.

So far, the Council only agreed on scheduling Hans Blix, U.N. inspection team head, to come and explain plans to restart inspections. However, there is no timetable set for inspectors to return to Iraq. Inspectors are again being allowed into Iraq to comply with U.N. demands, lifting economic sanctions.

American officials are continuing to prepare for possible military action. President Bush's press secretary, Ari Fleischer, stated, "Now is not the time to take off the pressure on Iraq." He also said that history "has shown that Saddam Hussein's word cannot be taken at face value."



Illustration by Mike Jeter

NFL Preview

by Chris Canton

It's that time of year again when millions of Americans sit in front of their computers for an excruciating hour on Saturday night trying to determine who will earn them more fantasy points: Donovan McNabb or Daunte Culpepper. It's that time when sons, fathers mothers, and daughters gather around the tube hoping to watch a Denver Broncos victory or witness a Dallas Cowboys defeat (which we all secretly hope for, unless your last name is Bush). This is when girlfriends get upset because they rank second to the weekly Oakland Raider game, on the boyfriend's agenda. Football is an obsession in America, and to be denied the right to watch John Madden's analysis of the lackluster St Louis Rams offense has to violate one of our nation's constitutional amendments. Three weeks of NFL action are in the books, and there is a lot NFL fans can take from the games that have already taken place. Two questions that lurk in the minds of many are: "How in the world did the Texans win a game?" & "Why on earth are the Detroit Lions and Seattle Seahawks playing in new stadiums, when they are about two steps shy of being demoted to the NFL Europe?" Here is a brief summary on what has transpired of the first three weeks of the season:

Surprisingly Good: Carolina, San Diego, Denver, and New Orleans are all undefeated, each with a record of 3-0.

Surprisingly Bad: St. Louis and Pittsburgh both started off the season 0-2.

Lessons Learned:

1. Helmet should remain on the players' heads until they're off the field
2. The Bengals are still bad. So bad that they're going to start Akili Smith, who started the season as the third-string QB on the depth charts, this next week versus Tampa Bay.

WEST

1. **Rams** Most talented team in the again, but will they play to their potential in the postseason? We'll see.

2. **49ers** Garcia-to-Owens will prove to be the NFL's deadliest duo this year.

3. **Cardinals** Coach McGinnis will not settle for a mediocre year again, but he'll have no choice.

4. **Seahawks** Seattle fans are forced to watch these 'Hawks play earlier than usual, because baseball's Mariners were unable to win down the stretch.

NORTH

1. **Packers** The cheese heads are this year's dark horse to win the NFC title with Favre running the show.

2. **Bears** Da Bears are going to be hard pressed to top last year's performance, but are still better than the Da Bulls.

3. **Vikings** A team still mourning the tragic death of OL Korey Stringer is currently in shambles.

4. **Lions** Expecting an exciting season with a record of 3-13, and rookie QB Joey Heisman taking the snaps.

EAST

1. **Eagles** Donovan McNabb has dethroned Kurt Warner as the leagues best QB, but Warner has the cooler mom in those "Chunky Soup" TV advertisements.

2. **Cowboys** Seriously, owner Jerry Jones cares more about acquiring cheerleaders than a solidified Quarterback.

3. **Giants** If QB Kerry Collins can match the way he played in 2000, and if the Giants dump RB Ron Dayne, they could have a great year.

4. **Redskins** A stellar defense, plus a new coach and QB, should bring back excitement to D.C.

SOUTH

1. **Saints** Not only do the Saints no longer have to worry about head case RB Ricky Williams, they also are in a much easier division.

2. **Bucs** Too bad these guys don't play as well as they talk, but we love hearing Keyshawn run off his mouth.

3. **Falcons** Ludicris sums this team up best: "Welcome to Atlanta, where the players play." (Except for back-up QB Doug Johnson).

4. **Panthers** Back-up QB Chris Weinke will retire before Carolina has a winning season. Did I mention Weinke is only 30?

WEST

1. **Raiders** 7 reasons they win the Super Bowl: Gannon, Rice, Brown, Garner, Woodson, Romanowski, and it doesn't snow in Oakland.

2. **Broncos** Elway won 2 Super Bowls despite his injury-plagued offense. So QB Brian Griese has no excuses this year.

3. **Chiefs** The Chiefs have a great offense with Green, Gonzalez and Holmes, but their defense is just about as bad as it's ever been.

