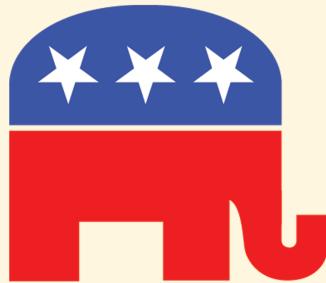


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3 October 13, 2010

By: Brittany Granville

Hey, would you like to Of course! I'm always willing  
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## COVER STORY

6 & 7

A 'fundamental difference':

US Senate candidates tackle student questions and ask for votes.

## NEWS

4, 5 & 8

SGA addresses empty seats.

## A&E

10 & 11

Trash turned into treasure:

Salvaged goods provide students earth-friendly thrift.

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By: Brittany Granville



# SGA addresses empty seats

Jesse Call

Staff writer

A formal request by the student body to consider building a new campus recreation center has been passed and presented to the administration of Northern Kentucky University. The resolution calls on the NKU administration to conduct "a comprehensive study to be completed in regards to the expansion or building of a new campus recreation center at a timely manner."

The resolution, presented by University Improvements Committee Chair Michelle Forlenza, passed unanimously and without any further discussion on the content of the proposal. It included rationale for the study, including the increasing popularity of the center and intramural sports programs with students and national standards recommended for university campus health programs.

After passage, Dean of Students Jeffrey Waple said that a building committee is being formed to head up the study on the feasibility of a new campus recreation center. Waple has been active in making suggestions for improvements on the resolution at the SGA meetings.

"This is good research and good timing," Waple said. "We appreciate the president's constitution requires that the president must recommend a candidate before he or she can be confirmed. However, at least one SGA member was surprised that all four applicants were not given the opportunity to present to the senators."

The SGA Senate no longer has any vacant positions after three new senators were confirmed by the members and sworn in by Chief Justice Shauna Prentice. David Bonilla, a freshman political science major and president of the undergraduate mock trial team; Ali Hedges, a freshman elementary education and Spanish major and president of the Freshmen Service Leadership Committee; and Emily Parker, a senior political science major and presi-

dent of Xi-Omega political science honor society are now representing students to the NKU administration. Hedges is also a photographer for The Northerner.

SGA President Kevin Golden only presented those three candidates for appointment. He is entitled to do so because the organization's constitution requires that the president must recommend a candidate before he or she can be confirmed. However, at least one SGA member

was surprised that all four applicants were not given the opportunity to present to the senators.

Romito said he thought his critical thinking skills would be an asset to the student governing body.

Bonilla mentioned that one of his major goals was to push for specific housing for each of the university's fraternities and sororities. When warned by a member that he might get his idea "shut down" by the University, Bonilla replied, "I wouldn't give up."

Only Parker received a unanimous confirmation. Four people voted against appointing Bonilla as a senator, including two committee chairs, Michelle Forlenza (University Improvements) and Paul Bell (Student Rights). Eight more abstained from the Bonilla confirmation. Two members abstained from voting on whether to confirm Hedges.

New legislation is expected to be presented in the coming weeks from the Student Rights Committee. On Oct. 25, Matt Hackett with the Campus Recreation Center will present at the meeting.

Hedges talked about working to "bridge the gap between SGA and the student body." Namely, she mentioned working to increase student participation in SGA

## A fan of the macabre?

You only have a few days left to send your best horror story to The Northerner!

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- You can submit stories at [thenortherner.com](http://thenortherner.com) or drop them off at FH 301.



# NKU checks foundation

Taking a comprehensive look at the college experience

Jennifer Parker

Staff writer

Northern Kentucky University has continued to grow over recent years. The continued growth has prompted the university to take a look at the whole university experience offered at NKU. Northern is partnering with the John Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education and participating in the Foundations of Excellence program to explore the experience of incoming freshman. The state has required this because of a new standard for ACT scores. NKU is reshaping their resources to give first year programs and the freshman experience a facelift. Moynahan hopes the

date strengths and weaknesses not only for students but staff as well. "I think they really influence student experience," Burr said.

