

Halloween

H RECLAIMING HALLOWEEN



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october 31 2003

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"Contemporary man has rationalized the myths, but he has not been able to destroy them."
-Octavio Paz

In this week's feature, Tiana examines the history of Halloween, a subject immersed in controversy for most Christians. The background of this holiday remains quite ambiguous; even though many people hold quite ardent opinions of it, few seem to know any actual facts about its origins.

Memories of my childhood place a dark cloud of suspicion on the subject. For reasons I did not fully understand, my father forbade the celebration of Halloween. And so, like many Christian children, I spent the holiday at a church bazaar, fall festival, or the classic Neewollah.

Now, I do not really mind that I did not ever experience the glorious act of "trick or treating." In fact, apart from anything else, I think the most questionable aspect of this tradition is in that barbaric ritual. Who ever decided to send little children out to beg for a non-nutritional substance that will sooner or later result in their tooth decay? However, I do believe that myths and legends are not sufficient grounds for the exclusion of the holiday; we should at least examine the facts. And with that, however you may choose to celebrate this day, I hope it is happy!

Alison Brown
Managing Editor

top ten names for mullets

submitted by Natty, Trev, Camy, Eric

- shorty long-back 10
- the McGuiver 9
- the Louisiana purchase 8
- Tennessee top hat 7
- beaver paddle 6
- Canadian passport 5
- business cut (business up front, party in back) 4
- Mississippi mud flap 3
- the LPGA 2
- camaro crash helmet 1

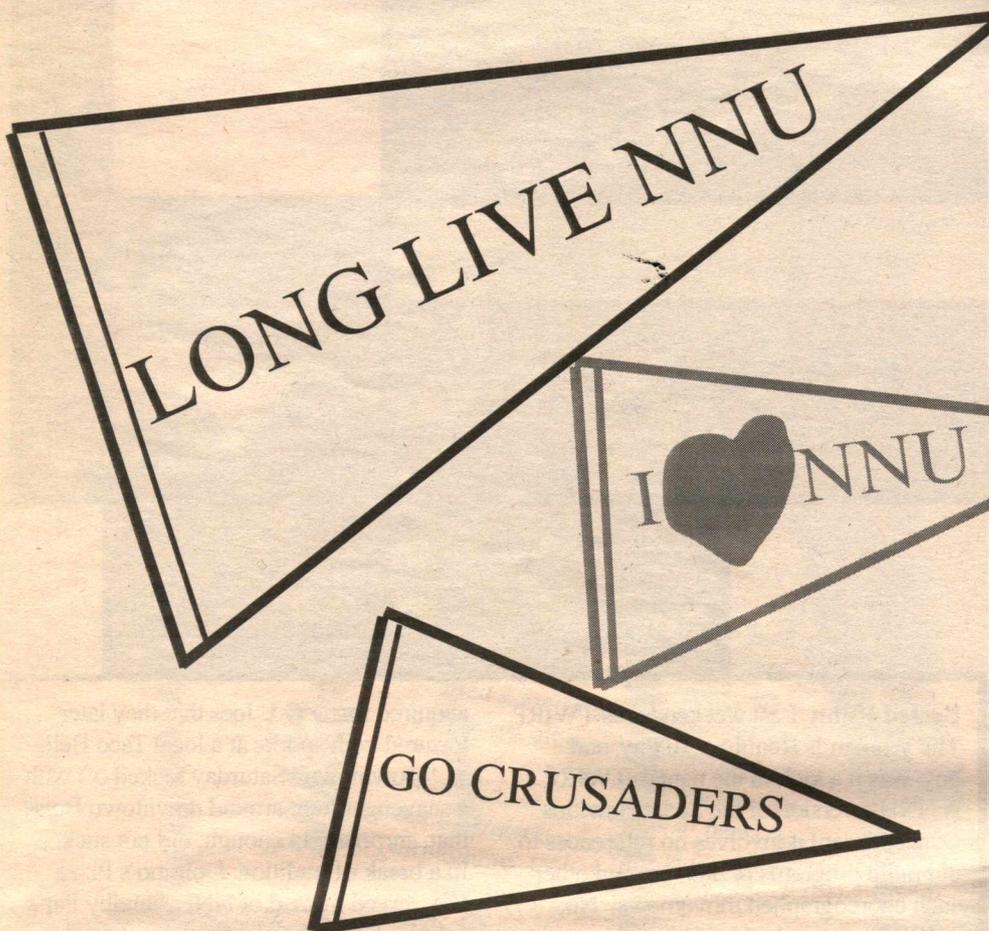
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the ultimate school spirit



By Ali Brown In the college experience, there emerges a common tie that binds the students together. It goes beyond dorm living and communal dining to create an even deeper sense of community among those who are already closely knit. Simply put, it can be called school spirit. The varying degrees of a student's participation can be exhibited in many different forms. Often as simple as attending a sporting event, or playing the sport for that matter, and even serving in one of many possible leadership roles, many strive to show their allegiance to this institution.

Next week there will be an opportunity to take these sentiments to a higher level: through participation in planning the future of NNU. On Wednesday, November 5 from 3-5 PM in the Brandt center, the board and administration will be involved in a major planning process. This plenary session is looking at the time leading up to NNU's centennial in 2013.

Dr. Hagood will be introducing two nationally-known guest speakers: Dr Bob Andringa, President of the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities, the nation's largest association of Christian institutions of higher education, who will be speaking on the topic "Trends and Issues in Christian Higher Education" and Dr. Ron

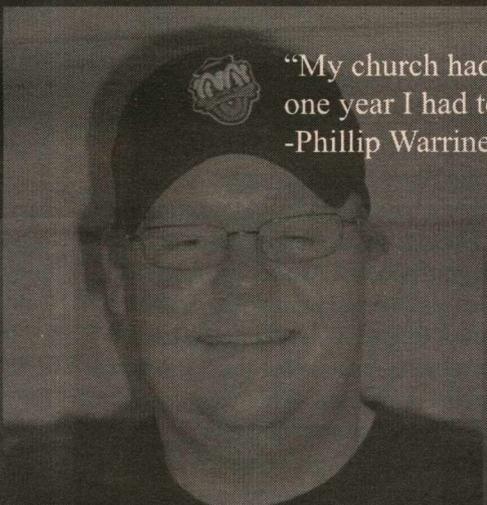
Baker, who is the Associate Director of the Northwest Council of Colleges and Universities, the organization that evaluates institutions of higher education in the Northwest, who will be speaking about "Trends and Issues in Northwest Higher Education."