4. **Chargers** San Diego is one of the prettiest cities in the country, but there's nothing pretty about their professional teams and "Flutie Flakes."

NORTH

1. **Steelers** QB Kordell Stewart has yet to have two good seasons in a row. His play is pivotal to the success of the Steelers.

2. **Browns** This team is making huge strides towards becoming a winner again, but how soon will the glory come?

3. **Ravens** Chris Redman is this team's starting quarterback? Who? The only Redman I know of is the rapper.

4. **Bengals** I smell contraction. OOPS! Wrong sport.

SOUTH

1. **Colts** New head coach Tony Dungy will improve this defense enough to ensure that 40 offensive points is enough to win a ball game.

2. **Titans** Didn't Dante's Inferno predict their fate? Ice cold, right? Seems fitting.

3. **Jaguars** Usually expansion teams do poorly in their first couple seasons, then become better as the years pass. It's exactly the opposite when it comes to the Jags.

4. **Texans** This team will pick up where the Oilers left off: Dead Last.

EAST

1. **Patriots** Last year the Patriots won the Super Bowl, without utilizing their best QB (Bledsoe) and their best WR (Glenn), causing them to sign with other teams. Will their services be missed?

2. **Dolphins** "Oh Ricky you're so fine, you're so fine you blow my mind,

Hey Ricky! Hey Ricky!" sang Dolphins Coach Dave Wannstedt after RB Ricky Williams signed with the Dolphins. Allegedly.

3. **Bills** Bledsoe is the man, and the Patriots should have never neglected this All Star Quarterback, who made the Patriots a competitive team year-in and year-out. He will do the same in Buffalo with time.

4. **Jets** Where did the Jets ever go wrong? Oh that's right, when they made Vinny Testaverde their starting QB.

IN A NUT SHELL...

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME:

Raiders vs. Patriots

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME:

Eagles vs. Packers

SUPER BOWL: Eagles vs. Raiders

CHAMPIONS: Oakland Raiders

One of our surveys came back with the vote that a couple only needs to date for five to twelve months before the proposal. The person wrote in, "When you know, you know. You know?" Some people are just certain when they meet the individual they feel they are to spend their life with.

President Hagood was telling me that the first time he saw Jumella on this very campus many moons ago, they exchanged no words, but he leaned over to a buddy and said "I'm going to marry that girl someday." You can figure out the rest. Granted, they adhered to the average NNU belief that students should be together at least a year before engagement, but the conviction was there from day one.

The other side of this spectrum I speak of says that there is a need for time and space between every couple, and there should be an emphasis placed on spending time outside of the safety and environment of NNU. There *is* a real world out there where there are even more financial obligations to meet than we have now (yes, the loans you are incurring right now will someday need to be paid off).

Newell Morgan, the Spanish-speaking cowboy professor with a killer mustache, told me that he and his wife, both NNU alumni, spent a year and a half outside of the NNU bubble before they began to date. Obviously any life experience either person in the relationship can bring to the table will help both partners out.

Morgan and I joked about the adjustments that had to be made once he and his wife did decide to unite their lives together. He talked about the ghastly first day when he went into the bathroom and saw that the toothpaste had been squeezed from the middle of the tube and not the bottom. The compromise to work with each other's preferences was greatly symbolized by the tolerance of the squished toothpaste tube. Their lives have been full of meeting each other in the middle ever since then.

I was a little disheartened when I heard a certain rumor about NNU. A couple of different people have said that the success rates of marriages at NNU are as bad or worse than the national average. I jumped on that and did a little research. The word is that the national divorce rate hangs out around 50 percent.

Dr. Ron Ponsford, a psychology professor here at NNU, says that statistics show that a couple is most likely to be divorced somewhere between two and ten years of marriage. Once the first ten years are out of the way, the majority of marriages stick. In 1996, Ponsford conducted a survey of our alumni. He sent out a six page survey, and a large group of alumni responded to the questions and sent the survey back. The results as far as marriage success were that between the late 80's to the early 90's the percentage of NNU alumni who were divorced was a miniscule 4.9%. NNU students are ten times *less* likely to divorce than everybody else.