The Foundations of Excellence program started in 2003 and since then about 400 colleges around the nation have participated. Universities apply for the program and each university that is selected focus on their specific campus goals, strengths and weaknesses. NKU is focusing on the freshman experience and what is known as the "Freshman-Friendly Pedagogy," or strategies that are particularly effective for freshman such as active learning, learning communities, smaller classes and interactive learning.

"One thing that we are asked to look at are the five courses that have the highest rate of D, F, W or I (grades) for freshman," Burr explained. "We need to look at that in terms of resources, advising, instruction and trends of what students take and where they are successful."

Although NKU is focusing on the freshman experience, freshmen coming in from high school is not the only concentration. The Foundations of Excellence program will also look at transfer students, students that have come back to college after many years and non-traditional students.

Mei Mei Burr is director of first year programs at NKU. "I think it's a very proactive step and we are recognizing the importance of that first year," Burr said. The university is looking at better ways to organize, and accommo-

date here, etc." Moynahan is the co-chair of the Foundations of Excellence program. "We are growing rapidly and the student body is changing," Moynahan said.

This does not mean any freshman classes will be easier or that tuition will rise. However, admissions may be slightly effective because NKU wants to look harder at the academic deficiencies of incoming freshman. The state has required this because of a new standard for ACT scores. NKU is reshaping their resources to give first year programs and the freshman experience a facelift. Moynahan hopes the

program will help the university improve communication with students, accommodate students better and allow them more resources to faculty, advisers and staff. "I'm a believer that if you are not moving forward, you're sliding back," Moynahan said.

Burr and Moynahan hope that the program will enhance student learning outcome, student retention and inventory every single element that affects freshman. "A student's first experience at the university shapes the years they have there," Burr said.

Vice Provost Moynahan

agrees. "Some things that may work well for students may not work as well for others," Moynahan explained. "For example, some students rely on e-mail for most of their communication, others on different forms of social media instead of traditional forms of communication." Moynahan also said that one of the areas that will be closely examined is how NKU is making these first year programs known to students.

The Foundations of Excellence Committee is to start making recommendations in the spring of 2011.

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### Applications are due by Dec. 15.

For more information, contact Pam Bates at 1-800-851-7512, ext. 85508 or [pbsbank0@email.uky.edu](mailto:pbsbank0@email.uky.edu) - or visit [www.mcauky.edu/ruralth/pt.asp](http://www.mcauky.edu/ruralth/pt.asp)



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# A 'fundamental difference'

## U.S. Senate candidates tackle student questions and ask for votes

**Jesse Call**  
Staff writer

Hundreds of supporters and students gathered at Northern Kentucky University to hear the top two candidates for U.S. Senate in Kentucky spar on the issues during a live televised debate held in Greaves Hall.

Even before the debate, the otherwise quiet area around Loch Norse was filled with chanting and shouting as groups held signs and cheered for their favorite candidates.

Rand Paul, the Republican candidate, addressed his supporters gathered outside from the back of a fire truck. He brought a child up to hold a large poster appearing to be a plane ticket for President Barack Obama in order to challenge him to come to the Commonwealth to answer for all the policies he has enacted that Paul says hurts Kentuckians.

"We can't let them say 'yeah, you got the Tea Party guy and he didn't win.' ...Let's show them that the Tea Party can help the Republican Party and get a big victory," he said to his supporters.

Inside, University President James Votruba welcomed students and guests. He challenged students to learn from the debate and to get active in this midterm election.

"What you'll see tonight is democracy in action," Votruba said. "It is democracy that defines our

nation and it's each generation's responsibility to preserve and protect democracy and that's what we're about here this evening."

The debate featured questions only from a table of reporters and from approved online submissions read by the moderator. Students were not allowed to ask questions of the candidates during the debate, but both candidates provided some students the opportunity to meet with them after the debate and ask direct questions.

Democratic Party candidate Jack Conway, the Attorney General of Kentucky, began the debate with a negative attack on Paul.