During this meeting, all University offices are scheduled to be closed, and all staff, administrative personnel, faculty, students not scheduled for classes are strongly urged to attend. All members of the board of trustees will be in attendance, and invitations have been sent to local churches. During the time the speakers are making their presentations, members of the audience will be invited to submit written questions. When the presentations are completed, the speakers will answer questions from the audience.

Sometimes in our attempts to support this institution, it becomes all too easy to think of it only in the present. However, if those who truly care for NNU and all that it stands for want to show their support, this would be an incredible opportunity. After we leave this institution, most of us will only be able to show our appreciation to our Alma Mater in monetary gestures, if that. This is a chance to take an active role in the future of NNU, an ultimate gesture of support.

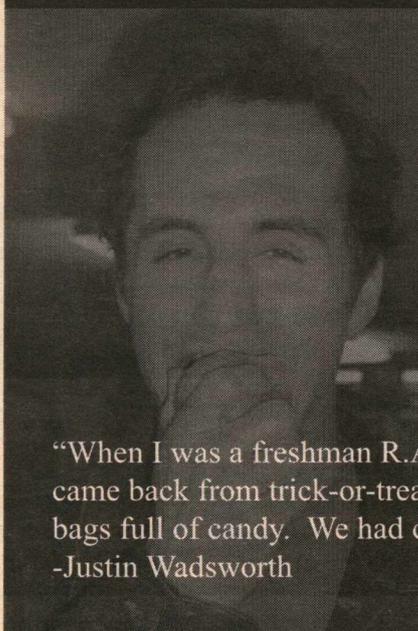
favorite halloween memory?

photos by Amy Carner

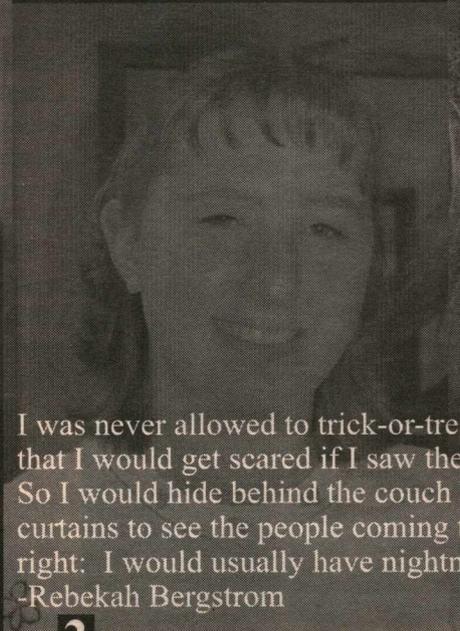


"My church had barn parties and one year I had to diaper a chicken."
-Phillip Warriner

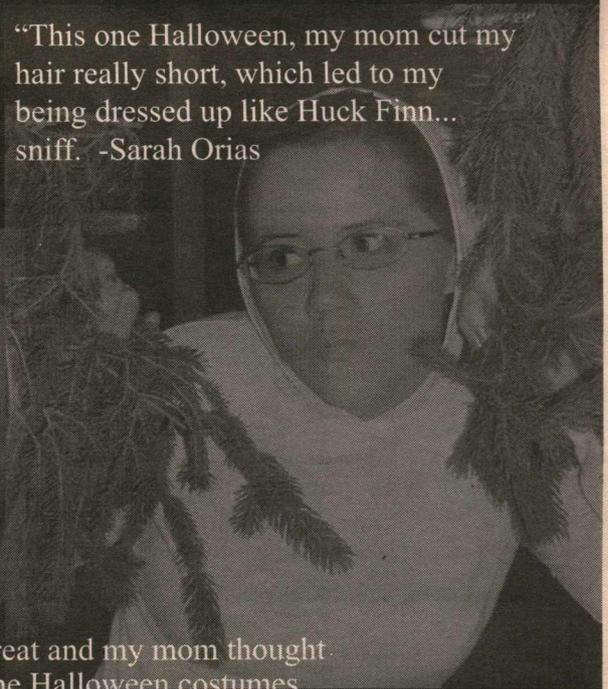
"This one Halloween, my mom cut my hair really short, which led to my being dressed up like Huck Finn... sniff."
-Sarah Orias



"When I was a freshman R.A., all of my guys came back from trick-or-treating with garbage bags full of candy. We had candy for a month."
-Justin Wadsworth



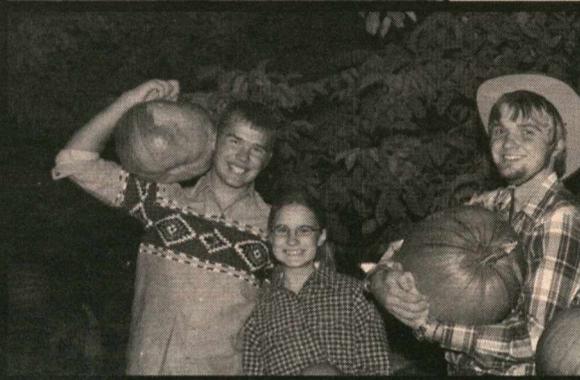
I was never allowed to trick-or-treat and my mom thought that I would get scared if I saw the Halloween costumes. So I would hide behind the couch and peek out through the curtains to see the people coming to the door. And she was right: I would usually have nightmares."
-Rebekah Bergstrom



