

# Technically SPEAKING

Editor in Chief Tabatha Verbick Assistant Editor Merlin Miller PERT Editor Eric Mackey

## See Through The Madness

by Kyle Andrew

Do you feel those vibrations? No need to worry. The vibrations are not the incessant wind normally found on the Northwest campus. It's the roaring vibrations of the March Madness fans.

I know what your thinking, "It is only February, far too early for March Madness." Well, nay, I say. It is never too early to be tracking your favorite teams on their way to the Sweet 16, Elite 8, Final Four and who knows maybe even the NCAA Championship game. Every week games are being played that will help determine bracket placement and quite possibly, the fate of many NCAA basketball teams.

Many stat tracker sites are available out on the net.



You may have some sites that you are accustomed to using, but there are some other helpful online resources to push your March Madness addiction to the next level. A few resources for all your up-to-date stats, rosters, injury lists, predictions and much more include Ncaasports.com, Foxsports.com, ncaamarchmadness2008.com and espn.com. Also, if you are following the NCAA women's division, do not feel left out. Each website contains up-to-date information and statistical analysis' of the women's teams too.

The NCAA March Madness 2008 bracket is the bread-

and-butter of sports forecasting and predictions. Many groups, schools, organizations, fraternities and work associates get together every March for some competitive, sometimes-lucky predictions to help prove they are "the ultimate basketball fan". Many of these brackets include wagers and others are played for bragging rights. Keep your habit and your wallet healthy by just playing for the sheer ability to own 365 days of bragging rights. So get out there and start doing your March Madness bracket homework. Who wants to be the person that "coulda, shoulda, woulda" had a good bracket, when you can have the upper hand.

*"It is never too early to be tracking your favorite teams."*

## Halo 3 LAN Party

Twice a year the PERTs put together and host the Halo LAN party. Last fall, over a hundred people participated in the LAN party.

The Halo 3 LAN party is composed of 12 Xboxes, 12 projectors and 48 players. Three LANS or pods are created by linking up 4 Xboxes in a massive 16 player LAN. The point of the program is to stress that it is possible to abide by Northwest Computing Policies and still have massive LANs outside of Xbox Live, but hold on because there is more to this program.

We will also be supplying everybody with drinks and things to munch on like any good LAN party should, as well as, a raffle giveaway with a variety of good prizes. Yes, good prizes. At previous LAN parties, we have given away an Xbox 360, digital camera, wireless controllers, gift cards and more.

The Spring 2008 Halo 3 LAN party will be held on Thursday, March 13th in the Tower View room on the 3rd floor of the Student Union.

When you see Master Chief on the walls of your residence hall, you will know the LAN party is quickly approaching.

Chris Grandfield	South Complex	X-5084
Beyza Aydar	Perrin Hall	X-5627
Daman Kapoor	Hudson Hall	X-6206
Nathan Fuller	Phillips Hall	X-6570
Kyle Andrew	Millikan Hall	X-5952
Eric Mackey	Dieterich Hall	X-6251

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Sat	11 am-4:45 pm
Sun	1 pm-11:45 pm

**Questions?**  
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In the array of online games, find one that captivates you like the word game on FreeRice.com is difficult. The word game on FreeRice.com presents you with a word and you have to select the correct definition from the four different choices. A correct answer equals 20 grains of rice. Wait a minute; you get points in the form of rice? Yes, that's the approach FreeRice.com has taken to curb world hunger and help millions of people around the world.

FreeRice.com has partnered with the United Nations World Food Program and is donating money to them for purchasing not only rice but other necessary grocery items that will help the poor and needy. Grocery items include vegetable oil, bread, salt, pulses and

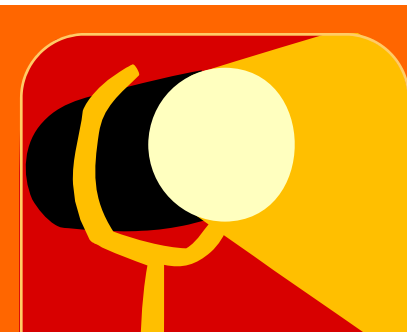
sugar which enable the hungry to prepare basic meals for survival.