"Rand Paul is wrong...Count on me to protect Kentucky. This is a choice between right and wrong," Conway said.

Paul's opening remarks focused on how he is an outsider looking to bring Kentucky back to its roots.

"I am not a career politician... Our vision is so much different than their vision," Paul said.

The candidates debated on several issues, but each had a major theme for the night.

Paul focused on balancing the budget and installing rules and protections to bring the federal deficit

down which he said was "out of control." Conway focused on the federal government's role in protecting the rights of people and not making "callous" decisions that could hurt Kentuckians on budget cuts.

"As you heard out there tonight, there's just a fundamental difference between our campaign and Dr. Paul's," Conway said to the students after the debate.

But Conway echoed his opening statement to the students about how he thinks Paul is the wrong choice.

"He is so wrong. He is wrong for Kentucky. He is wrong for America. He is wrong your future. He is wrong for the colorblind future that I know you all want. He is wrong for everything that you care about."

However, Conway spent the majority of his time before he took questions addressing the need for students to get out and vote. He cited the story of John Lewis, a politician who helped to lead the civil rights march into Selma, Alabama in 1965 where he was beaten on the bridge going into town.

"You all have the opportunity to vote. Many people out there have the opportunity to vote because he

literally bled on that bridge," Conway said.

"You've got a lot on the line (in this election)," Conway said. "They're counting on (college age students) not voting. I hope you prove them wrong."

He added: "I hope you leave here tonight and don't (just) have a piece of pizza and say, 'oh, I met the Attorney General of Kentucky who might be the next United States Senator.' We're in a dead heat...I need you to leave here tonight and think of five of your friends who otherwise wouldn't vote. I need to drive them to the polls. I don't care who they vote for; make certain they vote. If you get them there, they'll do the right thing."

Students asked Conway questions on various issues that were not addressed in the televised debate including immigration policy, supporting small business, campaign finance reform, and cyberbullying.

Many students have voted in a mock election conducted by the Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement at Northern Kentucky University. As of early Oct. 13, 53 percent of people voting in the online poll said they would vote for Jack Conway, compared to 43 percent of people who said they would vote for Rand Paul. Four percent said they remained undecided.

Students can still vote online at <http://ivote.nku.edu/>. The actual election will be held on Nov. 2.



“

Rand Paul is wrong...Count on me to protect Kentucky. This is a choice between right and wrong.

”



Ali Hedges/Photographer

Attorney General Jack Conway, (D), tells students that recent smear campaigns against him are untrue in a special meeting held after the debate.

VS



Ali Hedges/Photographer

Dr. Rand Paul, (R), answers one-on-one questions from students after the televised debate hosted by Northern Kentucky University.

“

I am not a career politician... Our vision is so much different than their vision.

”

# Suicide: A real problem

Caring can save a life

Jesse Call  
Staff writer

In the past ten days, three more Northern Kentucky University students have harmed themselves on campus and had to be hospitalized. This makes the total count of suicide attempts or other self-harm behavior this semester at seven, including one student who has done so twice. In the 2009-2010 academic year, eight students exhibited self-harm and seven had to be hospital, including one self-inflicted student death.

"Unfortunately, I think we're going to see more of these," said Dean of Students Jeffrey Waple, who is tasked with handling self-harm concerns on campus.

Statistically, that appears to be true. According to American Association of Suicidology (AAS), every two hours and seven minutes a youth under the age of 25 takes his or her own life.

In 2009, mtvU's "Half of Us" campaign discovered that 17 percent of students have a friend who has seriously talked about ending their own life. 10 percent have friends who actually have made an attempt, and seven percent have seriously thought about ending their own lives.

Indeed, it appears that the university largely depends on other students to tip them off to a student who may be in danger.

"Students and friends are aware," Waple said about people who are at risk.

Seventy-seven percent of students said they would turn to their friends during times of emotional distress, according to mtvU. This compares to only 20 percent who would turn to a university's counseling center, and only six percent that would turn to a residential adviser.