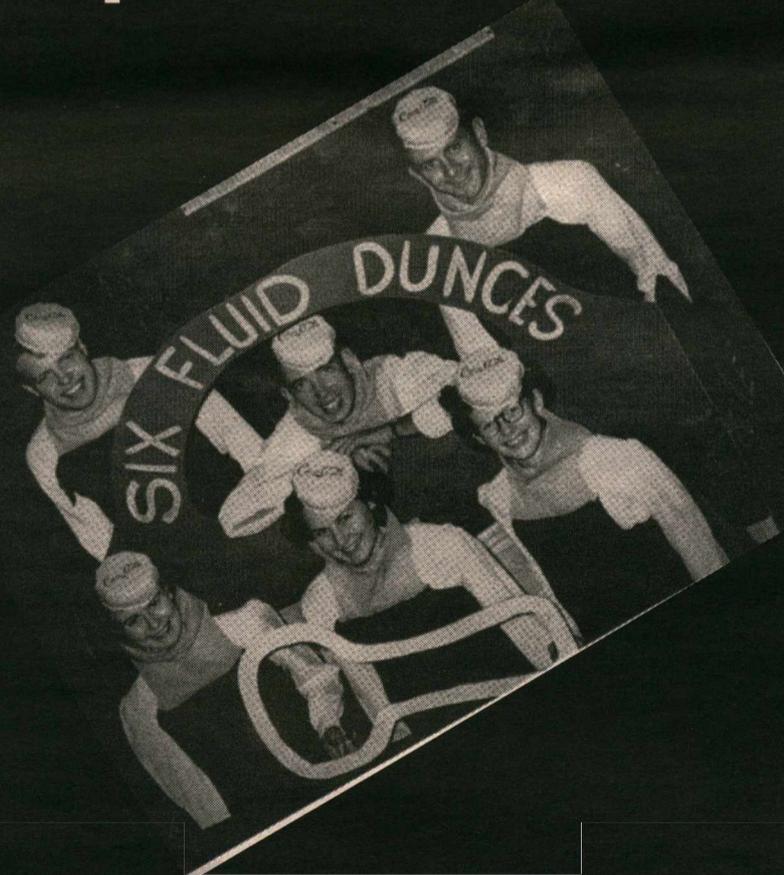
twirp me 2003



photos by Keith Effler



twirp flashback



Just for kicks, we wanted to show you TWIRP from 1951. Girls invited the guys out on Halloween for Sadie Hawkins Day. Isn't it cool that they are all wearing Coca-Cola bottles they MADE themselves? The two kids on the left are Sara Soriakoff's grandparents.

By Jed Kuhn Last weekend was TWIRP, The Woman Is Required To Pay, and boy, was it a kick in the pants! TWIRP is NNU's version of the Sadie Hawkins Dance, except it involves no references to old radio programs or dancing and other such choreographed movements. No, TWIRP is a good, old-fashioned invasion of the greater Boise area.

The event was kicked off on "down home" Friday with a chili feed. One might question the intelligence of the person who decided to feed 500+ people chili beans before a date, but, while I cannot speak for everyone, I am happy to report that neither I nor my date, the lovely Kelly Addleman, suffered any gastro-intestinal problems as a result of dinner. After the chili feed, the TWIRPed broke into two groups and headed to either the Berry Ranch or the Corn Maze (or Maize or whatever).

At the Berry Ranch, couples were treated to a hayride on an old wagon. As far as I know, no one fell off the wagon (thank you, Alcohol Awareness Week). Couples also carved pumpkins. Some were even treated to the sight of Anita Nevin hacking away at her pumpkin with a crowbar. Anita said of her weapon of choice: "Why use anything else?"

Couples at the Corn Maze (or Maize or whatever) wandered around in a labyrinth of Idaho's bounty. Also featured was the horrific Cornevil. Things did not always go smoothly here. Said one Sophomore girl about her Freshman date: "He left me in Cornevil to die!"

Couples met back at Boondocks for go-karts, mini-golf, lazer-tag, and the arcade. With their arcade winnings, Freshman Megan Hill and her date Jeff Gingerich

acquired many G.I. Joes that they later tortured with sporks at a local Taco Bell.

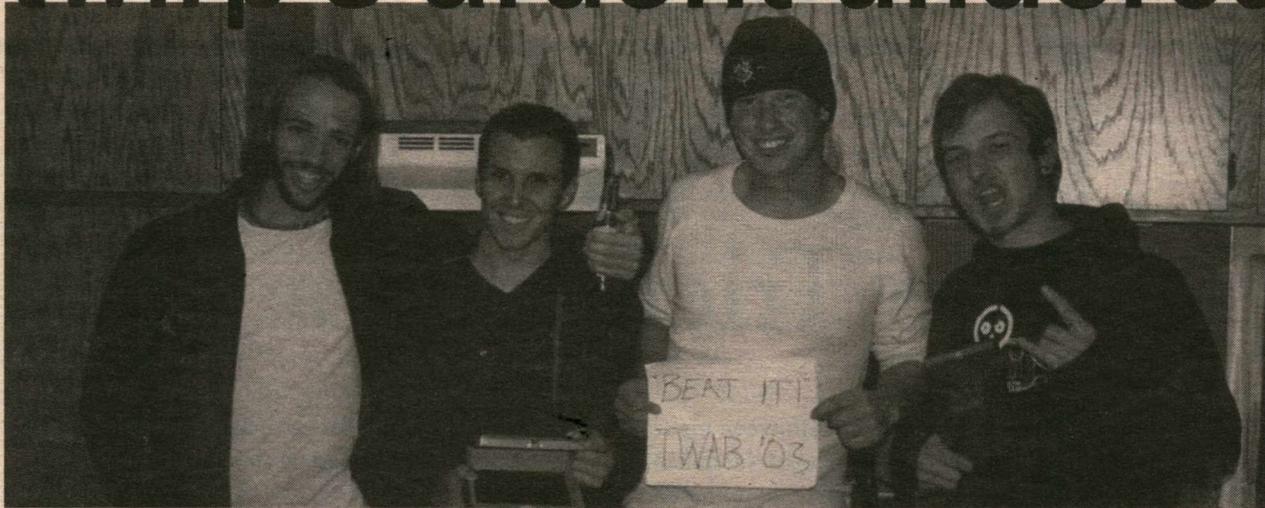
"Downtown" Saturday kicked off with a scavenger hunt around downtown Boise that, surprisingly enough, did not suck. In a break of tradition, Domino's Pizza was served instead of NNU standby Papa John's. Several welcomed the change, a few protested, and some were confused.

Next came choose-your-own-adventure time. People chose a variety of activities. Some went to the Dollar Store. Some went to the mall. The ones who went to the Dollar Store bought things. The ones who went to the mall did not.

Later that night, the NNU TWIRP couples descended in a cult-like horde upon Idaho Ice World. Those unable or unwilling to skate were pushed around the ice on folding chairs. Kristen Kellogg and Jyoti Totten pushed Bodie Jones around the ice until they were attacked by Ryan Meier. After knocking him down, Kristen proceeded to smash him in the face with snow. Take this to heart, boys and girls - do not mess with RA's.

In the last event, the TWIRPed made their way to the movies. The choices of the night were *Spy Kids 3-D* and *Finding Nemo*. In the *Spy Kids* theater, a popcorn fight nearly escalated into a full-scale brawl between one Senior girl and one Senior guy. Looking back on the incident, Crystal Back observed, "She would've kicked his trash." After a patriotic rendition of the national anthem, the movie got underway. *Spy Kids* delivered a poignant message to the audience about the importance of family, friendship, and forgiveness. Thus ended TWIRP.

twirp's ardent undercurrent:



T.W.A.B.