It's broad and rough, but the numbers are the proof that it tends to go pretty well for people married here, whether they wait until they graduate or don't. Ponsford expressed to me a little bit of angst about comments made in chapel that poke fun at relationships on campus. Gene seems careful, but other speakers come in and seem to think it's okay to undermine and minimize who we are as a community with jokes about our ways of life.

Yes, we do tend to couple up, and dating is a big thing on our campus. Am I allowed to speak positively about this for a moment? For the most part, students come from mid-to upper-class homes. We are educated, and we have loving parents. In the student survey 86% of students say that their birth parents are still married. Also, we have convictions about sexual intimacy before marriage. Of NNU students, 93% believe that sex before marriage is not okay. Hormones are never a legitimate excuse for marrying someone, but we have to be honest and say that it can influence coupling tendencies in the student population.

I don't think we can do much to change how NNU is. Talk about it in chapel and students will doze through it; lecture on it and we'll work on other homework.

So I make some requests of you, reader. One: Can we rethink our labels? Maybe be a little more careful and compassionate with the words we speak against each other? Let's think twice before making comments about a couple we see on campus. Perhaps we could use a little caution when making fun of the dating tendencies of the student population. Two: I ask the NNU guys to be sensitive. Explore as you see fit, but make your intentions honorable and clear. My third request is for members of my gender: admit that you *do* lead yourself on sometimes. If it's meant to be, it will happen without anyone pushing the issue.

Get to know who you are and what you need. More than anything, get to know God and seek to understand His desires for your life. From what I hear, the rest just happens.



Kiln or Bust?

by Aggie Firtan

There is a mysterious force, a perpetual undertone, and an echoed theme on our campus. It is a force so all encompassing that every freshman hears a constant beat from this pounding drum no matter where they are on campus. Before they know it, they are a senior and have joined the ranks, and are marching toward the brown Sodekho cake with the bride and groom poised among sprinkles.

Marriage. So maybe I'm exaggerating a little. Most NNU students say they are not as concerned with marriage as it would seem. In a poll we took of students as they headed into the Sodekho for lunch, thirty eight percent said that looking for a spouse had nothing at all to do with their motives for coming to NNU. Fifty percent admit that "maybe" it is among their motives for coming. Of course, there's the leftist who wrote that finding a spouse at NNU is a "life or death" scenario. It was in jest, but hey, who could blame them? We like to think of ourselves as diverse, and we are as diverse as a small, private university in the state of Idaho can be, but you have to admit that most of us come from similar backgrounds, and have a lot of the same motives and beliefs. There can't be anything wrong with seeking a life with someone we understand and have a lot in common with.

Here's the timeline: freshmen year you're wide-eyed and excited to be here. There is a plethora of options when it comes to the opposite sex. While promoting friendships and community, fun dating is also encouraged. "Wing Dings" usually set up a girl's wing with a guy's wing for a fun evening of good mingling. The Twix is a blind date your roommate arranges for you, and Twirp is when things get really crazy and girls ask guys out on a date.

Picture this: your roommate sets you up on a Twix with a really cool person. You play putt-putt handcuffed and seem to really hit it off. There's chemistry. You bend over to pick up your golf balls and bump foreheads. Nervous giggle, a moment's gaze, and the heart is pitter-pattering to the max. You have a few more encounters during the next week of class and date number two is set. Now, by the second date, people are beginning to talk. If execution of date number three takes place, it's over. The two of you receive the forehead stamp that says "pending marriage," and you are dismissed at that.

To break up with this person now and date someone else means a bad rap for you. The brand on your forehead would surely change from marriage material to player in no time. Why? Some say it's because we're a smaller school and people naturally gossip. I went to Colorado State, a school of 26,000 people, and gossip levels were about the same in my estimation. Carey Cook, NNU's Vice President for Student Development, suggests it's just the mentality of our region's mindset. He says that at Point Loma, where he went to college, free spirited students fled from the idea of marriage.

However, there is always the chance that the two of you will work. You're buddies, you talk a bit and spend time together. You see each other regularly over a course of time. There are some good days and some bad days, yet the flicker remains. He opens the door for you, maintains eye contact when you talk to him, and says you're beautiful no matter how bad your roommate did when she bleached your hair over the weekend. She doesn't wear too much make-up, loves football Sunday, and your buddies say she's cool. So you move toward commitment.