Both of these are great options that NKU offers to its students, according to Waple. But, in most cases, a friend is going to have to encourage another to utilize these resources.

Most of the self-harm behavior in the past two years has happened in university housing.

"Housing staff members are trained to contact a supervisor whenever they learn information that suggests a student may have thoughts of harming themselves," said Pete Trentacoste, director of university housing. "Any mention of self-harm is investigated by our staff and we collaborate with the office of Health and Counseling, the Dean of Students office and University Police to determine the most appropriate intervention."

Whenever actual harm is discovered, University Police respond and the person is transported by ambulance to a hospital.

"Often times the student harming themselves, or thinking about it, is looking for help," Trentacoste said. "Our goal is to intervene quick enough to provide the student the support and assistance they have."

## How You Can Help:

- Always take suicidal comments seriously
- Get help immediately
- Stay with them until help arrives
- Listen, comfort and encourage

## Talk plainly:

- Ask if they are thinking about suicide
- How they would do it
- If they have what they need
- If they have thought about when they would do it
- If a person has a manner and time thought of, they are at an extreme risk; get help immediately, even if you have to call 911

*source: suicide.org*

According to Waple, the self-harm behavior at NKU does not appear to be academically related.

"It's random; this fall it's random. These are all pre-midterm things going on. We have talked to the students, it doesn't have much to do with academics," he said.

Instead, the issues tend to be more personal, including issues with their families. Statistically, however, stress over academic performance is a major factor in stress among college students which can manifest in self-harm, according to mtvU.

The number of students engaging in this behavior at NKU is consistent with regional universities of the same size, according to Waple.

The university has created a new Students of Concern Committee (SCC) which is designed to take referrals from students and others who may be concerned that a student is going to harm themselves or someone else. This committee will then make efforts to reach out to the student and make a threat assessment. The committee was created as a result of the lessons learned from the 2007 Virginia Tech massacre. So far, however, Waple said the committee has

## Contacts to Know:

### Dean of Students Office:

859-572-5147  
Located in Student Union 301

**University Housing:**  
859-572-5676  
Located in Norse Commons, Suite 101

**University Police:**  
Emergency contact: 859-572-7777  
Non-emergency contact: 859-572-5500  
Locates at 415 Johns Hill Road

**Students of Concern Report Form:**  
Linked on the Dean of Students web page  
<http://deanofstudents.nku.edu>

# Trash turned into treasure

Salvaged goods provide students earth-friendly thrift

**Tabitha Peyton**  
Staff writer

Take it or Leave it is a new program at Northern Kentucky University that allows students to take and leave items — for free.

"We're trying to keep useful things out of the trash and into student's hands," said Jane Goode, coordinator and space planner for NKU.

"With the cost of education today, it's amazing. And this is one little way that we can reduce the cost for people attending school."

The Take it or Leave it booth is set up on campus twice a month, most frequently at the Student Union and Callahan Hall. Students are encouraged to leave items

that are not being used so that other students may get use out of them. The take it part is for students to pick up items that have been recycled, rather than buying them new.

"We are trying to be as earth friendly as possible" said Emily Spinks, a student.

Goode and Spinks, along with others, coordinate with the recycling team to salvage more items. They collect items that have been rescued from the recycling containers on campus and offer them to the students who are looking for useful and free items through this program.

The idea is to circulate items to reuse them and to keep them out of the landfills" Spinks said.

The program is designed

for, but not limited to, items that are school or office supply related. There are some restrictions concerning what can be left. Items that may not be given include clothing and furniture. This is to prevent bed bugs.

Goode also recommends not bringing items that cannot be taken to and from by a single person. "It's people power taking stuff and people power leaving stuff," Goode said.

The next Take it or Leave it event will be Thursday, Oct. 21 in University Housing from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. and again Friday, Oct. 22 in the Student Union from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For more information about Take it or Leave it, visit [www.green.nku.edu](http://green.nku.edu).