By Aaron Baldassare Every year, a buzz of excitement buds and blossoms as you hear of balloons being left in rooms, scavenger hunts, and see posters hung. The male-female role reversal lets us see which ladies have the stones and which guys are hot ticket items. For many guys, having no control over getting TWIRPed is a small mix of frustration and excitement. When the NNU ladies are seen camped out in the student center, the realization hits- TWIRP 2003 is just around the bend. However, for many students here at NNU, the hullabaloo is one big anticlimax. Among them are the unasked, the disinterested, and the un-TWIRPed. For this minority, there is a tendency to feel swept into the gutter for a weekend. So do these marginalized individuals crawl into a cave for a weekend and cover their faces? I guess some probably do, but not those who comprise the counter-reaction to TWIRP, this year, dubbed TWAB 2003!

Granted, TWAB is an unorganized, last-minute compilation of random events, but it's also much more than that. It is an attitude- a common bond between brothers and sisters that says "Together we can fight the status quo, and, against all odds, have a weekend that rivals, nay, exceeds the excitement of TWIRP!" It is a reminder that friends will stand by you, even when a potential date does not. Anyone can be a part of TWAB, whether male or female, dateless or otherwise. Anyone who has felt the scorn or sympathy of the myriad of TWIRPers for not attending TWIRP is a part of TWAB. TWAB is here to let you know that there is no shame in not being asked to, not being

interested in, or being unasked to TWIRP. You are not alone.

TWAB was conceived by the luckless three quarters of Corlett room 222 who, through an unfortunate set of circumstances, were left dateless five days before TWIRP. TWAB, like TWIRP, is an acronym. It could stand for TWIRP Without A Backcountryhoedown, or our own personal variation; it does not matter. Anyway, TWAB sounds cool. It rhymes with "stab," like if that were to happen to your back or something.

Anyway, TWAB teed off Friday night with cultural refinement, courtesy of the Boise Philharmonic and the lovely and talented Ju-Young Baek on solo violin. With Josh Schultz sitting in for Josh Maggard, who has lately been incapacitated by his dedication to forming the wonderful events of TWIRP, Corlett 222 went to Applebee's for quesadillas and desert. Our spirits were high with a sort of masculine patriotism and comradery. We made toasts with our self-squeezed lemonade to brotherhood and the like, and our conversation was

spiced with interjections of "TWAB yeah!," "TWAB on!," and similar outbursts of TWAB allegiance. Afterward, we rounded up some snacks and beverages from Walmart to sustain us for Mario Puzo's classic, *The Godfather*. We immediately were inspired to be gangsters, and, imitating Marlon Brando's character, Don Corleone, made a pact to break into the business sometime, but only gambling—no drugs.

The second night commenced with all-you-can-eat pizza and pasta at Primo's to watch the Yankees lose the World Series. The place was inundated with a Les Schwab convention of some sort, which spawned my favorite phrase of the night, "What we need here is a little less Schwab and a little more TWAB." Dinner was followed by a 7-11 Slurpee run to obtain a conglomeration of 162 ounces of syrupy sweetness. We retreated back to our dorm as Jeremy Hugus needed to be introduced to the wonderful world of *Office Space*, which inspired us to quit our desk jobs that we do not really have, but will get later on so that we can quit them. Our TWAB activities then intersected with the nocturnal endeavors of Dorthyann Isackson and Becky Burgess, exhausting all the possibilities of entertainment that five pounds of dry ice can afford.

We met up with fellow TWABer, Nate Knodel that night as he was departing to Justin Wadsworth's place to watch chick flicks in his pajamas, eating pints of Ben and Jerry's, officially completing the TWIRP

role reversal. Nate later reported of his night that "it was far better than TWIRP ever could have been." In my estimation, that more or less sums it up for TWAB '03 participants this year.

Someone could point out that all the events experienced at TWAB 2003 could be enacted any other night of the year, but someone would be missing the point entirely. TWAB is a time set apart to nurse those afflicted by the casualties of TWIRP and unite as a band of self-sufficient rogues to proclaim that you can take our roommates, you can take our TWIRP dates, but you can never take our TWAB! TWAB is here to stay.

photo courtesy of Aaron Baldassare

H RECLAIMING HALLOWEEN

Two Tricks and a Treat

By Tiana Cutright Halloween is an ambiguous holiday for many Christians. It is “tricky” to figure out what to do with it. However, Halloween is a historical celebration that is worth celebrating today. The real trick for any American is to develop a true comprehension of this history. Ours is a culture with no understanding of our history or our heritage. We tend to cling to a hodge-podge of myth and lore in order to explain why we do things today—if we even bother to examine the origins of our traditions at all. We should make a point of exploring the historical perspectives that contribute to our holidays. “Why?” is an important question for Christians to ask.

Trick 1 American Traditions

These days, Halloween seems to be a celebration of the horror genre in general. All things spooky and terrifying are emphasized. We dress up like monsters and revel in the darkness of the night. Or, if being monstrous does not appeal to us, at least we can put on costumes, take on personas other than our own, and enjoy treats at parties.

Our basic understanding of Halloween as “spooky” (as in “influenced by spooks or spirits”) originates with the concept common to many cultures that the dead visit the living during the time between October 30th and November 5th (El Dia de los Muertos in Mexico, Samhain for ancient Celts, Nos Galen-gaeof in Wales). Hollywood has helped America to expand on this idea, including various monsters, aliens, outsiders, ghosts, psychos, demons, and assorted mysterious phenomena in the “spooky” category. Add in traditional superstitions about black cats, empty houses, and warty old ladies, and *presto!* Halloween is infused with a sense of gleeful unease about the possibilities of evil presences in our comfortable world. Halloween reminds us at some level that the darkness may not be entirely safe. We are a bored nation. Danger and “spookiness” is at the least entertaining.

American Halloween entertainments revolve around scary stories, parties, and trick-or-treating. The sharing of spine-tingling tales through story-telling and movies taps into the whole spooky mystique of the holiday. Also, the parties and nocturnal candy-gathering forays are closely connected historically.

There is a popular myth out there that tries to connect American Halloween parties with Celtic Druid festivals, and claims that trick-or-treating is a modern derivative of ancient offerings to appease visiting spirits. The reality is that our Halloween traditions are as American as Thanksgiving (another myth-riddled holiday—but that is another story altogether). There are many variations in many cultures regarding the canvassing of a neighborhood for treats or money during certain holidays. However, this became a regular Halloween-oriented occurrence in America only in the early part of the 20th century. At that time it became very popular for young people to play pranks on

Halloween night. Unfortunately, these pranks were usually mischievous acts of vandalism that caused property damage or disturbed the peace of local communities.