The majority of polled NNU students say that a couple should date at least a year before thinking about marriage. With any lasting relationship, the prospect arises within a few months. There comes a point in most college students' minds that they are no longer dating for recreation; they date to marry.

I have found through my talks with people on the subject that there is a tension between two ends of a spectrum. There is one attitude that says "we have God, we have love, we have each other, let's do this," and marriage follows fairly quickly thereafter. I spoke with a couple recently that met and were engaged the very next day. The wedding date is set for some-

Till Death Do Us Part

by David Zirschky

Ahhh, marriage. The penultimate display of the eternal love of two people, forever symbolized by two gold rings, or in some cases a couple hundred cattle or Philistine foreskins. What would we do without the institution of marriage? How could we ever express fully to our significant other that they were in fact the one and only person with whom we wish to spend the duration of our earthly lives?

But is that all that marriage is? A peacock-like display that tells another individual how much we love them? Perhaps there is more truth in a Las Vegas elopement than in a dignified bells and rice church wedding. What does it truly mean to be married, and is the truth of that commitment found in rings and vows or actions and feelings? I hit the streets to find out from our students first-hand how they felt on certain issues surrounding wedlock. Here's what they had to say.....

Is marriage truly a necessary step in a long, loving relationship?

"Marriage is something God obviously intended. He made two people Adam and Eve and wanted them to be joined together." Aymee Bryant, 18

"Marriage....it is an important tradition, but kind of worn out in today's society. It might be kind of chivalrous, but it's not for everyone and not everyone does it." Dan Rosenthal, 20

"I think that in our society it is a necessary step because we have become a culture that no longer believes in commitment, so I think that the legality of it is important now." Belinda Miller, 20

Can two people successfully live together in a committed relationship without being married?:

"I think in a marriage that commitment is very important. I think commitment is a vital part of a long loving relationship." Justin Wadsworth, 21

"No, they cannot. Marriage is not just about love but a type of forever friendship, being best friends for life." Bryant

"I've known people that are like that. My take on it is that they have decided within themselves that the paperwork and the ceremony is not what is going to bind them together." Miller

Sex is an important part of a married relationship, what about sex outside of wedlock?

"It's not that monstrous of a deal." Dan Pahlisch, 22

"I know people that do it now, so why not. Umm....usually it's not healthy, statistically it's been shown that it's not healthy, but it's so mainstream now that there's no stopping people from doing it." Mike Jeter, 19

"I think that sex is reserved to marriage. I think it's an expression of intimacy that can only be had between two people that are

completely in love with each other and have committed that love." Wadsworth

"Sex outside of marriage? The Bible talks about that a lot. I agree with the Bible, definitely." Bryant

"I think it ruins the relationship, I think it causes too many complications between the two people." Andy Kerr

"Hmm, once again I think that in our day and age we are focused on immediate gratification. So when people have sex outside of marriage, many times they hold no commitment to each other, which I do believe that sex was designed to have with only one person in your life. So once again, society makes it almost imperative that you have the marriage bonds before you have the sexual bonds." Miller

What about same-sex marriage? Do you think that a commitment made between two people of the same gender, though not recognized by society or religious circles as a valid commitment, is still every bit as powerful and meaningful as a heterosexual marriage?

"The Bible says on many occasions that the lifestyle is not right. I agree with the Bible." Bryant

"I think it's the commitment between man and woman and God but the importance isn't necessarily in the formality of it but in the condition of your heart while you make that commitment. I don't agree with same sex marriage, no, I think that God created man and woman with a special chemistry that two men or two women cannot have together." Wadsworth

"I don't have any concrete feelings on the sanctification of same sex marriage, but I don't want to jump to a conclusion and say it's wrong. I think it can be every bit as meaningful as a heterosexual marriage." Rosenthal

"I don't condone it. I don't think it's necessarily right. In society I think it has as much meaning, but I don't know about in God's eyes. I don't know, I'm not sure." Berto Martinez, 21

"I don't think it matters, if two people love each then they should do what they want." Pahlisch

"Well, first of all, it's ridiculous that we hold a greater aversion to homosexuality than to other sexual sins. I think that's absolutely asinine and while I personally can't understand the desire to be in a relationship like that, I can't tell somebody else that because they are with someone of like gender that they aren't as committed to their partner as I might be to my husband some day." Miller

Marital commitment isn't a black and white concept. It tends to fall into that foggy, gray area where few of us like to hang about and ponder the issues of life. Take some time and ask yourself what marriage means to you. You might find meaning beyond rings and dresses and wedding vows. Where does the commitment lie?