## Take it or Leave it Schedule:

**Thursday, Oct 21**  
5 to 7 pm  
University Housing

**Friday, Oct 22**  
11 am to 1 pm  
Student Union

**Thursday, Nov 18**  
5 to 7 pm  
Callahan Hall

**Friday, Nov 19**  
11 am to 1 pm  
Student Union

**Thursday, Jan 20**  
5 to 7 pm  
University Housing

**Friday, Jan 21**  
11 am to 1 pm  
Student Union

**Thursday, April 21**  
5 to 7 pm  
Callahan Hall

**Friday, April 22**  
11 am to 1 pm  
Student Union

**"WAS IT ALL A DREAM?  
TELL ME - WAS IT ALL A DREAM?  
I GOTTA KNOW."**

- JAY-Z, IN HIS SONG "A DREAM"

Well, we can confirm it was definitely not a dream. One year ago, Brooklyn's Finest became the first act to sell out The Bank of Kentucky Center at NKU.

We're lucky to have other acts come to the campus arena too – Dane Cook, Carrie Underwood, Alan Jackson and Jeff Dunham, among others. Next month Bob Dylan will make an appearance.

So bring us your dreams. At NKU, we make them reality.

Dreamers welcome.

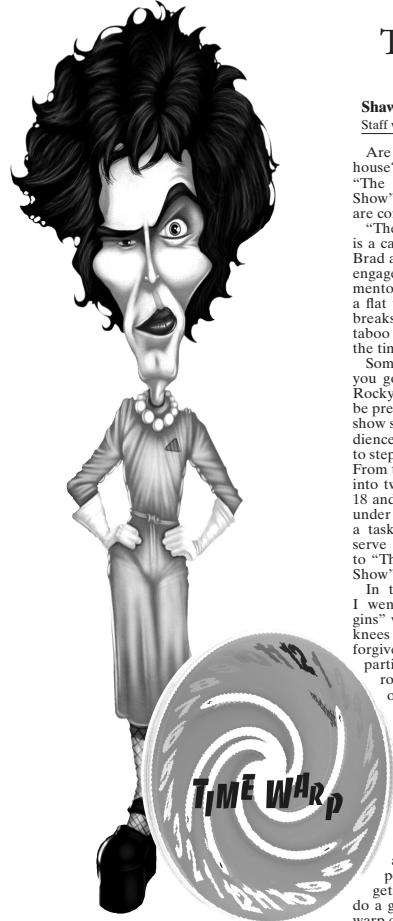


NKU NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

QUALITY MADE  
COMMUNITY DRIVEN

# Never the same show twice

This ain't no "Sound of Music"



**Shawn Buckenmeyer**  
Staff writer

Are there any virgins in the house? If you have never seen "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" in the cinema, then you are considered a virgin.

"The Rocky Horror Picture" is a campy, fun slice of cinema. Brad and Janet have just gotten engaged and are off to see their mentor Dr. Scott when they get a flat tire. This is when all hell breaks loose and every sexual taboo is taken for a ride around the time warp carousel.

Something to know before you go to a screening of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," be prepared for many antics. The show starts with a cry to the audience asking for all the virgins to step to the front of the house. From there the group is split up into two groups: those who are 18 and over, and those who are under 18. Each group was given a task to perform that would serve as their rite of passage to "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" experience.

In the particular show that I went to, the under-18 "virgins" were told to get on their knees and beg the audience's forgiveness for having never participated in a Rocky Horror Picture experience. The other group was split up and told that they would have to battle each other.

The challenge was to see which group could fake the best orgasm.

According to Manning, viewing the film at screening is very different from viewing it at home.

"It's raunchier, rowdier, and of course, more demanding of its audience," Manning said. "But if people want to go that extra step, it can definitely be a fun night out with friends that you'll never forget."

Audience members can come dressed as their favorite characters from "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." Outfits are sexy, revealing and provocative. It's all part of the experience to come as your favorite character, but it is not mandatory.

A live reenactment of the movie by costumed performers is also part of audience participation. Audience participation varies from venue to venue.

Rachel Manning, a junior electronic media and broadcasting major from NKU, likes to attend Rocky Horror screenings.