In response to this behavior, community organizations began sponsoring town pageants and harvest festivals to keep would-be jokesters occupied. For the same reason, trick-or-treating and small parties were established as an acceptable neighborhood activity for children. The chorus of young voices crying “trick or treat!” was a literal statement. It was either send out the “young ‘uns” to collect treats from the neighbors, or cope with the neighbors’ complaints the next day when the tricks played the night before were discovered.

Today, Halloween and its trappings have been as commercialized as every other national event. It is second only to Christmas in the marketing world. The celebrations are expected, often elaborate, and are more frequently devoted to the entertainment of adults than children these days. But Halloween is certainly fun. It is the holiday that celebrates self-expression and creativity through costumes. It engages whole communities. It also gives us a chance to laugh at the darker things in life.

Trick 2 Halloween & Modern Occultists

Here is where Halloween gets really sticky for Christians.

It is not necessarily the candy, or even the scary stories that make us suspicious of celebrating Halloween. It is the understanding that certain non/un-Christian religions claim Halloween as one of their sacred days. Christians’ often-phobic response to neo-pagans, witches, and occultists is understandable in light of biblical prohibitions like Deuteronomy 18:10-13. However, this reaction also tends to extend to a fearful ambivalence toward Halloween in general. This leads to the propagation of yet more Halloween myths that add to the confusion about how Christians should respond to this holiday. Here are some facts provided by the wonderful people involved with ExWitch Ministries (www.exwitch.org) to help clarify the Pagan-Halloween issue.

Fact: Neither the ancient Druids nor modern Pagans sacrifice(d) humans during religious rites. *Samhain* was the Celtic celebration of the end of the agricultural year and people were busy preparing to survive the coming winter. It was the celebration of the harvest brought safely home. Any animals killed were those culled and processed to provide food during the cold months to come—not wantonly sacrificed for religious reasons.

Fact: There are as many varieties of neo-pagans, witches, and Satanists as there are Christian denominations. Adherents to these religions may be of any race, age, or gender. It is very hard to generalize what these people may or may not choose to do on Halloween. However, they are not interested in cursing people, poisoning candy



and hiding razor blades in apples (another popular myth), or randomly attacking people in the dark.

Fact: Halloween is not a high unholy day for Satanists (unless it happens to be an actual Satanist's birthday).

Fact: Yes, modern witches do perform rituals on or near Halloween, which is a favorite festival, or *Sabbat*. This could include ritual purification, group or personal ceremonies, special divination sessions, inviting the dead to communicate with them, performing a harvest thanksgiving devotion, attending a large pagan event or concert, or just attending a Halloween party.

Fact: No, witches etcetera do not abduct children or animals. Taking lives is not part of either their festivities or their spiritual practices.

Fact: Yes, those involved in the Occult are engaging in VERY dangerous spiritual activities that God absolutely forbids. Our Lord God Himself describes things like divination, sorcery, necromancy, and idolatry as "abominations" in His sight. Occultists are also among the "lost," human beings in desperate need of redemption through Jesus Christ. They are not beyond hope. These people need concerned Christians to pray for their salvation.

Fact: Halloween itself does not seduce young people to "the dark side." An alarming number of neo-pagans—especially Wiccans (a branch of modern witches)—turn to witchcraft and paganism after becoming disillusioned with Christianity. This disillusionment is often due to observing hypocrisy, experiencing judgment, or being devalued and abused in various ways within a local church. The Christian community should be far more concerned with pursuing Christlikeness than with condemning evils in the world around us. This includes the evils associated with Halloween.

Our Treat The Christian Tradition

It was in 835 CE that Pope Gregory IV established November 1st as All Saints' Day, to honor all saints in the church. Previously, All Saints' Day was celebrated on May 13th, and was later changed to November

1st by Pope Gregory III to honor only the saints in the Vatican Basilica. After the celebration was changed to include the whole body of departed Christians, the evening before this day became known as All Hallows Eve, from which we derive our modern term, "Halloween." In medieval times, Christians would gather for worship on All Hallows Eve to celebrate Christ's victory over death. All Soul's Day is celebrated on November 2nd, and is a time for prayers and charitable acts in honor of ancestors who have died. On these days, Christians remember the saints of history and those in our own lives who have died, preceding us to heaven. We honor their memory, recounting how they have touched and influenced us.

Also connected with Halloween is Reformation Day, which commemorates October 31, 1517. This was the day Martin Luther tacked his 95 Thesis (criticisms of the Roman Catholic Church's practices) to the Castle Church door in Wittenburg, Germany. Reformation Sunday is observed in some churches in conjunction with Reformation Day. These days are a time to especially celebrate Christian salvation and justification.

Awareness of these Christian traditions is unfortunately very low in our country. According to a 1999 Focus on the Family website poll regarding the celebration of Halloween, 30% of respondents avoid celebrating Halloween because "it is evil." 29% go ahead and enjoy the costumes and candy. 29% turn it into merely a fall festival, while 9% ignore the holiday altogether. Only 4% observe Reformation Day.

If Christians have issues with celebrating Halloween, perhaps we should turn our attention to the history of our own faith. The events of the liturgical year provide us with a rich heritage and many causes to celebrate the life of Christ, along with the story of the church. Also, if Christians pull out of Halloween, we leave a void in our communities and culture that will be gladly filled by other influencing forces. Christians need to be wary, but Christians also need to be wise and compassionate. The Great Commission Jesus gave His disciples extends to modern Christians and certainly to Halloween.

Concerning Halloween, think how blessed we are: it is not just one day of reveling in candy and costumes. We have All Hallows Eve, All Saints' Day, Reformation Day and Reformation Sunday, and All Souls' Day. We can make the entire week around Halloween a time of devotion and remembrance. Halloween can be a time to celebrate the faithful saints who have made it home, a time to recount stories of those saints and the church, a time to hold our own worship services, and it can be a time to remember those in our own families who have passed on. It is a perfect time to remember that Christ has conquered death and that Satan is a defeated foe. This can be the time we thank God for the salvation He gives us through Jesus.

Certainly, we should take evil seriously—but not too seriously. After all, we are not under the weight of sin and fear. We live under the grace and sovereign authority of the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come. Our best Halloween treat is the surety of our identity with the triumphant Lord Jesus Christ as His people, His church, His Body on earth. If we are uninterested in participating in a secular holiday, or coping with Satanic connotations, we certainly have plenty to celebrate within our own faith traditions.

But however you choose to celebrate Halloween this year, may the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. And have a very happy Halloween!

Halloween Information Resources:

Ray Bradbury's The Halloween Tree is a story that explores various Halloween traditions.