Now you are thinking, "How do the FreeRice.com people get the money to donate to the UN Food Program? Are they stealing the cookies from my computer and selling them for profit?" The answer is ads. Like other websites make money, FreeRice.com has lent some of the space on their website to advertisers who pay for the grains of rice you win by getting correct answers.

So are the words hard? The first time you go to the website, it gauges your level of vocabulary based on correct and incorrect responses and gives you words currently ranked at the appropriate level. You advance to higher levels

when you get correct answers and move back to lower levels when you do not do as well. Some of the words encountered on level 41 were prophylactic meaning preventive, scalawag meaning rascal and wanderlust which is the urge to travel.

You must be wondering how this game benefits you. The game exudes knowledge and can help amplify your parochial sophistry, which means the game provides knowledge and can help increase your narrow vocabulary. See! I already sound smart. You can use these words in papers, articles, exams or at the dining table with your family. My dad will be so proud of me now! Do yourself and hungry people of the world some good by making your lazy computer do something productive.

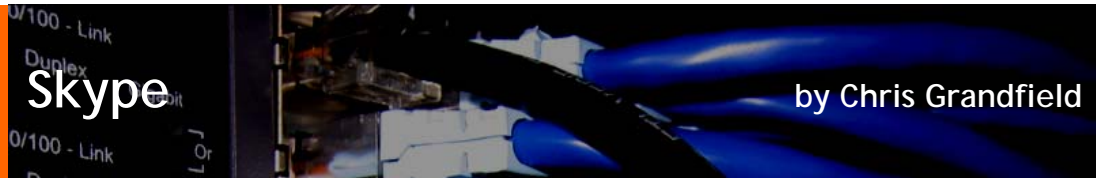


## PERT SPOTLIGHT Kyle Andrew

Kyle is a Junior from the small town of Gallatin, Missouri. If you have never heard of the town, do not feel left out. Graduating with 36 in his class, Northwest is a couple steps up in class sizes and in multiethnic diversity for Kyle. However, the larger, more diverse population has not slowed him down.

Kyle has been active with Residence Hall Association, TKE — Delta Nu Chapter, IFC, Ad Ink, Rugby Club, KNWT Channel 8, and National Society of Collegiate Scholars. He currently works for Client Computing and Residential Life. While being involved in many areas, he has managed to stay actively obsessed with competitive sports and make the President's Honor Roll.

Hanging out with friends and participating in sports are among Kyle's favorite activities. Stop by his room on third floor Millikan for help or to visit.



by Chris Grandfield

Skype is a Voice over IP software that can be used to talk to people anywhere in the world. Skype has many features and services that are free to use, which include calling other people using Skype. Calling people via Skype is similar to using the audio feature of an instant messaging program, but Skype's audio quality is similar to that of a standard telephone. Skype features one-to-one or group chats with up to 24 people.

Skype is also a great solution for international students wanting to communicate with their friends and family in another country. Skype is available in 28 different languages and can make calls to countries all over the world. To see a list of international calling rates go to [www.skype.com/intl/en/prices/callrates](http://www.skype.com/intl/en/prices/callrates).

Currently, Skype is offering discounts for signing up for a Skype Pro account. Skype Pro comes with many features and is only \$3.00 per month. Skype Pro includes unlimited calling in the U.S. and Canada to any phone, the ability to make international calls from your mobile phone at local rates, a \$36 discount on a Skypeln number, free Skype voicemail

and call transferring to any phone. Skypeln allows any phone to call you at your computer.

Skype is also beginning to move beyond the computer. Now you can purchase cordless and corded phones that work with Skype. When using a Voice Over IP (VOIP) phone, you simply plug your Ethernet cable directly into the phone itself instead of running it through a computer. Once it is connected to the network, the VOIP phone works similar to a regular land line phone, except the phone is connecting to and using Skype instead of the local phone company. However, when you are purchasing a VOIP phone, you need to make sure it is Skype compatible. The easiest way to do this is to purchase the phone directly from Skype. You can learn more details about Skype at [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com).