"I'd definitely say my favorite is everyone doing 'The Time Warp' in the aisles because every musical theatre addict has that dream of living in a world where everyone sings and dances and everyone knows the chorus and the choreography," Manning says. "The Time Warp" is a chance to make that world a reality."

Audience also get the chance to talk back at the screen. This form of audience participation involves audience members ad-libbing lines along with the film.

For example whenever someone says "Brad Majors" in the movie, the audience yells back, "asshole." When Janet Weiss is spoken, they say, "slut." Talking back is very detailed and extensive, ranging from words, phrases and several lines of dialogue. Audiences also have the option to yell back any improvised lines that they come up with at the screen.

According to Manning, viewing the film at screening is very different from viewing it at home.

Michael Hatton, the director of NKU's production of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," thinks that audience participation is an important part of the experience.

Audience members are encouraged and welcomed to dress up for the performances as they would for the film version of the musical," Hatton said. "The only guidelines are that the costumes shouldn't expose genitalia or break local decency laws."

"Many elements of the audience participation will be lovingly preserved," Hatton said. "I can't give any details or I'll spoil some of the surprises."

For more information on "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" times at the Esquire Theatre, visit their web site at <http://esquiretheatre.com>. NKU's production of The Rocky Horror Show runs from Oct. 28 through Nov. 7. Information about show times and prices can be accessed online at <http://theatre.nku.edu/boxoffice>.

The Esquire Theatre in Clifton, Ohio has midnight showings every other Saturday. The Esquire hires performers from The Denton Affair, a group of actors that have been performing "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" at theaters in the Cincinnati and Dayton area since 1979.

"The Rocky Horror Picture Show," written by Richard O'Brien, started as a stage production in 1973. NKU opens with their interpretation of the play on Oct. 28.

Audience participation will be allowed, although there are guidelines on what you can and can't do. Items that will not be allowed include: water pistols, outside food items such as toast or hot dogs, rolls of toilet paper, cigarette lighters or other open flames.

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# Fear comes to americana

King's Island's fog breeds ghouls

**Claire Higgins**  
Copy editor

around to all 12 in one night, but three of the houses stood out.

Slaughterhouse, located near Drop Tower, spooked visitors with blood-spattered walls and realistic, slaughtered livestock hanging in body bags. The farmers and butchers of Slaughterhouse scattered among the different rooms likely to silently follow those at the end of the single-file line for added fright — it works.

Death Row, located next to Flight of Fear, displayed a prime example of one of Halloween Haunt's milder mazes with its caged, yet quiet, de-ranged inmates awaiting punishment. The constant strobe light, siren and mirrors were very disorienting and made the maze more difficult. But it was definitely less character-filled and less in-your-face scary than Slaughterhouse.

The park features 12 different haunted houses designed to frighten even the bravest visitor. Indoor houses include: CarnEvil, Club Blood, Death Row, Massacre Manor, Slaughterhouse, Urgent Scare and Wolf Pack. The outdoor houses include: Cemetery Drive, Corn Stalkers, Cut Throat Cove, Tombstone Terror-tory and Trail of Terror.

Wait times vary according to the number of people in the park and the popularity of the particular attraction, but this particular Friday, the overall average wait time lasted approximately 15 minutes. Lines will likely become longer as the night goes on and as Halloween approaches.

It may be hard to get equipped with knee-pads, watch out for these guys.

Buy tickets online. Visit [kingsisland.com](http://kingsisland.com) offers discounted tickets for \$21.99 (\$34.99 at the gate) for Fridays and \$27.99 (\$49.99 at the gate) on Saturday nights.

Head out to Kings Island's



Claire Higgins/Copy editor  
A "knee slider" is caught on camera after haunting a park guest. These actors often slide in front of or next to an unsuspecting guest to scare the "bejeezus" out of them.

seeker.

Halloween Haunt runs through October and is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Visit [visit.kingsisland.com](http://visit.kingsisland.com) for more ghoulish details and to purchase tickets. Rating: 3 out of 5 stars. B-



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