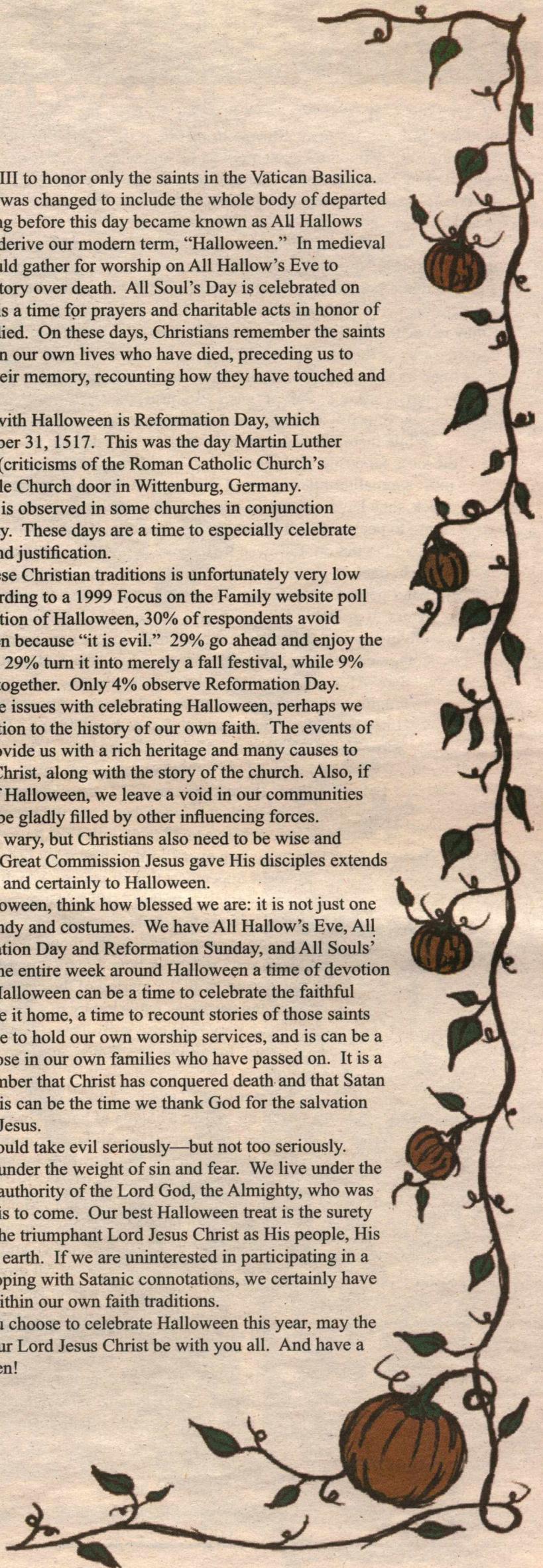
www.historychannel.com provides decent historical information.

www.textweek.com provides lectionary readings from various denominations.

www.exwitch.org is the site of an international internet ministry to Pagans and former Pagans.

www.focusonthefamily.org offers a wide array of Evangelical Christian articles and resources.

www.religioustolerance.org provides extensive inter-faith information.



life in general

By Kandice Gingrich As a reporter for the Crusader, yours truly has traveled across the valley in an effort to bring you Nampa's and Boise's best in entertainment. Although I have traveled far and wide, I have never encountered such an exciting destination since I first came to NNU. I did promise testosterone in this article, and this place has it in spades!

Sliders prides itself on the quality of its karts and track. The karts are built in Northern Italy by CRG, the world's largest racing kart manufacturer, and the chassis of the karts are the exact same as those used by professional competition racing karts. The karts have a 6.5 HP engine, and feel like they have 50. The karts come complete with roll bars, engine guards, and body harnesses. As for the track itself, it spreads over 2200 square feet, and is lined by safety barriers from France, designed specifically for this kind of karting. Full of twists and turns, the track demands your full attention during the entire drive.

While there, the manager offered to let me take one of the karts for a ride, and I just have to say that that ride was the most adrenaline-filled event of the year. Before you even go on the track, they have you put on a head-sock, which allows your eyes and nose to peek out. After that, they pick a helmet and a pair of racing gloves for you to put on, followed by a neck brace wedged between your shoulders and the helmet, to protect your neck and head from bouncing around too much. After getting all suited up, I was placed in a kart and strapped in tight. As you can probably tell, safety is a big issue with Sliders. Away I sped, flying around the corners at breakneck speed, tires squealing and engine roaring. I made about four or five laps, and then pulled it in. After taking off the helmet, I saw that the manager and employees were laughing at my enthusiasm. Apparently, I had not been going nearly as fast as I could have. To demonstrate, two of them hopped in the karts, after suiting up, of course, and showed me a thing or two about speed.

Let me tell you, these karts can fly. Tires *really* squealing, they flew around the track at a speed that made me breathless just watching. Reaching speeds between 35 to 45 miles per hour, you feel a force of 1.5 Gs as you turn every corner. The track is equipped with a state of the art Supersport timing system, which can track each kart on the track to within 1/100th of a second.

The manager told me that, at high speed, a kart can complete a lap in 14 seconds. If the thought of flying along at 45 miles per hour a mere 4 inches from the ground, with the roaring of the engines in your ears and partitions whizzing by in a blur doesn't get you excited, very little else will. This is a date location that is truly cool, for all you gentlemen out there looking for original destinations.

For parties and events, Sliders can be rented out for an evening, or just a couple of hours. In fact, 60% of all the parties that rent out Sliders are company parties that use the facility for team-building exercises. Prices vary according to whether you are a member or not. Member fees are a mere \$10.00 a year. Prices start at \$17.00 per person (nonmember) or \$14.00 (member), and increase according to how long you want to race. All drivers must be 12 years of age, and have a waiver signed by their parents if under the age of 18. You must be 58" tall to ride the karts.

If you are looking for a fun, adrenaline-filled time, I would definitely recommend Sliders. This is an experience far beyond the norm of the area, and will make any day (or date) memorable.

Sliders Kart Racing
1220 N. Orchard St.
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 947-0250

a day at

dido's follow-up: wholly satisfying

By Christin Runkle Dido, the English lass with the lilting catch in her voice, released her highly anticipated second album, *Life for Rent*, earlier this month to a round of critical applause. Best known for lending her vocals to Eminem's track "Stan," Dido is a bright and effervescent young artist with a sweet-as-sugar voice and a knack for penning smart lyrics. Her first album, *No Angel*, built upon the success of "Stan" and became a surprise runaway hit. Happily, *Life for Rent* is in every way a wholly satisfying follow-up record. There is certainly nothing revolutionary about it—*Life for Rent* listens like part two of *No Angel*—but Dido sticks with what she does best, and that is certainly not a bad thing. *Life for Rent* is a solid sophomore effort, full of sweet, spare, ambient dance and acoustic pop.