Pointers for Picking

by Kallee Fjeld

Choosing a place of spiritual growth can become quite a big deal for anyone, including college students. The majority of college students have left the home church they have always known and are now free to decide for themselves.

For some, this can be a brand new experience. Where does one begin on this quest? What should a person look for in a church? What is the best way to go about visiting churches? While this article will definitely not answer all your questions, it may get you thinking and speed up the process.

Questions to consider:

- Am I growing spiritually in this church?
- Is there a need for me to help out?
- Do I agree with what is being taught?
- Am I excited to get up and go to this church?
- What is the reason I go to church?
- What church background do I come from?

So many times we walk into a church and decide whether or not we want to attend based on the church's ability to meet our needs.

A critical side can also rise up inside of us as we compare churches to our previous experiences. We must remember that if we are a Christian we *are* the church. And what is the church's purpose? To preach the gospel to all nations. (Mark 16:15)

It is also very important to have Christian support and fellowship within the body of Christ. We are called to hold one another up and use our gifts God has given us. Are you able to use your gift in the church you attend?

Here are some answers that were received from NNU students when asking students why they chose the

church they currently attend.

What made you choose which church to attend?

-“I did field experience there for a class and fell in love with it.” Jeff Miller

-“I tried it out and the hermeneutical practices of the current pastor were the most accurate” Trevor Jones

-“The actions of the church were closest to the manual.” Kyle Yake

-“Personal Reference.” Josh Hodges

-“It’s nondenominational, uplifting, and I love it!” Jessica Swartz

-“The pastor speaks to me and I grow spiritually. There are also opportunities to serve.” Jena Atwood.

What are qualities you look for in a church?

-“People who are open to change and feel free to worship through music and through their lifestyles.” Doni Moore

-“A place where the Spirit of God moves and where people don’t just attend, but they serve.” David Hille

-“Good worship and a good message that is of the Word.” Jeremy Hodges

-“I look for a place where I feel comfortable and where I feel God’s presence. I like a friendly environment where I can serve as well.”

Sam Fleischmann

-“I look for a friendly and welcoming congregation.” Terri Karenko

-“A place that accepts anybody.”

Chris Mayer

-“A church that is on fire.” Eric Eilers

-“Good worship and donuts.” Andy Kerr agreed to by Dane Leech

One habit that can result from trying to find a church is church hopping. This may be all right for a while, but being a part of a church body is very beneficial to growth in the Lord. People who see you every week can keep you accountable and can pray for specific areas of your life.

Last, but certainly not least, pray about it! The Lord has a plan for you while you are in college and He wants to use you. Seeking counsel from someone that you respect may also help significantly. Ask family members to pray about it as well. When all else fails...

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

This Week

Join College Church in celebrating their new addition, this Saturday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The block party will take place in the parking lot and will feature a hot air balloon, live NNU jazz band performance, tours of the new building, and more.

Next Week

Get ready for Spiritual Emphasis week! Beginning next Monday, there will be chapel everyday of the week, featuring guest speaker, Rev. Steve Fletcher, District Superintendent from the Northwest District.

Taste of Paris

by Ali Brown

My first experience at Le Café de Paris was quite accidental. The original plan was Starbucks. However, we were quickly persuaded by Anna's suggestion to try some French pastries at the bistro around the corner. I must admit the idea of a place called Le Café de Paris in the middle of downtown Boise, Idaho left me doubting its authenticity.

I was pleasantly surprised. As we stepped into the charming yellow room, we were instantly transported into another world.

The entrance was immediately in front of a

display case, which was filled with millions of tempting delicacies. We stood in silence, mouths watering. Suddenly a familiar sound filled the air. An older couple sitting in the corner were conversing in French. (note: So this is not really a familiar sound, I've never been to France, just wishful thinking, read on.)

We were seated and promptly served with the perfect cup of coffee. After much deliberation we each selected a different item. Amy chose the clafouti raspberry (\$4.00) Anna opted for the mousse au chocolat (\$3.50) and I chose the strawberry Napoleon (\$3.50).