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*"Skypeln allows any phone to call you at your computer."*

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# Computer Tips

## 4 Tips You Should Know

**1** Make your browser homepage something academic, such as the Northwest web site, to help keep you on track.

**2** Defragmenting your computer makes it run faster. Click Start, All Programs, Accessories, System Tools then Disk Defragmenter.

**3** Press SHIFT + DELETE to erase an item permanently, bypassing the recycle bin.

**4** Switch from program to program fast with ALT + TAB.

## Fun Links

[www.fark.com](http://www.fark.com)

Endless amounts of funny News and videos compiled by witty internet people all on one site.

[www.ytmnd.com](http://www.ytmnd.com)

It's completely random and completely chaotic. Hate it or love it!

[www.stumbleupon.com](http://www.stumbleupon.com)

Learns what kinds of websites you like. Clicking "Stumble" will take you to a website of your interest.

## eBay

eBay is a great way to find anything you might need at a reasonable price. In order to make purchases or sell items on eBay, you will be required to register and create an account.

While obtaining an account may seem bothersome, having your own personal account on eBay has an upside. Having your own account allows you to rate other people on their credibility and timeliness, thereby enabling you and others to make the best choice of who to buy from. Wise shoppers not look for the best price, but also consider who the seller is and their reputation on eBay.

While using eBay, be sure to use safe shopping practices. The more information you have on an item

and seller the better. Below are a few tips to ensure a good purchase.

- 1) Find out about the seller before making a purchase. Check their feedback. Look for a high feedback score and for what percentage of their score is positive. Read comments from the seller's previous transactions.
- 2) If you have questions on an item, click on the "Ask Seller a Question" link and send an email to the seller. If there is no response, you should be weary. Good sellers will be extremely happy to answer your questions.
- 3) On eBay, PayPal is a safe, fast way to pay



by Nathan Fuller

for a purchase. Pay with a credit card via PayPal and the payment will be covered under payment protection policies.

- 4) Do not be deceived by fraudulent escrow services. Use [www.escrow.com](http://www.escrow.com), which is approved by eBay. Escrow.com is typically used for purchases of \$500 or more. Be cautious when using escrow options.
- 5) Do not use instant cash transfer services such as MoneyGram or Western Union, which do not offer buyer protection. Do not bid on listings where the seller only accepts instant money transfers or cash. Do NOT send cash through the mail.

## Shape Up!

by Beyza Aydar

Tired of snow and cold weather? You are not alone! Try to motivate yourself by thinking about Spring Break which is almost here.

Do not worry about the couple extra pounds you gained from ordering pizza every day this winter. Getting in shape is still possible. Working out and eating healthy are crucial to losing weight and obtaining those tight abs you want. Following are some useful tips for your mission to shape up!

Northwest offers several options for working out. If you get a membership to Lamkin Fitness Center, you can also attend the aerobics classes at the Maryville Community Center for free. South Complex and Phillips Hall fitness facilities reopened on February 4, 2008. Therefore, you will have access to all three facilities with a Fitness Center membership. Fitness Center passes may be purchased for \$100 for a year or \$65 for a semester.

The Internet has many good resources for fitness, nutrition, and diet. Check out the following useful websites, which will help you to develop a healthy lifestyle and will not cost you a penny. Most of the sites require you to become a member; however, they do not charge a membership fee. For instance, Nike offers a great tool for runners to log their training at [www.insidenikerunning.nike.com](http://www.insidenikerunning.nike.com). You can log the type of the activity (running, swimming, yoga, etc.), the distance and your pace to keep track of your workout. If you are tired of running around the same location in your area, visit [www.runthere.com](http://www.runthere.com). Type in your address to create new running routes on the map. Another helpful website is [www.sparkpeople.com](http://www.sparkpeople.com), which offers recipes, a calorie counter, fitness plans, expert advice, discussion boards and much more.