As she might well have done, Dido did not enlist the help of glitzy producers for *Life for Rent*. Instead, she co-produced the album with her brother and muse, Rollo Armstrong, who played a major role in the production of her last album. She also, as before, wrote or co-wrote each track on the disc. Dido is a romantic at heart, and her optimistic mind-set is pervasive throughout. Every song is above average, but standouts include the stellar "Don't Leave Home" and "This Land Is Mine." "See the Sun" is an elegant letter of encouragement to a grieving friend. "Stoned," apart from a questionable premise, is musically one of the best tracks on the album. The hidden bonus track is not quite up to par, but then, that is probably why it is buried at the tail end of the album.

Besides her musical talents, Dido's image is one of the most refreshing things about her. She appears to be a very normal, unaffected girl—the anti-Britney, if you will. It is almost shocking these days when a female pop vocalist does not try to cultivate a sexpot image, but Dido seems to deliberately avoid that pitfall and lets her voice, rather than her sexuality, sell her music. That is a good move on her part because she deserves to be seen as more than just a pretty face, as *Life for Rent* demonstrates.

Life for Rent is a highly competent new release from Dido—one that should not let listeners down. While it is not earth shattering, it makes for a good listen and is catchy enough to stay in the CD player on repeat without becoming dull.

*** (out of four)



book to movie review:

Runaway Jury

By Kevin Lambert John Grisham fans unite as our favorite lawyer, sells his book *Runaway Jury* to Hollywood producers. This is his seventh book that has been turned into a movie.

The movie centers on Baton Rouge, Louisiana as a widow sues a manufacturing company for her husband's wrongful death. As jury selection begins, the company calls upon the industry's long time favorite jury analyst and court manager, Rankin Fitch, to closely investigate every potential juror and pick the best jury possible. After the jury is picked, Fitch is then expected to monitor their every thought and the deliberations, using propaganda, blackmail and bribery to win the case for the manufacturer. However, once the jury is picked, one of the jurors, Nicholas Easter, takes control of the jury and the courtroom, earning everyone's respect and slowly causing Rankin Fitch to realize that Nicholas has control. It is not surprising when a woman claiming to be Nicholas' friend approaches Fitch and announces that Nicholas will accept 10 million dollars to make the jury vote in favor of the manufacturer.

The first noticeable change was announced in the previews for the film. In the book, the widow was suing a tobacco company for the wrongful death of her 70 year old husband who had died of lung cancer. In the movie the widow's husband was thirty years old and died in a random shooting. Therefore, the woman is suing a gun manufacturer rather than the tobacco industry. This substantial change in plot caused a disappointing change in theme. John Grisham was writing a suspense thriller. Preaching against the dangers of tobacco was a bonus. The movie, however, seems to focus all of its efforts on blaming gun manufacturers for the thousands of wrongful deaths caused by automatics, machine guns, and rifles every day. School shootings are even mentioned to gain our support for this cause. Wherever one may stand on the gun issue, such propaganda will not be appreciated. I much rather prefer the subtle hints that tobacco is harmful than the strong statement the movie makes. In addition, such a change caused many compelling plot twists to be lost or drastically changed.

The characterization of Nicholas Easter and his mysterious friend, Marlee, was also not concurrent with the book. In John Grisham's thriller, Nick and Marlee were cool, calm and fully in control of the situation at hand. They had unsurpassable courage, knew every step to take, and every consequence their actions would have. Pitting their minds against Rankin Fitch, who thought he had control, was one of Grisham's greatest accomplishments. In the movie, however, Marlee and Nick are frightened, scared and seemingly ready to lose control of the situation many times. Although this added some on-screen suspense, I felt that the integrity of the characters had been lost.

In the interests of time, I am sure, many of the jurors could not be explained in as great detail as the book. There are two or three fascinating subplots in the book that better explain how Nicholas came to control all of the jurors, ultimately convincing Fitch that he could deliver whatever verdict Nick desired. For example, Rankin Fitch bought out a local supermarket that was managed by a juror and forced that juror to vote in favor of the tobacco industry. This was mentioned almost in passing in the movie as was the fake FBI agents who supposedly caught a juror's husband doing dirty business. Such subplots greatly added to the book's character and it is unfortunate that the movie was lacking them.

Although few and far between, there were some great scenes that managed to escape the cut when the movie's script was written. Audiences and readers alike will laugh as Nicholas Easter has the jury recite the pledge of allegiance in court one morning and as Nick pulls some strings to get the judge to allow the jury to eat lunch at a first class restaurant during lunch. And although the movie and the book ended in two very different ways, the basic plot twist was still the same.

In conclusion, the book and the movie were both great stories with moral and political stands. The movie took the idea from Grisham, but basically traveled its own route from there. Grisham fans should not expect the movie to be a precise replica of the book. The movie can be considered a good suspense thriller if separated from the book.

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midnight madness

By Sharece Bunn Midnight madness. These two words could mean a number of things in the real world, but on college campuses, they mean something special. This night marks the beginning of the official season of the guys and girls basketball teams. Here at NNU, we celebrate this joyous event with various forms of bribery. The most important part of Midnight Madness seems to be the free T-shirts. These T-shirts are coveted within the NNU circle, but have no fear, as Lincoln Hagood said, "I can get one at a second-hand store in a couple weeks."

Lincoln and Bodie Jones sat behind the girls and no shirts were thrown in their direction. It was probably due to the fact that Lincoln was wearing one of the shirts from the eighties.

After introducing the teams to the student body, the games began. The girls slaughtered the guys in a shoot around, but things evened out a bit with the three-point contest. Heidi Buehler, Whitney VanBrocklyn, and Prentice Harris got the traditional pie in the face for losing. It was great. As usual, the whip cream got all over the players. We all hope that they washed their faces afterward.

Things got more exciting with the lay-up contest. A few rather humorous contestants sent the crowd roaring. Anyone attending Midnight Madness really should be prepared to participate. They even jazzed it up a bit with a dizzy shooting contest. Lili Carreon fell down and had to be helped up by hero Jerome Casper.

The big giveaway of the night was the \$250 gift certificate to the bookstore. This delightful prize was won by Jennifer Tyhurst, practically the fiftieth contestant.

A bodacious dunk contest finished off the night. Zac Carpenter joined a few of the guys in the most exciting event of the night. Chris Mosbacher and Daniel Nyom were the two finalists. Daniel did an impressive jump over the judge, Andrea Larson, for which she automatically gave him a "10".