I spoke to the French lady as we passed her on our way out. Her English was as rusty as my French, so needless to say there was a great deal of hand waving. However, I was able to pick up that she was there to visit her grandson who was a 3rd generation chef from Burgandie, France. She was



Mathieu Choux - Owner
Tel. 336-0889

204 N. Capitol Blvd. - Boise ID 83702

Prices - \$1.90 - \$6.50

very pleasant and added to the atmosphere.

Such an experience definitely warranted a second visit.

The owner was working that night and I was able to ask him a few questions before leaving.

Mathieu Choux started the café 5 months ago after coming to Boise for a vacation. He has been very pleased with the city's reaction.

This time we decided to explore the entrees and were equally satisfied. I ordered the artichoke

and pesto quiche(\$6.50), which turned out to be the group's favorite.

If you're looking for a little culture and atmosphere this is the ideal place. It is honestly some of the best tasting and most reasonably priced food around. I would advise that you take along a few friends, pick your favorite dish and pass the plates; but beware, if you order the strawberry Napoleon, you won't see much of your own plate.

Cheap Date of the Week

Ring by Spring

By Andy Kerr and Dane Leach

You may think that the Nampa area is a horrible, boring place to be. If you think this, you are absolutely correct. However, with a little creativity and a little spunk, you and a date can have a fabulous time for cheap. The motto for this date is "ring by spring" or "marriage is a must." There's no time for beating around the bush. First, begin the night by purchasing a ring, preferably the plastic or candy version. Next, on the way to pick up your date, pick a flower from somewhere on campus. You are saving money already! Lead your lovely date to your favorite romantic location on campus, like the gazebo or prayer chapel. Take a

knee and belt out "I Can't Fight this Feeling Anymore" by REO Speedwagon. When things begin to get awkward, slip the ring on her finger and ask her to be your wife for the night.

After securing her hand, make your way to the Stampede Automall. Here the two of you will browse the selection of cars and family wagons, and will have time to learn crucial compromise skills important for any good marriage. Hopefully by the time you have chosen your dream car a salesman will be out to assist you. Tell the man or woman that the two of you have been recently engaged and are looking for your first car. Ask for

a test drive and if the salesperson does not cooperate, tell him or her that Dane and Andy sent you. After your drive, the salesman will probably ask you how it was. Ask him if the car comes in pink.

You'll be on your way in no time, headed to the Target in Boise so you can register for wedding gifts. You will receive a hand-held scanner (not unlike a gun) by which you can scan in your favorite home appliances and accessories such as TV's, VCR's, or dowels for your two-ply. Keep in mind that you're not spending any money, so go crazy! To conclude the trip to Target, purchase a single candle and a match.

The final stop on this date will be Duck Park (conveniently located on the way back to the campus). On the way

back, conversation could include: reflection on the evening thus far, Renaissance art, and be sure to quote *Zoolander*, telling her she is "really, really, really, really, ridiculously good looking." Once you've arrived at the park, whip out the candle and your pre-ordered Marriott sack lunches for a lovely romantic dinner (PB&J is classic).

Disclaimers:

1) Women may get attached during proposal and actually hear wedding bells.

2) If this is the first date, it may set the relationship off in the wrong direction.

3) If you or your date is attacked by ducks at the park, neither the Crusader Staff nor contributing writers are to be held responsible.

My Big Fat Movie Review

by Zach Marble

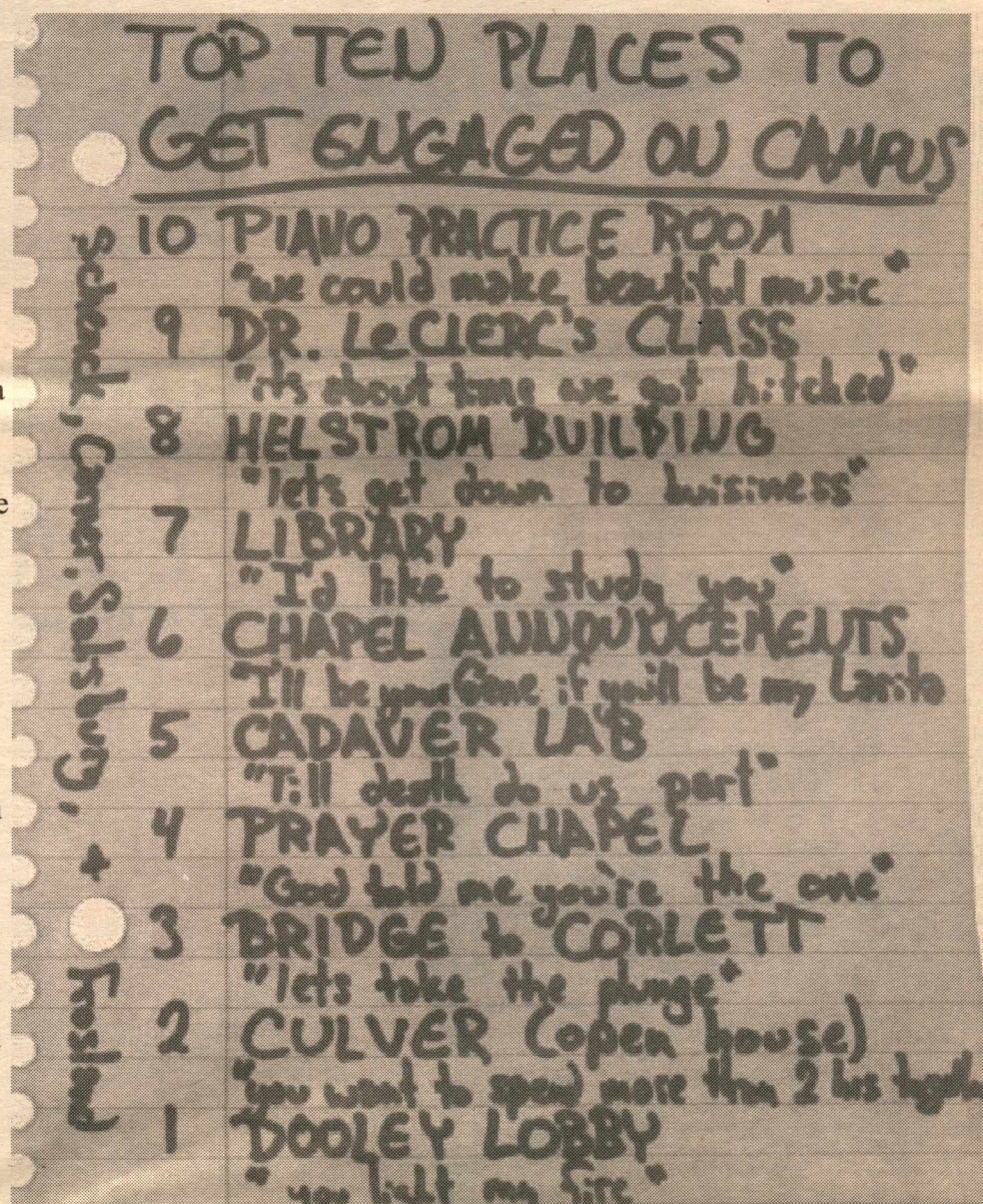
Embellished by Ali Brown and Chad Frosland

The world of dating can be quite an experience. For most people it's hard enough to find someone that doesn't drive them crazy. But once that base is covered comes the infamous, and for some, painful meeting of the potential mate's family. Often this is a trying experience for all involved. Sadly, such is the case in this summer's sleeper hit, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding."

Nia Vardalos, who based the film on her stand-up comedy, also stars as Toula Portokalos, a 30-something seating-hostess at her parents Greek restaurant. Toula says that she, like all Greek woman, was put on this earth to marry Greek, have Greek children, and to feed everyone continuously. I could relate with Toulal, because that describes my Momma exactly. Only she's Polish. Toula, who in her mind has lost all hope of ever finding a husband, has really let herself go. I guess she's kind of like my cousin Gertie in that way - sort of tired of that hygiene thing. It's only after meeting non-Greek Ian Miller (John Corbett), that Toula thinks she might still have a chance at love. A riot of a story takes off from there.

Perhaps my favorite element of the plot is Toula's crazy father, who, believing in the healing power of Windex, sprays everything from acne to arthritis (much like my own Uncle Ira and his bottle of Mrs. Butterworth's).

One of the best things about "Greek Wedding" is that everyone looks like a real person, instead of some Hollywood superstar that they try and make us believe can't get a date. This is also a story about people and family. There's no explosions or ridiculous language to detract from the message. Rather, we are pulled in to the world of a Greek family for an hour and a half journey well worth the price of admission.



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