This tournament got the Primates' juices flowing for continuing hard-core Ultimate, as we look forward to a year of improvement and all around enjoyment. Anyone interested in coming out and kicking it on the field, is welcome to come Mondays and Fridays at 4 o'clock on the practice soccer field, and join us for some high-packed, exciting games of Ultimate Frisbee.

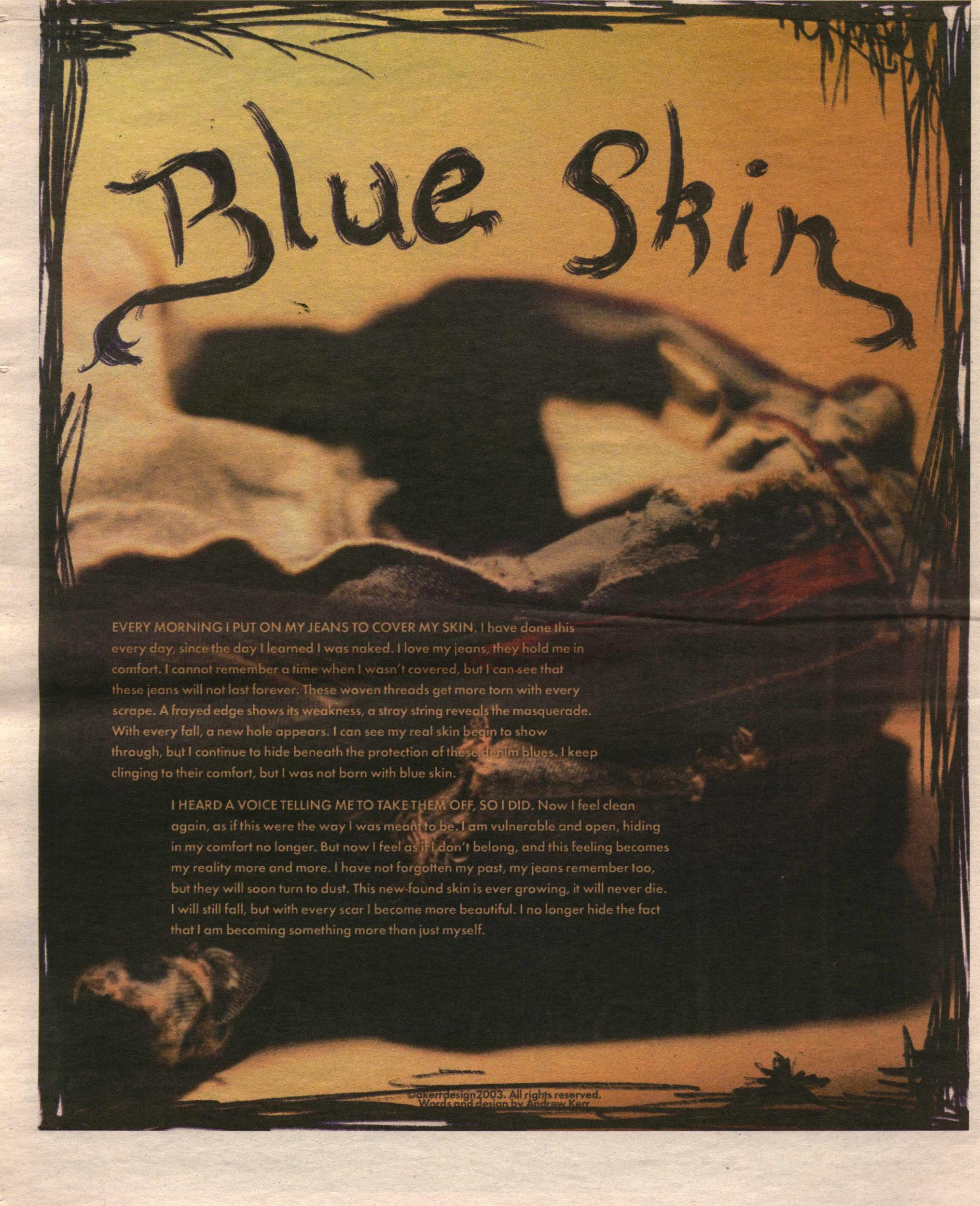
Our guys. playing with other girls, and cheering our lungs out for Melanie Nisly, and myself. We learned a lot about Strickler, Erica Madison, Melody Jeffers, Noelle West, tournament from NNU were the girl primates Ashley tough defense and offense. Playing in the girl's hat dump and swing, zone, stack, and just some all-out together as a team as they pushed Ultimate plays like Osborne, Jeff St. Mary, and Josh Walker, pulled it King, Tim Evans, Reed Sandros, Jeremy Powell, Jon Friesen, Jeremy Hugas, Jardon Jaramillo, Adrian year's team consisting of Steve Gundersen, Dan fields going 3-3, with two very close losses. This

Our male Primates dominated on the playing hours of the morning? I can't think of any, can you? pizza and ice cream, and playing cards into the we in two gender-specific hotel rooms, pigging out on Ultimate Frisbee in the sunshine, cramming 17 people better way is there to spend a weekend, than playing the season. Can we say ROAD TRIP to the max? What to fantabulous Logan, Utah for the first tournament of This last weekend, NNU's Primates headed down

healthy. along with a little bit of physical activity to keep one laughter with some of the coolest people in existence, this: Ultimate Frisbee--massive amounts of fun and in the dictionary, the definition might look something Ultimate Frisbee. If one were to look up those words

primate power

By Bethany Kuykendall Two words...



Blue Skin

EVERY MORNING I PUT ON MY JEANS TO COVER MY SKIN. I have done this every day, since the day I learned I was naked. I love my jeans, they hold me in comfort. I cannot remember a time when I wasn't covered, but I can see that these jeans will not last forever. These woven threads get more torn with every scrape. A frayed edge shows its weakness, a stray string reveals the masquerade. With every fall, a new hole appears. I can see my real skin begin to show through, but I continue to hide beneath the protection of these denim blues. I keep clinging to their comfort, but I was not born with blue skin.

I HEARD A VOICE TELLING ME TO TAKE THEM OFF, SO I DID. Now I feel clean again, as if this were the way I was meant to be. I am vulnerable and open, hiding in my comfort no longer. But now I feel as if I don't belong, and this feeling becomes my reality more and more. I have not forgotten my past, my jeans remember too, but they will soon turn to dust. This new-found skin is ever growing, it will never die. I will still fall, but with every scar I become more beautiful. I no longer hide the fact that I am becoming something more than just myself.